

Washington March 4th 1822

Dear James

I enclose you a letter from your father. I am glad to find by your last letter, that you were recovering your health, & would soon be restored to your former state, & in consequence had declined your trip to the south. By your letter I infer, that although you would decline any special engagement before marriage, to reside in N. York, that the family was very anxious for you to settle there. It is probable, that you may find it for your interest, to comply with their wishes, and in that case it may perhaps be best for you to do it. In advising your settlement in Virg^a near me, I did it on the idea, that I should be able to give you good advice, as to the management of your concerns, to afford you books to read, & promote your views, in any direction; & that you would also have your father & mother near you. But your residence in a thinly settled country, few neighbours,

of much intelligence, but accommodations, if
you purchased a farm, till others were
built, which would require time & cost
: may, are objections to be considered. Your fa-
ther & mother, will, in any event, be near us,
& attended to, & you might render them any
aid they might require, & visit them occasi-
: onally from N. York, if that residence
should be found most for your advantage.
I mention these things that you may ma-
-turally weigh them, & I do it now, that you
do it unprejudiced, at the present moment.
Perhaps, you should you decide, on know-
-ing your prospects at New York, & the ad-
-vantages & disadvantages of both places, to
give the preference to N. York; you had
better not make your designs known be-
fore your marriage, as you would have
less credit for it both now and hereafter.

Mrs Monroe is much indisposed at pre-
sent having been attacked two days since.
Her fever has abated, but still it exists.
The rest of the family are in tolerable
health.

your friend
James Monroe

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[Faint, illegible handwriting in blue ink, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page, located near the bottom left corner.]