

If I had, (I am on the 4<sup>th</sup> page! wonder will never cease -  
it is the age of Improvement - and I am prepared not to be amazed  
or astounded at any thing that in future <sup>may</sup> take place) made  
a pilgrimage not to but from Mecca to behold this inimitable  
piece of Sculpture it would have been fourfold  
compensated - never having had an opportunity of ex-  
amining a specimen of the art on the scale of this statue  
I cannot otherwise judge of its merit than by a com-  
parison of it with the human form itself - in proportion  
as the comparison is perfect, so must be the excellence  
of the execution - that the comparison is perfect every  
one having the least observance of the human form  
must at once acknowledge. The proportions of the whole  
may be critically tested; but it is the developement  
of the sinews and muscles of the legs and arms and  
neck and chest; the projection and exhibition of the  
bones; and the folds and wrinkles of the skin that  
display the genius of the artist - neither must the  
Drapery be forgotten the execution of which has made  
the marble to flow as if it possessed the soft and pliant  
properties of silk - In short the whole, and each dis-  
tinct part bears testimony to the powers of the un-  
rivalled Sculptor of modern times.

This proud testimony of gratitude to the

Raleigh Oct 4. 1825.

My dear Monroe:

Chase

I promised to write you; the cause that I  
have not done so before this I can only attribute  
to the evasive life that I led after I left N York and  
my subsequent indisposition - if this apology sufficeth not  
I must even make my usual drafts upon "Constitutional  
indolence" "aversion to letter writing," "want of matter"  
&c. to help along my excuses - under the supposition  
then that my apology is accepted, and myself es-  
onerated from the imputation of a desire to forget you,  
I will proceed with this my letter, the which may  
induce you to wish think that if I had forgotten  
you, your loss would not have been very great  
for all the interest that this (the letter) may con-  
tain - always excepting the sincere wishes which it  
offers for your health and happiness and that of  
your amiable and interesting family. -

Sixteen lines! as I am a Christian (of course I am  
one), let me consider, 4 lines more than my usual  
number, it is a point gained at any rate, and who  
knows but - what - I - may - please - myself - on - the

Second page of a sheet of letter paper for the first  
time since the year '98 - courage! I have done  
it and I think it possible that by a very  
little stretching - I

may

yet

fill

up

the

third page - Bravo! I have commenced the third  
Paravel at all events and Hurrah! for the Preach -  
after I left W. D. I proceeded to Philadelphia, spent a  
day there, it was on a Sunday, my conscience would  
not permit my travelling on that day - on which amount  
to the same thing, the Quaker commanding the Steam Boat  
would not permit it - a mere difference of terms "I need  
dine and Tweedle dee" - well I proceeded on to  
Washington retired all my business satisfactorily - my  
emaciated condition, the consequence of disease the result  
of the discharge of several duties produced by devoting  
to the public service excited by the Esprit des Corps  
which is elicited by competition, &c &c &c, worked  
wonderfully upon the sympathies of those who stand  
in high places, and your humble servant was per-  
mitted yet for a brief space to breathe the air  
of heaven - I remained in Washington one day  
and embarked for Norfolk - passed old Point - could not  
stop; remained a short time at Norfolk and thence  
proceeded to Petersburg, where finding myself within  
~~travelling~~ less than two days travel of Raleigh, I  
determined not to forego the opportunity of beholding the  
status of Washington - I proceeded hither accordingly.

I beg you to present my best Respects to your family Lady, and  
Mrs Douglass's family and accept yourself the assurance that I  
am your obliged friend, in this country or in Russia. Vous  
Comprenez me peu ?

*[Large decorative flourish]*

To Lieut: James Monroe  
4<sup>th</sup> Regt: Artillery  
New York.



Saviour of his country and the Benefactor of Mankind  
will, in all probability, be exhibited for centuries to come  
millions will look upon it with Respect and Admiration:  
Respect for the illustrious original and admiration for  
him who could make the "Mantle Peak" - The other  
works of his art may be perished and be destroyed  
but so long as the Statue of Washington remains, the  
name of Bonaparte can never be forgotten.

By the Head of Mithras! am I in a dream, or  
am I en route at this ~~time~~ precise time applying  
a goose quill, filled with a certain black fluid  
to the 5<sup>th</sup> Page of an Epistle tracing out words and  
sentences and Paragraphs - Let me feel if I am  
awake or dreaming, a good pencil will determine,  
oh! - by Jupiter! if a black and blue spot will  
settle the point I am certainly and undubitably wide  
awake; but still I may be dreaming all this!

Here! Cato pull my nose! "no massa I think you  
I radder not!" but Cato pinch me and here is  
a quarter for you - "well massa" (with his eyes broad  
open like two painted plates and his mouth exhibiting  
a row of ivory that would make a good set of

chess men) "wells maps if you say so I must," ~~and~~  
upon which, holding out one hand for the quarter, and  
looking towards the door, he gave me such a vicious,  
or as the Philadelphians would render it, vicious like  
Punch as made me roar out, to the infinite mirth  
of Coats who seized "the quarter" and made his exit.  
By which I am not only convinced that I am not  
a dreaming but that I am actually, at this present  
moment writing on the 5<sup>th</sup> no. — as I am a living  
man! on the 6<sup>th</sup> page of a letter addressed to  
my very much esteemed and approved good  
friend and fellow West-Pointian James Monro Esq.  
de 22 — with whom, and to whom, I offer condolence,  
and offer consolation for the late bereavement of his  
peculiarly unfortunate Regiment (the 4<sup>th</sup>) ~~the~~ the  
junior officer especially, the attacks which Death  
has made upon it, must be very distressing — I can  
only recommend you to that Philosophy with which  
all Juniors are gifted on like trying calamities.  
as for myself I am not so much distressed at any  
reality of the kind in my Corps as I am from  
the constant anticipation of it — My God! to im-

agine for a moment poor Babcock falling from a snag  
into the rapid current of the mighty Mississippi, to behold  
him struggling for the shore; and to see him at  
last overpowered sinking to rise no more, without the  
possibility of rescue! enough the picture is too ap-  
palling — Poor Humphreys! Poor Wilson!  
is promoted in your Regiment? — Peace to them may  
you will shortly be promoted. "All flesh is grass."  
Isaac Adams too, I suppose he thinks himself already  
a captain. — "Time cuts down all."  
Both Great & Small  
Your Regiment is stationed in a very sickly country,  
"as runs the glass, a soldier's life doth pass."  
I have condoled with you as much as I  
can, I leave the rest to Religion and  
Philosophy — Poor Babcock, I can't drive him  
out of my head. — May days many, many days,  
yea even 29 days elapse before you hear of another  
unfortunate occurrence in your beloved Corps, by  
Death or Renovation — "But God is good, there  
is no God but God, and Mahomet is his Prophet"  
farewell! — Poor Babcock! — Good Bye!  
The 7<sup>th</sup> Page! well I am done. Wm. H. Chase