To Conduriotti
about the 14th April

Gentlemen,

I have learnt with great grief that some difference of opinion has induced you to withdraw from the national Assembly. Without entering at all into the question as to the justice & propriety of your opinions & at allow me to conjure and entreat you not in the present moment to dissent in any marked manner from the opinion of the majority nor to remove yourselves from the sittings of the assembly, but let affairs take their courses for no act which the assembly can decree can possibly prove so injurious as [1] distraction at this crisis of your affairs. I hope that your patriotism will induce you to take this course & so confirm the high opinion I have entertained of your characters, & of your devotion to your country.