

St Louis March 19<sup>th</sup> 1829

Hon<sup>d</sup> and Dear Sir, I think when I left you in December last, you did me the honor to say, you should be happy to hear from me, and know something of my motions in this part of the country.

I am happy to comply with your request;— both because I feel honoured by the permission it gives me to address you in a friendly manner; and because to a heart not entirely selfish, nothing can be more delightful than an opportunity, to gratify the smallest wishes of one whom it has many reasons to respect and love.

First, however, I beg leave to thank you for the letter of introduction to Capt. W — with which you furnished me. It was the means of adding much to the pleasure of my visit at Washington, by procuring for me many kind and polite attentions.

From Washington I took the Cumberland Road to Wheeling, and then descended the Ohio to Cincinnati. There I found several gentlemen from our part of the Union. Among others, Mr Ames who is practising law in that city. He has been quite successful, and

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has a fair prospect of retrieving his fortunes. He has the most sanguine expectations of the West, and said every thing in his power to persuade me to remain in Cincinnati. But from all I could learn, I came to the conclusion that the prospect for professional men is not so fair in Ohio as in Maine.

From Cincinnati I embarked for Louisville, where I remained a few days, and then took passage for this city. I left Louisville on the 4 of February, and did not reach St Louis till the 12<sup>th</sup> of March. The trip is usually made in 5 days. The length of our passage was owing to the extreme rigour of the season, which has been severe beyond all former experience.

Thus I have at last found myself standing at ~~that~~ at a point so remote from my home, and among a people whose manners and habits are so different from those that I have been accustomed to, that it requires an effort of reflection to convince me that I am still within the borders of my own country. The further I have travelled West the more of a stranger have I felt myself. The more minute I have been in my enquiries, the more deeply have I been convinced of the improbability of being able to realize those hopes which grew up in my mind from speculating upon the capabilities of the West, over the ~~the~~ map of the United States. Indeed that beautiful <sup>castle</sup> which I

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built upon the banks of the Mississippi, has experienced the misfortune common to all high raised structures on so soft a soil, which is neither more nor less, than that of having just tumbled into ruins. I am now on the point of yeilding a very willing obedience to your parting injunction; and as I hope to have the happiness of soon seeing you, I will for the present put off a ~~recital~~ recital of the reasons that have driven me to the conclusion; — that the practice of law in the Western States, is a less lucrative, less agreeable, and less honourable employment than it is in New England.

I shall never regret the time or money I have spent in this exploring expedition; for tho' its main object has failed, I trust it has given me many new views of the character of my country, and added to my small stock of general information. By availing myself of a travellers privilege I hope to amuse my friends with some stories of the West; and by so doing avert some of the hard jokes which, I doubt not, are already cut and dried for my poor aching head. I shall return by way of Pittsburgh, Buffalo and Albany, and reach Me, by the first of May. — I beg to be remembered with all possible respect & regard to your family; and to subscribe myself —

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