

Oak Hill July 20. 1826

Dear Sir

I had yours by this days mail, the date of which I have forgotten, having disposed of it, after the proposal, as you desired. The course pursued is perfectly satisfactory to me. Indeed my object has been, to leave it essentially to the judgment of my friends, among whom, I have relied particularly on yourself!

I send you ^{a copy of} a deposition lately transmitted to me, by Mr Kinggold, relative to the agency, which I had, in obtaining loans in the late war, while charged with the Dept of war. It corresponds with the memo: which I gave you, sometime since, taken from the book in my possession, with the addition of many interesting details, which were not entered in the latter book, but which made an impression on his mind, which has not been erased. The facts, can, I presume, be proved by others, that further proof be necessary. This document, alone, would be sufficient to show, that I never intended, to avail myself of any trust, committed to me by my country, to derive a profit from it to myself. In a question of character, which was an important object with me, in bringing

my claims before Congress & the public, does not justice require, that a correct view of my conduct, in this instance, should likewise be presented to their view? The same sentiment extends to other cases, and particularly, to those connected with my first mission. I merely mention this however, for your consideration, the idea having occurred, in a view of the document which I now send to you.

The time employed in this affair, gives me no concern. I wish every thing connected with it, to be perfectly well understood, which it cannot be, unless ample time be allowed for it. I wish it to be known to the committee, and indeed to Congress if it can be made known, in a delicate manner, that the money claimed, and claimed only, because it is believed to be due, will not pay my debts: on the contrary, that those which remain will sweep from me, my property in alternative, if indeed that will satisfy them. In asking justice, altho' I ask no indemnity for losses, I think that the honest truth, after the devotion of almost my whole life to the public, as to the condition in which I now find myself should be stated. I merely suggest these ideas for your consideration, being compelled to write you in great haste.

very sincerely your friend
James Monroe

you will at your leisure return me the copy of the deposition sent to you as I wish to retain it among my papers.

James Thomas
Dec. 20. 1826

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[Faint, illegible cursive handwriting covering the entire page]

[Vertical handwritten notes or signatures on the right margin]