

**Thomas Jefferson to Joseph Hamilton Daveiss,
February 15, 1806, The Works of Thomas Jefferson in
Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited
by Paul Leicester Ford.**

TO JOSEPH HAMILTON DAVEISS¹

1 From Daveiss's *View of the President's Conduct*, Frankfort, 1806, p. 15.

Washington, Feb. 15, '06.

Sir, —Your letter of January 10. came safely to hand a week ago. According to your permission it has been communicated to Mr. Madison, and Mr. Gallatin. I have also communicated it to General Dearborn, because one of the persons named by you is particularly under his observation; so far as it was necessary and not further, I will be responsible for its secrecy. The information is so important that it is my duty to request a full communication of everything known or heard by you relating to it, and particularly of the names of all persons whether engaged in the combination, or witnesses to any part of it. At the same time I pledge myself to you that it shall be known no further than it now is, until it shall become necessary to place them in the hands of the law; and that even then no unnecessary communication shall be made of the channel through which we received our information.

You will be sensible that the names are peculiarly important to prevent a misplacing of our confidence either in the investigation of this subject particularly, or in the general

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trust of public affairs. In hopes of hearing from you without delay, I pray you to accept my salutations and assurances of great respect.