

Dear Sir

Lexington 9th Sept. 1822

Your letter of the 23rd ult was recd. by the last mail. The sensations which its contents have excited are of the most painful character. I had hoped that my conduct towards you for nearly fifteen years past would have shielded me from the misrepresentations of men wholly unworthy of your confidence. During the latter part of the last Session of Congress, I was frequently told that efforts were making to injure me in your estimation. My reply uniformly was, that if such efforts were making, I had no means of counteracting them but by the faithful discharge of my duty to you, both as an officer and friend. That if ~~misrepresentations~~ ^{misrepresentations} were employed, I had no ^{evidence} ~~proof~~ of the fact, & therefore could not address you upon the subject.

Some time after the adjournment of Congress I was informed by a person ^{whom you had admitted to his} entitled to full credit, that great exertions had been made to induce you to believe that the rejection of certain nominations by the Senate ^{proper} had been attributed to my influence with ^{that} body, but as my informant stated that you had appeared to him, that their efforts had made no impression on your mind. I did not feel it necessary to mention the subject to you. Your letter however convinces me, that you were then either mis-

By their I was charged with having made in my office
really May for the purpose of breaking down
falsified by the actual state of the battery in
which I had been instructed
to report the state of the
the Army Navy. These charges were announced
to the public in a manner
of the charge of an
which was more than a
charge were announced
to the public in a manner
of the charge of an

as is the state of your feelings, or that the same
I have, since been more successful.

you observe that "with the attempt which has been
made to disannulate between the principles of the ad-
ministration of 1802, & of the present administration to
the prejudice of the latter, & to take advantage of your
standing with the community to promote that object, you
I presume acquainted." I am, ^{not} aware that an

attempt has been made in the News papers, and
perhaps by the Extraneous Committee of the House
Representatives, during the last Session of Congress,
to make such disannulation, but I am ^{not} aware
of any attempt in, or out of Congress, to take ad-
vantage of my standing with the community, to
promote that object. I know, & I presume you

also, that the Partisans of at least one Mem-
ber of your administration, have, for two or three
years past, labored incessantly, by ^{letters & publications} oral & written

~~communications~~, (the latter of which have been
published) to produce an impression upon the pub-
lic mind, that I was unfriendly to your adminis-
tration, & I have understood from sources well
qualified to give confidence, that these gentlemen have recently
endeavored to make the same impression. I have

however never supposed that I could in any man-
ner be ^{made} responsible for their misrepresentations &
slanders.

To the policy of fortifying our maritime &
frontiers I have given ^{my} full support. The sys-
tem now in a state of progressive execution,
was devised & approved before the present Secre-
tary of War had a seat in the Cabinet, & had

my ^{hearty} full assent. My opinion on that subject has un-
dergone no change, & perhaps public opinion would
have suffered none, had he not injudiciously re-
quired ~~an~~ \$1,500,000. for that object ^{for one year} for the year 1822,
when it was known that a considerable amount
would ^{during the year} have to be borrowed. In this particular act
I think the administration of 1802 would have
~~totally~~ ^{not} differed ^{differently} from that of 1819-20. But ^{they} I was
the act of the Secretary of War, & not of the ad-
ministration. So far as any attempt has come
to my knowledge to discriminate between the
administration of 1802 ^{& the present} on account of the greater
expenditure of by the latter upon fortifications, than
by the ^{former} latter, I have endeavored to counteract
it by all the means in my power. ~~There is~~
the same measure ~~repelled~~ the charge of gen-
eral extravagance ^{against} by the present administration
whenever it has been introduced in any pres-
ence.

I agree with you sir, that when the President
has decided upon a measure, the heads of departments
are bound to cooperate in the execution of the mea-
sure, where such co-operation is necessary. If the mea-
sure requires legislative sanction, the reasons
favor of its adoption, ought to be offered by the
proper department, and the other departments
when a proper occasion offers should not with-
hold their aid. In no case ought their opinions or
efforts to be employed against the measure. But
the legislative body is in contemplation

of the constitution, & in fact, ought to be independent
of the executive department. After the reasons, upon
which a measure has been ^{adopted} ~~decided upon~~ by the ex-
ecutive, have been unfolded, & submitted to the legis-
lature, any further interference, any attempt to
bias its decision, by any other appeal than to ~~the~~
the understanding of the members, ought to be con-
sidered an attack upon its independence. I have

in my intercourse with that body, after having
submitted the views & reasons connected with the
several subjects which my official duty com-
pels me to bring before it, abstained from further
efforts to obtain ^{legislative} ~~their~~ sanction, unless I have
been invited to make them, by the Councils,
to which those subjects have been referred. I have

however never ^{declined} ~~abstained~~ from offering to individual
members, who have introduced them as subjects
of conversation, the reasons which have led the
executive government to adopt any particu-
lar measure, whether it was incurred with
the Treasury or not, & have not failed to
endeavour to remove such objections as were
made by them. Such has been my conduct

towards you, & towards the legislative depart-
ment. I am persuaded that your own ideas of
co-operation are the same, especially where
legislative sanction is necessary. It never could
have been your understanding that this course
should expose ~~me~~ ^{me} to ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~objection~~ ^{objection}
(a duty). Whenever therefore an occasion