

Washington Jan 25. 1820

Dear Sir -

This afternoon, a Letter signed by yourself and several others, and directed to the Senators and Representatives in Congress from Maine, was duly received - I have communicated its contents as requested and also to your Brother, who this morning took his seat in the Senate to universal satisfaction - I am willing, if necessary, to comply with your wishes, if necessary, by inserting an interdiction of slavery in the Maine Bill - tho I am perfectly satisfied it would not answer any valuable purpose - The restriction has been opposed on the ground that Congress have no right to impose any on the admission of a state into the Union - so that if a restriction were added to the Maine bill, they would vote against the Bill and restriction too and act consistently

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— Still as your brother is now here and feels a strong interest in the Maine bill, I shall consult and act in unison with him and the members from Maine.

— We have condemned the schemes so much which have been resorted to by the friends of Missouri — that I should be sorry to subject ourselves to a similar imputation in behalf of Maine —

— Why not go straight forward — I gave a reply of this import ~~to~~ yesterday in a letter to General Moody

— Do drop me a line on this subject

Yours respectfully

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*[Vertical handwritten notes, partially obscured]*

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