

5799  
James Munroe  
Albemarle 17<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>  
Rec<sup>d</sup> - 23<sup>d</sup> -  
Ans<sup>d</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Apr 99

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John Mason Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Merchant  
Georgetown

Albemarle Jan<sup>y</sup> 17. 1799.

Dear Sir

I rec<sup>d</sup>. in due time of yours requesting the  
payment of the sum I promised to pay on acct. of  
Mr. Shipwith & ought to have answered it sooner  
but in fact delayed it in hope of being able to do it  
to yr. satisfaction. I am however very sorry that I can  
not fix the precise time when I shall pay you. It is  
necessary I sh<sup>d</sup>. inform you of the cause of my diffi-  
culty that you may perceive the delay has been un-  
avoidable. I was forced on my return home to take  
up of a person at Richmond the sum of 3000. <sup>doll.</sup>  
I was to pay for my passage & other expences incident  
to my recall & return for rather to engage for the pay-  
mt. of that sum in Oct<sup>r</sup>. for a sum advanced me  
& as a motive to the loan to subject great part of my  
estate to ~~such~~ <sup>immediate</sup> sale in case of failure. I had made arrange-  
ments to answer this demand independant of my  
wage w<sup>ch</sup>. I thought w<sup>d</sup>. be equivalent to yr. demand  
by the appropriation of some land w<sup>ch</sup>. was  
sold for that sum. But when the time of payment  
arrived, only half the money was paid. In consequence  
as I had reason to conclude that the advantage this per-  
son had over me, if I did not pay the whole, w<sup>d</sup>. be  
pushed to the utmost extent, & many times the value of



The debt due, of my property be sacrificed, besides the political clamour that wd. be raised abt. it, I was forc'd to supply the deficiency out of my crop, wd. being sold under that pressure was to great disadvantage. I am however making every exertion in my power to procure the money for you, and as I am willing to sell property either to the westward, where I have an agent authorised for the purpose, or in London where I am inter-vised with Mr Jones in a purchase made just as I left America, I flatter myself I shall before long be able to do it. You will take into consideration the circumstances of my absence, wd. throws me out of the employments of my profession, wd. are not soon recovered, and the dependence my family has also on the profits of my crop. This will show I have no other resource but in the sale of property, wd. shall certainly be done as soon as it can be. I hope you will wait with patience, & give me without complaint all the indulgence you can, since you shall not experience a moment's delay I can avoid. with great truth believe me dear  
Sir sincerely yours

Jas. Monto