

Richmond May 21. 1809.

My Dear Sir-

It has been very long since I had the pleasure to write to or hear from you. My omission was owing entirely to the hope of seeing you when the assembly was sitting, which had been raised by our friend Mr. Scoble, & the expectation afterwards that I might possibly make a visit to Wm. Burgh before I went to Albemarle, which idea is now relinquished. I expect to set out in about a week for that county, & to make it perhaps altogether my future residence. I have not positively decided not to resume the practice of the law, but the attention due to my private affairs, & to those of my late relative & friend Mr. Jones promising to engage me exclusively at least 18 months, I have resolved to remove to Albemarle and devote my time to them there. In that interval I shall I hope settle them satisfactorily, after which I will decide whether I will pursue the cultivation & improvement of my estate, & certain literary studies of a general nature, or return here & resume the duties of my profession. I could not leave this without informing you of it, & giving you some idea of my future plan so far as it is formed. I do not disclaim the idea of public life, but there does not seem to be any probability of my soon engaging in it if at all. I trust that our affairs will go happily, & if they do that is all that I can desire. My services

will never be withheld, if an occasion should arise to make them
useful, nor will the grade of office form any obstacle with me.
Should you find it practicable to make me a visit in Alabama,
you would give me great satisfaction by it. I should suppose that
you might be spared from your district a fortnight in the course
of the summer, in which I should hope that you would bestow
it on us. It would also give me great pleasure if you could per-
suade or Mr Scoble to accompany you.

Augustine has been with Mr Jordan since Sept. last pursue-
ing his studies to his satisfaction. He is making up the lost time, &
will I think gain more in the present than in three or four
preceding years. I had much trouble with him in the commenc-
ement, his system of study being far from being regulated. I am in-
debted to you on his account, but if you are not pressed I must
delay the payment a while longer. Whenever you see the
amount shall be paid on short notice. Mrs Monroe writes
in making our best respects to your lady & daughter. I am

Dear Sir with sincere regard your friend
Jas Monroe