FROM ROBERT B. FORBES

Sir,

Boston May 18, 1847

I had the pleasure to receive by the steamer an address to your Excellency from the authorities of Dublin, with a request that I should forward it. I take the same occasion to forward a copy of one from the same place to myself.2

I have been requested by several delegations & by the People of Cork in particular, to transmit to your Excellency, the thanks of the people of Ireland for the loan of the Jamestown3—it is a grateful duty, Sir to do this, & I would add for myself my unfeigned thanks for the great confidence reposed in me.

By the blessing of Providence I have accomplished my mission with dispatch & returned the ship in good order. I have the honor to be . . . .

R B Forbes

ALS. DLC–JKP. Addressed to Washington City. From Polk’s AE: “Transmits to me a letter of thanks from the Lord Mayor of Dublin.”

1. Forbes (1804–89), a sea captain and a Boston merchant, began sailing to China in the 1810s and by the 1840s owned a fleet of ships trading among North America, South America, Europe, and Asia.

2. Letters not found. Michael Staunton (1788–1870), whom Polk notes in his AE wrote at least one of the letters, had edited the Dublin Freeman’s Journal and Morning Register. A supporter of greater Irish autonomy, he served as lord mayor of Dublin in 1847.

3. After failing to appropriate money to assist victims of the potato famine, Congress and the president enacted measures in March to place two naval ships, the USS Jamestown
and the USS *Macedonian*, into civilian hands for that purpose. “A Resolution authorizing the employment of the United States Ships Macedonian and Jamestown in transporting Provisions for the famishing Poor of Ireland and Scotland.” *SL*, 29th Congress, 2nd Session, Number 10. Forbes commanded the *Jamestown*, carrying privately donated supplies to Ireland.