

Washington Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>. 1819.

Dear Sir

Our difficulties appear to thicken, as to the admission of Maine into the Union. The Speaker came out openly & avowed the object of a general opposition to the measure, until the question regarding Missouri is also definitely settled — The objections made by the Speaker were ably answered by Messrs. Holmes, Livermore & Foot; the committee of the whole have leave to sit again tomorrow, and I have no reason to doubt but there is a considerable majority of the House in our favor, but in the Senate there is we fear a dead set the otherway, so that if they combine, it is in their power to prevent the passage of the bill in their body let the members <sup>in the House</sup> from Maine vote as they will on the Missouri question — In this case what is to be done? The members from Massachusetts <sup>proper</sup>

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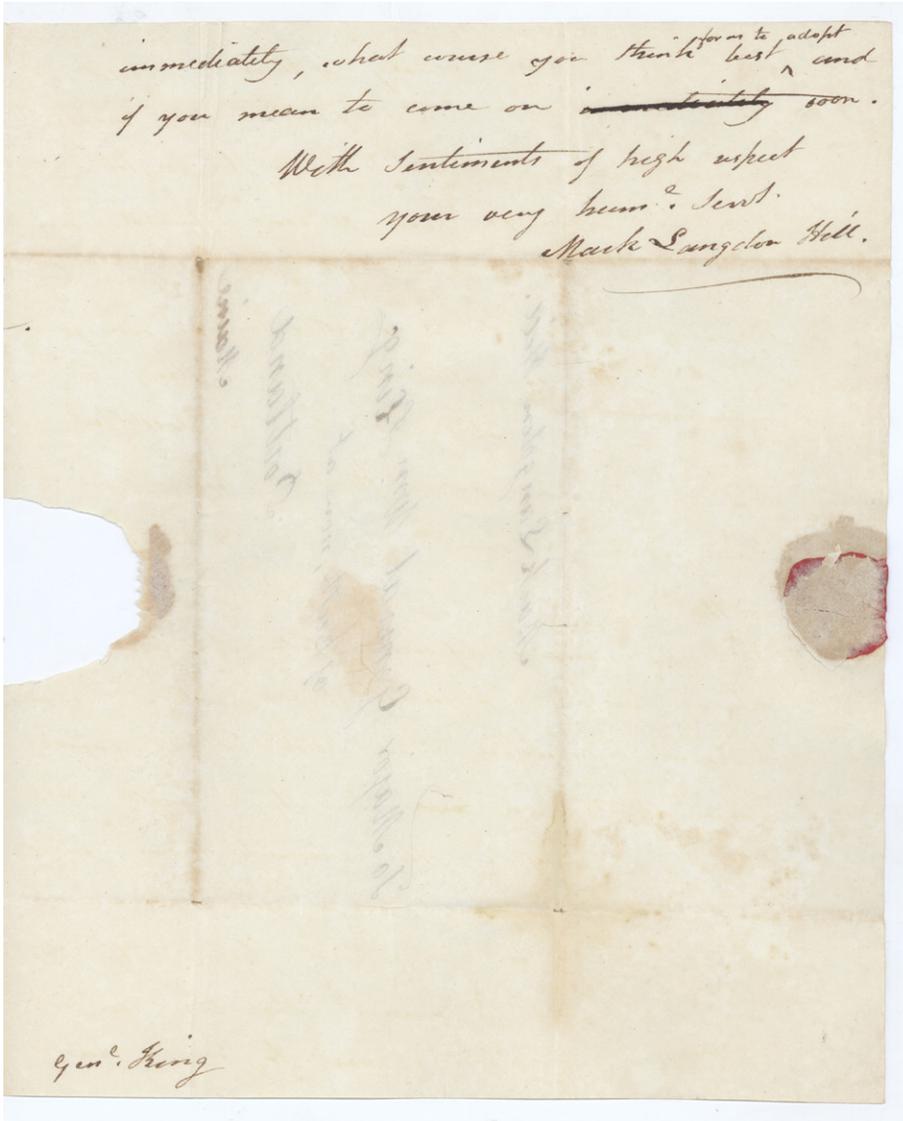
Mr. Mellen appears to be willing to do all he can, the other Senator is doubtful, but we have strong hopes that Mr. King from New York will soon come in & he will help us there.

You may depend upon it, your exertions will be wanted here, and it is my deliberate opinion you had better come immediately on ~~here~~, for there will be more perplexity in the business than was anticipated by any one - It is now apparent, the plan was laid before the meeting of Congress to connect the two subjects together - I pray you to write me

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for me to adopt  
immediatly, what course you think best ^ and  
if you mean to come on [immediatly] soon.

With sentiments of high respect  
your very humble servant.

Mark Langdon Hill.

Genl King