**Committee:** The 8th United States Congress

**Assigned Character:** Thomas Claiborne

**Delegate Name:** Gabrielle Genest

1. **Barbary Wars**

The Barbary states of North Africa (Algiers, Tunis, Tripoli, and Morocco) have proved to be trouble for great powers (France, England, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden) for the last few decades, and our country too has suffered their threats, attacks and incessant and unjustified demands of tribute.[[1]](#footnote-1) Presently, the United States of America are at war with Tripoli, who is receiving support from Tunis and Morocco[[2]](#footnote-2). To face this problem, it is my belief, not only as a Virginian Democratic-Republican, but also as a man dedicated to my country, that President Jefferson is right, and that we must continue to wage war with the Barbary states in order to achieve peace. “Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness: we fought for these ideals, we shouldn’t settle for less.”[[3]](#footnote-3) We should not have to pay annuities to these states to avoid them pillaging our vessels and ransoming our ship crews every time we cross paths: it goes against the ideals our nation was founded on: independence and freedom. Until the Pasha of Tripoli, Yusuf Qaramanli, ceases to attack our ships and accepts our terms for peace, which will not include annual tributes, we will maintain our squadron of vessels in a blockade and interfere with Tripoli’s commerce. We will not yield, whatever the cost, before we have peace according to our terms, for the United States of America must show its strength to the world.

1. **Federal Judiciary System**

The precedent of judicial review established in the Marbury v. Madison case endangers the very foundation of our nation’s democracy, which dictates that the voice of the people must be heard above all others. Congress is an institution formed of representatives of the people, *elected by the people,* to craft and adopt laws reflecting the contemporary interests and concerns of the people. However, the concept of judicial review would allow the Supreme Court to invalidate actions and decisions made by Congress[[4]](#footnote-4) based on a subjective interpretation of the United States’ Constitution by judges whose voices do not necessarily echo the voters’. Indeed, the fact that unelected individuals- many of whom have been appointed to the judiciary on the partisan rationale of administrations that have long since left Office- wield the power to nullify laws democratically passed by Congress alarms me, as it should all of us. I, Thomas Claiborne, believe that an amendment to the Constitution ought to be duly considered as a remedy to this affront to our democracy.

1. **Louisiana Purchase**

It is clear to me, Thomas Claiborne, that it would be in the best interests of the United States to buy the Louisiana territory. The benefits of this purchase will be both financial and territorial, and will also contribute to our nation’s international relevance. Indeed, buying this territory would double the size of our country[[5]](#footnote-5), granting us access to fertile lands rich in precious minerals[[6]](#footnote-6) and facilitating the access to Native tribes in that region for fur trade[[7]](#footnote-7). Buying Louisiana will also allow us not only to regain the right to deposit goods in New Orleans, but also to control the entire port and have a privileged position on the Mississippi. Louisiana is also a territory that has as many as 30 000 slaves[[8]](#footnote-8), which are worth, in the aggregate, an estimated $ 483 000$[[9]](#footnote-9). It must also be taken into consideration that obtaining this territory through negotiation would show the world that we are a powerful nation capable of expansion. Furthermore, the current circumstances are exceedingly propitious to the acquisition of Louisiana, President Jefferson having even referred to the situation as a “fugitive occurrence”[[10]](#footnote-10),which is why I urge my fellow Congressmen to act with speed, lest this golden opportunity vanish. France’s situation is one we can pull maximum profit from: Napoleon’s army has recently taken a heavy blow in Saint-Domingue (losing most of its men to yellow fever)[[11]](#footnote-11), it will not be able to hold off our westbound, manifest destiny-motivated, and rapidly increasing population. The Emperor will want to concentrate his forces in Europe as a conflict with England is eminent[[12]](#footnote-12). Thus, it would be extremely beneficial for the United States of America to purchase the territory of Louisiana.

1. “The First Barbary War,” Thomas Jefferson Foundation Official Website, accessed November 9, 2016. https://www.monticello.org/site/research-and-collections/first-barbary-war [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “Cabinet Battle #1,”Lin-Manuel Miranda, Hamilton: An American Musical, 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. “Judicial Review and Marbury v. Madison,” Boundless U.S. History, August 25, 2016, accessed November 10, 2016. <https://www.boundless.com/u-s-history/textbooks/boundless-u-s-history-textbook/securing-the-republic-1800-1815-11/the-jefferson-administration-96/judicial-review-and-marbury-v-madison-519-9703/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. “Louisiana Purchase.” History Channel Official Site. 2009, accessed November 9, 2016. <http://www.history.com/topics/louisiana-purchase> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. “Louisiana Purchase the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition,” Education, May 29, 2014, accessed November 9, 2016. <http://geography.about.com/od/historyofgeography/a/louisianapurcha.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. “Fur Traders and Missionaries” NebraskaStudies, accessed November 9, 2016. <http://nebraskastudies.org/0400/frameset_reset.html?http://nebraskastudies.org/0400/stories/0401_0120.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. “Congressional series of United States public documents,” Google Books, accessed November 9, 2016.<https://books.google.ca/books?id=PHhHAQAAIAAJ&pg=RA5-PA56&lpg=RA5-PA56&dq=Population+of+Louisiana+in+1803&source=bl&ots=prZATylP7n&sig=eGgBIe_oWJHNU_K9ASi1CF9EGjY&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CFIQ6AEwCGoVChMIp9bcyfDPxwIVglg-Ch0i1wWJ#v=onepage&q=Population%20of%20Louisiana%20in%201803&f=false> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. “Slavery in the United States,” Measuring Worth, accessed November 9, 2016. <https://www.measuringworth.com/slavery.php> <https://www.measuringworth.com/uscompare/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. “Louisiana Purchase,” Thomas Jefferson Foundation Official Website, accessed November 9, 2016. <https://www.monticello.org/site/jefferson/louisiana-purchase> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. *ibid.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. “Louisiana Purchase the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition.” *op. cit.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-12)