

London Oct. 22. 1803.

Dear Sir

I lately wrote you by the Ch. Laster, but being offered an opportunity by yr. neighbour Mr. Lightfoot would not suffer it to pass without dropping you a line. I repeated in my last the sincere pleasure it would give me to see you here, & how fully you might confide in my doing every thing in my power to make the trip agreeable to you. You shall have a room & live with us while you stay here. Mr. Lightfoot will give you much information of the state of affairs in this country & therefore I do not enter into it. The expense surpasses any thing you can possibly imagine. I do not go into details lest the comparison in prices between the necessaries of life here & with us might appear an exaggeration in favour of our country. You ^{may} form some estimate on the subject when I tell you that it is impossible to subsist here on the salary, without still & with the greatest economy, and that every day I stay it is at a loss. I pay for my house rent at the rate of 500. guineas a year. These things you need not mention, since it answers no end at home, & if they should get into the papers might do me harm here. I am very anxious to hear from you and of our friends at Wicksmond and elsewhere. I look with anxiety to my establishment at home, & do not abandon the

idea of the bar. I sh^d. have much more satisfaction in
the circle of my friends than I can have in Europe; &
I think it w^d. be more agreeable to me to pursue a re-
-tired, quiet life, prosecuting something comfortable for
me as I advance in age, & promoting the establishment
of my family, by my industry, than to continue a
life of ceremony in the bustle among strangers. My
reception here has been favorable, so that in that respect
I have no cause of complaint. Our affairs too are on
a good footing with the government, which I have
no doubt we shall preserve. Of my private affairs in
America, or rather Virg^a. I have ^{not} heard a word since I
left N. York. I hope our friend Selden will not com-
plain of the burden I left on him. I shall write
him by this opportunity. Mrs. Mearns, my daugh-
ter & infant are in tolerable health, tho' this climate
is not so agreeable as our own. My desire to be re-
-membered to you & I beg you to be assured of my
very sincere friendship.

Jas. Montoe