

Baltimore, May 12. 1809

My dear Sir

I passed three days at Fredericksburg, among your friends, greatly to my satisfaction, on my way back to this place. It was my intention to have remained a short time at and near Alexandria but arriving there on the eve of a certain great dinner, my project was not realized.

The hopes I had entertained of a particular object in returning to London have been disappointed. I am however looking to another one connected with a visit to the same place, which, without being sanguine, will, I think, be practicable. In that case, I shall take my passage in a very fine ship now loading for that port, which will probably sail soon. You will have time however to prepare several letters, and I hope I may have the satisfaction of conveying them to your friends, who I know will be much gratified by hearing from you. But as I know too that I shall be asked by more than one why you have not written sooner or more generally, I will thank you to state generally such reply as it would be suitable I should make for altho' I can enter perfectly into the motives of your silence, I could not perhaps so easily impress them on those who are anxious you should answer them. Be so good as to mention the names of those on whom you would wish me to call with your remembrance - and if among the number there be any one or two to whom an introductory letter might be useful, I would be thankful to you for it. But this may perhaps not be so important, as my communication with a certain population inhabiting the west end of the town is not likely to be great. If there be any thing I can be useful to you in, I beg you will point it out, and command my service - in some matters I might perhaps be able to aid Mr. Rennolds, in any order you would send him.

12 May 1809

Mr. Purisance

James C. Monroe Esq.

Richmond



If you have finished your paper, I hope you will be so good as to send it to me, that on the subject in question I may have the most correct notions - On reflecting on the course you have pursued, I cannot but think it the best - your moderation and forbearance will have a good effect upon the sober and dispassionate, while hostility and attack would at the present moment produce but little impression. On another point I am now more settled in my opinion than I was when at Richmond which is, that it will be more suitable to what you owe yourself to hold a moderate degree of intercourse with your neighbour in Albemarle, of whose duplicity towards you I have no longer a shadow of doubt. I know that such efforts will be painful to you, but 'tis the conduct of your enemies that has made them necessary. Here as you know, you have several; but I cannot help indulging the principal one may in some shape sustain defeat in his views towards re-election - tho' it must own'd every manœuvre is practising to secure it to him.

I beg you will make my remembrance acceptable to Mr. Monroe and to Mr. and Mrs. Hay, whose commands I would gladly receive, if I proceed on my expected voyage - accept my best wishes for your happiness and believe me ever, Dear Sir,

Your faithful and
most obliged servant
John Henry Surriance

I hear nothing of Mr. Skipwith, -