

Augusta May 10<sup>th</sup> 1819

Dear Sir

I arrived here on Saturday evening, the third day from Savannah, and shall proceed immediately after breakfast, by Washington and Athens for Huntsville & thence by Nashville westward. I begin to think that it will be proper for me to terminate my journey on this side the Ohio. I had intended to visit St Louis, but I have been so long <sup>in</sup> reaching this point, that I fear, I should not be able to accomplish it, & return to Washington by the time, the ratification of the treaty with Spain may be expected. of this however, that is, of the limit to which I shall confine my excursion, I shall inform you as soon as I have decided.

I received here your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> ulto. Your other letters were either received at Charleston, or on the road before I arrived there. They were answered from that place. I have been aware of the difficulty attending the effort to maintain specie payments by the bank, and of the effect which the measures it would probably adopt, would have on the treasury, connected as we are with the bank, performing also ~~at~~ as it does the twofold

d uncomparable duties, of contending against all im-  
proper measures, & injuries, from the State banks, &  
at the same time supporting them. This dilemma  
of the bank has been inevitable, in consequence of the  
great number of local institutions, and so likewise  
has been that of the Treasury, in consequence of its con-  
nection, by law, with the bank. The crisis is great, but  
yet, I trust, not fraught, with insurmountable diffi-  
culty. The pressure on me has been such through-  
out the whole journey, that I have not been able to pay  
all the attention to this subject that I could have wish-  
ed. I stated to you from that town, my desire  
that you would do the best in it, that you could,  
availing yourself of the aid of the gentlemen present,  
in all cases of doubt. I have the utmost confidence  
that you will do, the best that can be done, in the affair,  
& that is all which the country can expect or desire.

I suggest merely for consideration, as the fulfilment  
of the public engagements is the great object of the go-  
vernment, & that may be faithfully & honestly done,  
by paying public creditors & other claimants, in an  
notes which they are willing to receive, whether the  
principle may not be acted on, in all cases, in which  
it may be done, with effect, & without loss, by prompt  
transfer. In this mode the notes of many banks  
not now receivable, might be admitted, and pro-  
bably to the relief of the national bank, and govt,  
as well as the State banks. I leave this affair how-  
ever, in all cases, to your judgment, fully satisfied,  
that you will do all that you can in it.

For your information, & suggestions, on the un-  
fortunate affair between Genl Jackson and Col,  
& its incidents, accept my thanks. I receive it  
as

a strong proof of your friendship on which I have  
always confided. I will state to you, frankly and  
as fully as the few minutes I have at my command  
will permit, the part I have acted in this affair,  
& particularly in what concerns yourself. General  
Jackson knew at Washington, that I had entire  
confidence in your integrity, honor, & friendship  
for me, and after the conference I had with him  
soon after his arrival at Washington, that he  
never attempted to shake it. Indeed he acted with  
much delicacy towards me on the subject. I have  
seen distinctly, that, in these concerns, including the  
between him & General Scott, I should be in both,  
& become a party, on one side or the other, in  
life I acted with great caution. Every well to all,  
my object has been to do justice to all, & good offices  
to each, so far as it might be practicable, in this I  
could not succeed, unless, I maintained a station,  
without the verge of private quarrels. On this point  
I thought it incumbent on me, to make  
this journey, as much by myself, as circumstances  
would permit, in relation especially to that object.  
I have no doubt that General Jackson would have  
accompanied me along the coast, had I requested it,  
but I frankly told him, that I thought that it  
would be improper, for reasons which would  
occur to him & to which he promptly assented.  
He will perhaps expect to meet me at Huntsville,  
& I being, not scruply, within his division, but  
neighbourhood, to prevent it would be improper,  
on the principle above stated. I shall be atten-  
tive to what papers, at Nashville & elsewhere, &

certainly give no sanction, if I do not prevent, as  
I hope to do, any attempt, should the disposition  
exist, to make an improper impression on  
the public mind, to your disadvantage, or to  
that of any other person, in the public service.  
To succeed as I wish, amicably, with him, and  
as I ought to do, for I have not only done him  
justice in all cases, but in some given him  
proofs of friendship, it is necessary that it ap-  
pear, that I wish only to do justice to others as  
well as to himself, and am not their partisan  
more than his. He will naturally be attentive to  
my intercourse with your personal friends, as  
I pass through this state & it is probable, know-  
ing the natural ardor of his feelings, be led by  
some circumstances much exaggerated by others,  
to draw improper conclusions. For this reason it  
will be advisable that my intercourse with you  
be confined, especially, be confined to his own neighbour-  
hood, & not extended beyond it. I shall receive him  
as I have done all your friends here & elsewhere, with  
great kindness & respect. My part has been very atten-  
tive & friendly to me. My object is to controul this  
affair in all its parts for the good of those con-  
cerned of the country, and just, as well as for  
my own personal honor & satisfaction.

I remain as ever the most devoted to my family,  
& believe me with great sincerity your friend &  
servant -

James Monroe

Dear -  
Dear -