

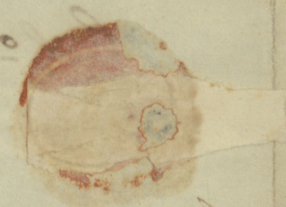
July 2 - 1877
Mr. N. Merar

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James Monroe esq
near Aldie

London Baltimore
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Fredericksburg Dec 3^d 1827

Dear Sir,

I replied soon after your late letter was received, & hope my ans^r has safely reached you -

In return for the high confidence you repose in me, which can never be abused & is most gratifying to me, I shall be solicitous to preserve you free from any embarrassment in which the zeal of party may place you in this distracted state of the Country - I have read the appeals to you & Mr Madison, with a view of enlisting your voices on the side of the administration - I know not whence those pieces have come, I am not in the secret - But in the spirit of profound confidence in which we write each other on this subject, it is my duty to inform you, that I have reason to believe that they are intended as preparatory to your ^{named} & Mr Madison's being placed on the Electoral administration Ticket by the Convention at Richmond, on the 8th of Jan 3 -

Should it turn out as I think probable & as I have suggested, what course will you authorize me as a friend & as a member of the Convention to take in Committee, (for that part of the business I suppose will be matured in Committee) to prevent your being placed on the Electoral Ticket - Will you write me a letter, giving me

authority to shew it, in such an event? Any course
you may direct me to pursue, I will faithfully at-
tend to & discharge - I know nothing of Mr Mad-
ison's feelings on the subject - your opinions & Mr
Madison's are not known ^{I am sure} to any one as to the
Presidential Election, for the best of all possible
reasons - which is, that you have never expressed
any, I am ^{satisfied} ~~sure~~, to any human being -

You have given both to Mr Adams &
Genl J - high proofs of your confidence, &
I know of no other reason better than this which
you might assign, for wishing to be excused from
being placed in a situation, where you would be
obliged to become the advocate of one to the ex-
clusion of the other, as far as your voice would
operate in producing such a result -

Canada requires that I should state, that
whilst I venerate the character of Genl J - for
the important military services he has rendered
to our Country, for which in my humble judgment
he has been amply remunerated, I cannot think him
qualified in any respect, for the station of President
of the U. States, on whom the highest & most arduous
duties & responsibilities devolve - & I could have
greatly desired that you & Mr Madison ^{have} been
placed on our electoral ticket, if consistent with
your own feelings & sense of propriety - but if in
any manner unpleasant to you, I will at once
smother my own wishes, & attend strictly to any

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communication you may be pleased to make to
me on the subject - appreciating most highly your
desire already expressed to me confidentially of
being excused from taking any part whatever in
the contest -

you will know my high respect, perfect
confidence & filial feelings towards you - if I
did not feel so, I should be ungrateful indeed -

Instruct me, & I shall see that your wish
is observed - my best exertions shall be used in
your favour - to prevent your name appearing as one
of the Electors, should it be the intention of the
Body to make you one - I am,

my dear Sir,
your friend &c,
Hugh Mercer,

Colo Monroe,
Oak Hill -