

Dear Sir,

Alexandria 25th May 1801.

The testimony of confidence afforded me in your letter of yesterday is highly gratifying, and I beg leave to tender you my warmest acknowledgments for the offer you make of conferring on me the office of Marshall for the District of Colonus,

After deliberating on all the circumstances attendant on the acceptance of this office, I am led to believe it will not comport either with my interest or convenience to undertake the performance of that trust. Having been actively engaged in commerce for the last ten or twelve years, my exertions have at length left me at liberty to pursue in a limited degree, any system of business my judgment

Peyton Francis Alex. May 25. 1801.

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may dictate, of course I should have had
no hesitation in accepting this office, if
I had not been deterred by the inconvenience
and hazard of transacting business on such
an extensive field, while the smallness of the
interest would almost preclude the idea
of obtaining a deputy of integrity and respectability
unless he could be entitled to all the emolument
derived from the office, in which case I should
certainly the responsibility attached to the
principal without a prospect of any advantage.

I am sensible of the honor conferred
on me by your kind invitation, and will
not fail to indulge myself in the pleasure
of paying my respects to you, should an
opportunity occur.

I am respectfully
y^r Obed^t Serv^t
Francis Peyton