

New York December the 26th 1789

My Dear Madam

Your very friendly letter of the 27th of last month has afforded me much more satisfaction than all the formal compliments, and empty ceremonies of meer etiquette could possibly have done. I am not apt to forget the feelings that have been inspired by my former society with good acquaintances, not to be insensible to their expressions of gratitude to the President of the United States; — for you know me well enough to do me the justice to believe that I am only fond of what comes from the heart. — Under a conviction that the demonstrations of respect and affection which have been made to the President originate from that source I cannot deny that I have taken some interest and pleasure in them. — The difficulties which prevented them selves to view upon his first entering upon the Presidency, seem thus to be in some measure surmounted: it is owing to this kindness of our numerous friends in all quarters that my new, and unwished for situation is not indeed

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I should, probably, have enjoyed the innocent gayeties
of life as much as most of my age; - but I had long
since placed all the prospects of my future worldly
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at Mount Vernon. -

I little thought when he was finished,
that any circumstances could possibly have happened
which would call the General into public life again.
I had anticipated, that from this moment we should have
been left to grow old in solitude and tranquility to-
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he has made; indeed in his journeys from Mount Vernon - to this place, in his late tour through the eastern states, by every public and by every private information which has come to him, I am persuaded that he has experienced nothing to make him repent his having acted from what he conceived to be alone a sense of indispensable duty: on the contrary, all his sensibility has been awakened in receiving such repeated and unequivocal proofs of sincere regards from all his country men.

With respect to my self, I sometimes think the arrangement is not quite as it ought to have been, that I, who had much rather be at home should occupy a place with which a great many younger and gayer women would be prodigiously pleased. - As my grand children and domestic connections make up a great portion of the felicity which I looked for in this world. - I shall hardly be able to find any substitute that would indemnify me for the loss of a part of such endearing society. I do not say this because I feel dissatisfied with my present station - no, God forbid! - for every body and every thing conspire to make me as contented as possible in it; yet I have too much

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The President's health is quite reestablished by his
late journey — mine is much better than it used to
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been ill: hope before this time that he may be entirely
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