

Boston 12th January 1797

Sir

This intrusion can do no
hurt, if it can do no good. I ask
leave to tell you, that your Friends
in the New England States, who are
many will be much disappointed
if you should decline being Vice
President. It is true that you have
been abused. But this abuse came
from a party, who are determined
to abuse every one, who will not
with them, bow, in adoration to the
British monarchy. If the abuse,
and calumny of these men, can
deprive the public of the services of
those on whom they may confide
with safety, there will be an end of
our free constitutions: and the
enemies of an elective Republic
will obtain a compleat triumph.

The motives for your acceptance of
the office, are the gratification of
your friends, the mortification of
your

Sullivan James. Boston Jan^y 12. 97.
rec^d Feb 3.

Your Enemies, and above all,
the interest of your Country -
I believe, that you will suppose,
what is really true, that I have
no kind of inducement to trouble
you in this way, but that of a wish
for the public felicity. Did I think
that your acceptance would be
injurious to your own honour,
or interest, I should interfere in
the business - but this must be
left to your own Judgment

I have the honor
to be with great respect
and friendship
Your most
humble servant

Jas. Mifflin

His Excellency W. Jefferson