

The Article

Jam. Monroe esq.

Paris

9. July 1803
From Mr. P. M. M.
M. M. M.
M. M. M.

Dear Sir

Fayette (Kentucky) July 9. 1803.

Your favor from N. York of the 4. March came safe to hand shortly ^{after} my return home, & I should ~~have~~ long since have answered it, but I have been in daily expectation of the arrival of your agent Maj. Lewis deputed to make some examination into your 20,000 acre claim here before I should write to you. Maj. Lewis is not yet arrived, that claim is situated in a part of the country having so little communication with this place, & being so generally despised at home since my return, that I am sorry I cannot add any thing like information you already possess. — Indeed I do not expect to obtain any information on which I can rely, until Maj. Lewis goes on the Ground instructed to procure such testimony & collect such facts as are necessary to the forming a correct opinion. About one fact all seem to agree: that one of the salt springs is very valuable & is now worked to considerable extent & advantage. You do me that Justice to which I am intitled, when you confide in my readiness to serve you; & I feel gratified that any thing like professional Compensation was named, only to be disavowed. The tokens of regard with which you kindly wish to possess me, I will accept with that sensibility which I cannot but experience when so distinguished by one, or whose

friendship I have long set the highest value. Altho' it may flatter
my vanity, yet it will also excite my sensibility, by the
daily recollection of a friend, whose remembrance I shall always
cherish with much pleasure. - I wish it for my own use. -

Upon my return to this country, I found it in
the most profound tranquility. The attempts of the minority in
the Senate to inflame the western people, were wholly abortive.
They were so murderous that they attracted instant suspicion &
odium to those who made them, & strengthened the existing con-
-fidence in the executive. But a single man in this state ventured
to oppose the general sentiment by publishing an inflammatory
piece, recommending war, disunion &c; and at the first sitting
of the federal court hereafter, he was presented by the G. Jury
sharper in Office by the next. I mention this fact to show,
that the people were not only apparently tranquil, but sincerely
so, & were determined to maintain that tranquility until the
result of the Messier was known. - The restoration of
the deposit which took place about the 19. of May, has removed
the anxiety which existed respecting the disposal of our crops of
the present year. That could have scarcely sanctioned the wisdom
of the measures pursued by the executive & legislative, & more gloriously

expressed

the destructive projects which were so ardently pursued upon the Country.
Believing however as I do, that the peace of the
Union will be at hazard, & that the Western States cannot prosper,
so long as any foreign nation is possessed of the mouth of the Miss.
I feel all the solicitude which an object of such great national
importance can inspire. A simple restoration of the right
of deposit, I consider as ultimately of very little importance. The
perpetual dread of similar & more violent outrages on our commerce,
will discourage every adventure proposing ordinary produce to be
-cast, and a second similar outrage will kindle a flame which cannot
be extinguished, until its cause is completely removed. Nothing there-
-fore can be more interesting to me, than you and your mission
-are to us. - We are much gratified at the assurances published of
your success to the extent of your power; and I am sure they cannot
be more extensive than your wishes; & believe me when I assure you,
that no man will enjoy with more sincere satisfaction the thanks
& lasting approbation which a grateful nation will justly
bestow on you, than

The Hunter

James Monroe

at

Paris

my dear Sir

Your friend & very Obedt. Servt.

John Breckinridge