

May 3, 1801

Sir

Washington May 3. 1801.

Your favor of Mar. 23. was put into my hands just as I was se-
ting out on a short visit to Monticello, from which place I am returned
only three days ago. Thus I hope will apologise for the tardiness of
my acknowledging the receipt of it, together with my thanks for the book &
coverd. I should be glad to see a new & better edition of it, and that
it should be made without any retouches by the author. as it is, it
contains sound & excellent principles, from which he ever it's author
has conscientiously removed in his doctrine & conduct in public life. so
that the earliest & not the latest editions of this book, will, I am per-
-suaded, be longest approved, should the author revise them.
accept assurances of my esteem & respect.

J. J. Madison

Mr. James Masoffin

Washington paper. May 3. 1801.

