

**M0009569: Autograph letter from Henry Hill Hickman (1800-1830) to King Charles X of France (1757-1836)**

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To His Most Christian Majesty Charles X  
King of France

Sire,

In addressing Your Majesty upon a scientific subject of great importance to mankind, I feel a properly humble, but a firm confidence in Your Majesty's universally known disposition to countenance valuable discoveries: - This relieves me from all apprehension of being considered presumptuous.

Permit me Sire, to state that I am a British Physician, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons London, who has visited Paris in part for the purpose of bringing to completion a discovery, to which I have been led by a course of observations and experiments on suspended Animation.

This object has engaged my practical attention during several years: - It appears demonstrable that the hitherto most agonizing, dangerous and delicate surgical operations, may now be performed, with perfect safety, and exemption from pain, on brute animals in a state of suspended animation. Hence it is to be strongly inferred, by analogy, that the same salutary effects may be produced on the human frame, when rendered insensible by means of the introduction of certain gases into the lungs: - I have discovered a number of facts connected with this important subject; and I wish to bestow them on society.

Paris, the great Metropolis of Continental Europe is the place above all others, where the profound studies of Humanity are, with the utmost facility, carried to their highest extent and perfection: and, Sire, I feel confident that I do not say too much, with a due regard for the scientific distinctions of my own Country, in avowing that these facilities, no where else to be found, and their most admirable results, have deservedly conferred on Your Majesty's Chief City, and its illustrious Schools of practical Philosophy, the eminent title of the Centre of Science to the Civilized World.

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