

New York 25 Feb: 1825

Dear Sir,

As one of the survivors of the old Anti-federal party who uniformly enter'd their protest against the overwhelming consolidating power of the General Government there in common with the other survivors of that School seen without reference to Men of the contending parties and without fear and without reproach having never sought an Office seen with unfeign'd grief and sorrow that the principles of Self Government under our mild institutions have been disregarded and unless some remedy in future can be made to correct the evil we are seriously alarm'd at the precedent that has been established — Man by nature is a Tyrant, and it requires all our ingenuity to restrain his propensities for power — We may in our Day arrest this predominant passion, but such is the force of Habit and the modern Education tends to unperceivable acquiescence to Precedent, that we fear very much its consequences upon the generations yet unborn —

We do hope as fellow Labourers with you and the late great & good George Clinton so early in the year 1788 1789 that you will exert your talents to induce Men to endeavor to bring about amendments to the Constitution and avert the evils that may be entail'd on our Children if not corrected — It is most devoutly to be wished the principle of Taxation & Representation should be more equalized

the

Honble James Munroe. Washington

the small States are protected in the Senate upon equal footing with ^{the} great States — But is not not just? is it not reasonable? that some amendment should take place, to alter the manner of choosing the President by the House Representatives — for instance in six small States there is a population less than 7 Hundred ^{thousand} inhabitants, and yet they have three fold as much influence as 2 Million 7 Hundred thousand in Pennsylvania & New York — We do not mention these things to find fault as the Federalists used to do; but are actuated by motives of Republican principles and offer to aid in remedying the evil — our Fathers fought and bled to maintain the cause of the People and impressed on our minds that the only way to preserve and maintain a Republic from the selfishness of Demagogues, was a strict adherence to the principle, that the Majority of the People rightly understood, should in all cases be considered the Supreme Law of the Land —

It has been conceded by all enlighten'd Statesmen that unless our federative system can be maintain'd inviolate and that only can be done by a strict and scrupulous regard to State rights, this beautiful fabric of self Government will experience the same natural decay as the human body whenever the blood ceases to flow to, and from the heart.

We have for years retired from the Arena of Politics but we have seen with much satisfaction your elevation to the highest gift of the People, and that you have so conducted the affairs of this great Nation as to have deservedly merited

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the united thanks of ^{the} great and discerning People — their thanks infinitely
transcends all the refinement of unmeaning praise bestow'd on the Monarchs
of the old World — We are naturally led to contrast this your happy
Condition with that when Genl Washington recalled you from France and when
on your return to this City we received you with open arms, and cheer'd
your Hopes immediately in your putting your foot on American ground, and
manifested our regard by giving ^{you} a public dinner, and again when Mr Jefferson
recalled you we made it a point in conjunction with that great and good
Man George Clinton to call upon you in Washington at your lodgings, and also
went from our seats in the House of Representatives to salute you in the
seat you occupied assign'd to Ambassadors; in order to convince the
members of that august Assembly, that our confidence was not diminished in
your uprightness; as we were convinced you had faithfully done your Duty —

We have been much gratified with the liberal manner in
which you all have received the "disinterested" LaFayette, you cannot
do too much for him: You know full well his merits long ago from the pe-
culiar situation in which I was plac'd under the paternal care
of the immortal Franklin at Passy near Paris during the most eventful
periods of the Revolutionary War, when it became my Duty in part
to Copy his Dispatches to Congress which afforded me an opportunity to
know the very high estimation that great Men uniformly express'd in
those Dispatches to that body for the very important services render'd
by that Noble Man to our beloved Country, and so "disinterested"

Mr J. L. Mumford
1825

and at a time of our greatest trials in that Hour which tried the Souls
of Men — .

The Monarchs of Europe are now hush, we have wiped away the
reproach they had invented to suit their purposes respecting the ingratitude
of Republic's, but we have not yet done Justice for the Honor of the Republic
that some ample Provision will be made by a permanent and general Law
to set aside an ample Salary never to be taken away for all the Presidents
of the United States who may have faithfully done their Duty — and I have
corresponded this winter and strongly urged upon one of the most distinguished
Members of the House of Representatives that he could not do a more popular
measure than bringing forward a Bill providing a handsome Salary
for you, for Thomas Jefferson, for James Madison and for John Adams
you had all either ^{in the Cabinet or the field} faithfully served your Country and two of you
were on the Committee who reported July 4 1776 the declaration of Independence
this being accomplished our triumph over the Monarchical yoke would
be complete —

With Sentiments of great Esteem and Respect I have the
Honor to be, Dear Sir,

Your most Ob. Humble Servant,

Junius L. Mumford