

Monroe Papers -
Folder 1

for J. J. Merceur 1785

Dear Sir

The interruption of our Correspondence has been of longer duration now than ~~any time~~ at any time since we first became acquainted - On my part I have experienced no diminution of attachment & I confide that none has arose on yours - I had written you a long letter to New York enclosing a sum of money to purchase some Certificates, ~~of~~ I had before mentioned to you - but before I had an opportunity of lodging the letter with the Post, I was compelled to withdraw the money with an expectation of being able to supply the deficiency until I believe your departure for Congress - This has been the cause why you have not heard from me - I should have left my wife to visit you & your lady at Mr. Jones's when last in Virginia - but I had laid myself under such engagements to my wife - that I met an express who brought me a letter giving me reason to expect her in person to enquire whether I was lost -

This new scene of life which we have both entered into you must have by experience found, judicious of many unexpected situations - I entered into it without reflection - had I been accustomed to master first impressions - I should have deferred an engagement of this kind until I had been extricated from a degree of embarrassment & perplexity which seemed on a nearer view to bid defiance to exertion - A strong mind of a sanguine disposition & the use the best of an encumbered inheritance I need from my Parents supported me & seem'd to derive additional vigor from opposition - and altho' at first I could receive no assistance

1785

Lot. J. J. Merceur

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Monroe Copy

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Fredricks



lead I should embarras myself my friends without relieving myself
expt. upon a moderate calculation I find myself possessed of upwards of
£10,000. after providing amply for every incumbrance ^{without desiring any aid from my connections} — ^{that may} ^{be now}
so diminished as to permit me to see my way clear —

I have nearly completed every excellent building
here with every convenience I could wish which in the office of which
I now write you this I expect to commence an housekeeper in
Annapolis in the Spring — what is to be my fate in the legal line
I am apt to learn — but as yet the prospect does not open bright
Stone ^{is really} ~~seems~~ my friend of will do every thing to forward my views.
This could be expected from a disinterested friendship — Upon every
view I hope I shall have no cause to repent my leaving a country
where small as my merit was, yet as one second disposed to
render is any justice of where the malignity of enemies would have
prevented the good intentions even of warm friends —

So far in the private line of life — my inclination
for public service which has so often proved the source of mortifica-
tion of disappointment of has in fact so nearly completed my
ruin wears away by degrees — of the limits of my ambition begin
to contract within a very narrow circle —

I wish to God you were an uncle friend — but I
feel much anxiety for you if you have only to pass through the
obstructions I have already experienced. —

I have sent your list of your things here which shall be sent packed up
safely of wit you by water to Maryland whedee they may easily
be conveyed to any place you may want them, if you should wish
it to be so done — The plate is at yr. option I will be glad to
send it to you — you proposed to let me have it — but if you find
it heavy — you would not owe me any thing — but that of no
consequence consult yr. convenience — On looking over my books I
find several what I expect are yours — perhaps you have some of
mine —

I was speaking to yr. father to business of the Honors of
Hamburg in London — which amount to 200,000 £ Ster. — but we
of any thing can be done if it — it would be worth while as
might lead to more — they are British Debt — but
believe them to be a legal impediment if true —

I suppose before this you are a father — it is true
there is great variety of opinions all around us — I shall
be happy to hear of whatever interests you — My wife joins
me in every good wish to Mr. Monroe — I believe in

of very sincere friend

J. M. Monroe