

New York 29 July 1845.

Mr. James Monroe,

Madam

I return you, enclosed, the communication which you addressed to me last evening; & must express my amazement that you should have felt justified in making a proposition of such a nature to me - I am at loss to conceive what act of mine could have induced you to believe I would accept it - or condescend to force myself, an unwelcome guest, into your house - where my every movement must be closely watched, & my most innocent acts & words misunderstood, & misinterpreted.

The conversation which I had with Dr. Mütter, was of the most satisfactory kind, & he led me to believe that he was only repeating your views on the subject: he proposed nothing that involved a sacrifice of honor or self respect on my part. & I was rejoiced to believe that a harmonious understanding would, for the future, take the place of the painful trials to which we had all been subjected - After Dr. Mütter's return to the City, however, it appears that your feelings

and news reverted to their former state, and that you were determined to oppose every effort at a reconciliation. I now fully understand this position, & as you have always declared your satisfaction at a frank & open course, it only remains for me to express my own unalterable determination.

It is not in my power at this moment to ask any lady to become my wife, but I hope, that not a very long time will elapse, before a change in my circumstances will authorize such a step, & if the strictest economy, most persevering exertions, & untiring energy combined with my acknowledged position among my equals, can attain an independence it shall be mine.

When that moment shall arrive, I will again offer my hand in marriage to your daughter, if she willingly consents to become my wife, with or without the consent of her parents. I shall not shrink from any responsibility that may thereby be incurred.

I remain

Very Respectfully

Your obedient son

W. Thompson Van Landt

P. S. I have considered right to send a copy of this letter to Miss Monroe of course without further comment.

W. T. V. L.