

(Has been copied.)  
 to print, <sup>to</sup> Washington Feb<sup>ry</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>, 1820.  
 S<sup>rs</sup> Mark L. Hill M.C.

There are some symptoms that the Senate  
 are disposed to yield & let Maine come in, at  
 what will come of the other question, and this  
 more particularly at this time, on account of  
 their friends, of whom you are esteemed one  
 of the foremost among others in Maine; if this  
 Magnanimous course is pursued by them (I  
 call this magnanimous now, because they had put  
 their foot down, altho wrong at the first) We must  
 shew ourselves magnanimous toward them—  
 that is, no pledges are given, but they will ex-  
 pect that in their present peculiar situation,  
 having so strong a majority in the Senate 28  
 to 16, if they yield this weapon, which they  
 avow they wielded, not out of hostility to Maine,  
 but as a means to prevent the House of Representa-  
 tives, (almost equally divided), from adopting ~~such~~  
 a measure which the <sup>Senate</sup> consider a violation  
 of the constitution, we shall endeavor to heal  
 the  
 General King.

Washington Feby. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1820.

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 Date: February 4, 1820  
 Description: Letter from Mark L. Hill to William King, Washington D.C.

breach & try to effect a compromise, upon some fair scale, to let Missouri, within proper bounds ~~to~~ come in, provided slavery shall never exist in what is now the vacant territory - Some project of this kind I confess I feel in favor of for several reasons - first, from the equal division of Congress on the question of Constitutional right, if it exists it must be constructive they implication, & this doctrine may come in our teeth on some other occasion, &

Secondly, slavery exists, & where is that surplus population to go at present, until some parts of Africa is colonized, or elsewhere, for their reception? And how will those lands, be cultivated where cotton, coffee, tobacco & rice is raised, including the Floridas, for we shall possess <sup>them</sup> ~~them~~, unless the blacks do it? for they can labor in those climates, & the whites cannot, & nature has marked this difference.

Thirdly, the white population from the North do not like to emigrate where involuntary servitude is allowed; then let a Missouri & Arkansas within

breach & try to effect a compromise, upon some fair scale, to let Missouri, within proper bounds come in, provided slavery shall never exist in what is not the vacant territory - Some project of the kind I confess I feel in favor of for several reasons - first, from the equal division of Congress on the question of Constitutional right, if it exists it must be constructive they implication, their doctrine may come in our teeth on some other occasion, &

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Thirdly, the white population from the North do not like to emigrate where involuntary servitude is allowed; then let a Missouri & Arkansas within

proper limits hold slaves if they please, and let  
all those immense regions to the North West be  
open for the emigration <sup>from</sup> the non <sup>slave</sup> holding States,  
& there will always be an overmatch for the  
others, & it will form <sup>a bond of</sup> union between north &  
south.

Fourthly, we have local interests at the  
north which we want to cherish, commence  
to protect - Fisheries encouraged & bounties paid  
to our fishermen & manufactures, to build up.  
if we are entirely unyielding to them, can  
we suppose we shall have our views promoted  
exclusively? The constitution was a compromise,  
& the government has been administered on that  
principle hitherto.

and finally, in a political point of view,  
the sooner this question is put to rest, the  
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a change for the better for Maine?

These are crude ideas, written in a moment of hurry & which your goodness will not expose. but they are intended to draw your mind to these subjects & if you think with me, let some hints, instructions, or letters be written as, guarded as you please, that so we may be in a situation to promote the good of the whole & the future welfare of Maine —

You stand well here, mind I do not deceive you, you may not therefore be aware how much you can accomplish by a little attention —

These are my own reflections, I make no bargains, I am ever cautious what I say on these subjects to my friend Holmes, & as to the Southern gentlemen I have not conversed <sup>with one of them</sup> intimately on this subject, but what ever has occasionally been said, it has been thro' Mr. Holmes, — Write me by return of Mail & believe me to be very sincerely,

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