

Boston March 20 1813  
Josiah Pierce Esq  
Sir  
Agreeably to the arrangements made at our last interview, I left this place for Washington on the 18<sup>th</sup> Ultimo & arrived at New York on the morning of 19<sup>th</sup> (6 o'clock undress'd me for the first time there at Mechanic Hall & slept until 9 (3 hours) - cross'd the Hudson at 5 P.M. in a Steam Boat lodged on the Jersey side opposite N. York - 21 went to Philadelphia - 22 at Phil<sup>a</sup> - made all the necessary enquiries there, found I could do nothing at that place & was referred to the Officers of the Treasury at Washington - 23 left Phil<sup>a</sup> for reach'd Havre de Grace at 9 o'clock P.M. on the right bank of the Susquehanna River - on the morning of the 24 set out for Baltimore reach'd that place at night - 25 went from Baltimore to Washington found the public houses full took Lodgings at M<sup>rs</sup> Wadsworth private boarding house - 26 call'd at the Treasury Office upon M<sup>r</sup> Rush shew him the letters I had received from him & made known the object of my application - he read the letters which I gave & I received from the Court & observed that "they did great honor to the writer" He call'd M<sup>r</sup> Lamb one of the Officers in the Treasury & wish'd him to look for the papers I wish'd for - & now without giving you a minute account of my proceedings, as they took place I will in substance

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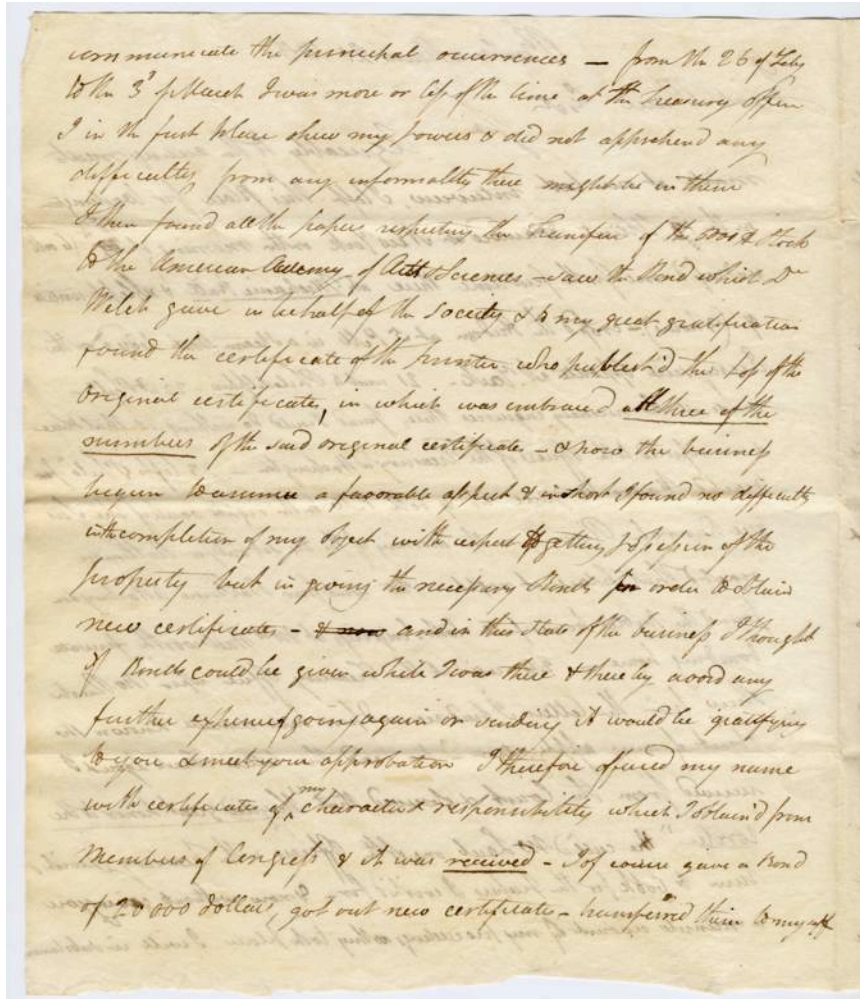
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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through  
Maine Historical Society  
Date: March 20, 1813  
Description: James F. Baldwin on trip to Washington



communicate the principal occurrences — from the 26 of Feby  
to the 3<sup>d</sup> of March I was more or less of the time at the Treasury office  
I in the first place shew my powers & did not apprehend any  
difficulty from any informality there might be in them  
I then found all the papers respecting the Transfer of the 5000 \$ stock  
to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences — saw the Bond which Dr  
Welch gave in behalf of the Society & to my great gratification  
found the certificate of the printer who publish'd the copy of the  
original certificate, in which was embraced all three of the  
numbers of the said original certificate. — I now the business  
began to assume a favorable aspect & in short I found no difficulty  
in the completion of my object with respect to getting possession of the  
property but in giving the necessary Bonds for order to obtain  
new certificates — & now and in this state of the business I thought  
if Bonds could be given while I was there & there by accord any  
further expence of going again or sending it would be gratifying  
to you & meet your approbation I therefore offered my name  
with certificate of <sup>my</sup> character & responsibility which I obtain'd from  
Members of Congress & it was received — I of course gave a Bond  
of 20 000 dollars, got out new certificates — transferred them to myself

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for the better management of the Stock if I should sell it on my return  
home either at Baltimore Phila<sup>a</sup> or New York & took one certificate  
in my own name & left the Treasury - I left Washington the  
6<sup>th</sup> inst arrived at Baltimore on the 7<sup>th</sup> at night spent 1 day there  
could get no offer for the stock - went to Philadelphia in a Packet  
partly & partly by land on the 9.10 & 11<sup>th</sup> - 12 & 13 at Phila<sup>a</sup>  
could get no offer for the Stock there & I was told 3 pr cents had  
been offered for sale at 55 pr Cent - 14<sup>th</sup> went to New York travel'd  
all night got into New York about 8 o'clock A.M on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
could obtain no offer for the Stock there & it likewise had been  
offered for 55 pr cent there & not being authorized to <sup>sell at</sup> that  
price I concluded the idea of <sup>disposing of the Stock</sup> ~~selling~~ must be given up  
& I left N York for this place on wednesday morning last 7<sup>th</sup> M  
& travel'd night & day until 3 o'clock P.M yesterday when  
I <sup>here</sup> set myself down to rest - And I cannot but say  
that the travelling part of my journey has been, owing to  
the horrid condition of the roads at this season of the year  
very unpleasant - & the greatest source of consolation to me is  
as I think a great many will perform  
the reflection that I have ~~done~~ <sup>performed</sup> to the utmost of my power that  
service which your confidence had entrusted me with -  
And now having thus far, as I believe, accomplish'd the object of  
your wishes & trusting that I have done nothing more in this  
transaction (that of giving the Bond) than you would have wish'd

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me to do even under the expectations in which it was done  
You will perceive that I have given Bonds to the United States  
for Twenty thousand Dollars ~~and which~~ in consequence of which  
the probability or improbability of being call'd upon I cannot  
judge of - at any rate it is not a situation to be envied & I  
do not think it unreasonable to ask of you a sufficient Bond  
& indemnify me for any injury I may sustain by reason  
thereof & for this particular service which could not be  
understood to be within any engagement on my part you  
should feel disposed to relinquish any part of the dividend which  
I have received, ~~for this extra & unexpected service I should~~  
it would be ~~received~~ <sup>accepted</sup> with Pleasure - Altho a voluntary act  
on my part I have in this & as in all instances done That  
which I thought you would approve of I rec<sup>d</sup> at Phil<sup>a</sup>  
& at Washington all Dividends that were due up to the 1 of Jany  
last which amounted to Six hundred Dollars which alth<sup>o</sup> rec<sup>d</sup>  
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buying drafts as I came home - And thus having communi-  
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As I travel'd to New York I saw no great difference in the Country —  
beyond the North River I found an uniformity in the face of the  
Country, without any highland or steep hills it being made up of  
gentle swells of Land & such is the level of the Country in N Jersey  
that I pass'd over a road which was 22 miles in a straight line  
& upon the ~~top~~ top of a hill near its centre I could see about 11 miles  
each way — this road leads from Brunswick to Trenton —  
There is little or no appearance of gravel pits or stones upon  
the surface from New York to Washington of course the roads  
when wet are very muddy the wheels frequently sinking to the  
Hubs & there's not in my opinion between said places 50 rods  
of Stone wall within sight of the road — the fence is made of  
posts & rails & in the Virginia manner — You pass thro a  
great deal of Woodland, much more than I expected  
between the principal towns & upon that which is improved  
there are but few inhabitants — the land being owned by  
rich persons in quantities from one to ten thousand acres  
The growth is generally <sup>white/black</sup> oak, Walnut, chestnut, red cedar  
ash & very little pine of any sort <sup>hard pine</sup> mostly —  
most of the small rivers & brooks are ford'd & you scarcely pass upon  
a bridge a scandalous neglect of the high ways is visible  
all thro Maryland — from ~~Washington~~ the Point below the

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all thru Maryland - from Washington I went down to Alex

ab<sup>t</sup> 8 miles this is a pretty place as regularly laid out as  
Phila<sup>d</sup> & a considerable business done there; — in going there  
passed over the <sup>bridge</sup> lately built across the Potowmac one  
mile in length<sup>^</sup> toll for a hack with 2 horses one dollar  
went also up to the Cannon foundry at George Town ab<sup>t</sup>  
3 miles from Washington saw them boring but not  
casting cannon — but what was as novel as any thing  
[word scratched out] was the ceremonies on the 4th March - Jas<sup>s</sup> Madison was  
to be inaugurated President in the Representatives Chamber  
I took my seat early as I could in The Gallery and after waiting  
impatiently for some time at length in came his Royal  
Highness attended by his private Secretary Mr Coles & passd  
by Chief Justice Marshall & 5 of the associate Justices who  
were seated <sup>at a table</sup> by a table, to the Speakers Chair - having set  
ab<sup>t</sup> minute he stood up & delivered his speech after which he  
came down from the Speakers Chair to the table on the  
left of Judge Marshall - the Judge then open'd a book &  
pointing to a passage, <sup>or held it</sup> gave it to Mr Madison who read as I suppose  
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the oath of Office which took not more than half a minute after  
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word & I found the whole proceeding altogether different from  
from those practiced at the qualification of our Governors - & if this  
is the only seal of the covenant between him & the people  
it may hold with him but it seems that it might easily  
be broken - After the President went out of the house he stood  
upon the steps of the out side Door before whom passed 5 or 6  
companies of Cavalry Artillery & Infantry - he then  
went rode to his house which is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from  
the Capitol where he held a levee - I went with  
the Multitude but I found Mr & Mrs Madison standing  
in the drawing room to whom I bowed & passed with  
the rest round the house spent about an hour looking  
at the furniture, pictures &c & returned to drawing  
room bowed again to the President & retired - these  
rooms in the house were closely fill'd & you had  
to squeeze between the visitors, Ladies & Gentlemen of  
various  
descriptions - his house is large & handsomely  
built of Stone & the contrast between that and an old <sup>leaning</sup> hovel  
& a stack of hay standing in the yard, was very great -

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I went also to the ~~Patent~~ Patent Office & saw <sup>such</sup> an immense number of Models of various description & ~~was~~ got so confused with causes & effects that I gladly left the office & I think that not one quarter of them with all the privileges attached to them are worth the cost of making the models - After seeing all natural & artificial curiosities I got tired of the place & forced myself out of it; the regular stages being full & the seats being taken for several days ahead I with 3 others hired a carriage to carry us to Mattamoras which took 1 1/2 days - the distance abt 40 miles and of which I think I walk'd 30 - the horses scarcely able to draw the carriage thro the mud - I took water conveyance at Mattamoras pass'd down the Potapsco & cross'd the Chesapeake bay, in which I saw innumerable quantities of Ducks & a great many white Swans a bird untill now I did not know inhabited these waters - I went to see at Philadelphia the White Lead Manufactory & The New Bridge over the <sup>Schuylkill</sup> ~~Delaware~~ which is a single arch the Chord of which is 340 <sup>feet</sup> & only 19 feet elevation - built of hard pine pretty much -

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I have had for a travelling companion part of the way home  
Capt (now Gen<sup>l</sup>) Clark who went with M. Lewis to the Pacific  
ocean up the Missouri & down the Columbia River  
he told me that the Missouri River was navigable 2700  
miles from its mouth & that there is no place in that distance  
where you can ford the River with a horse or see a ripple  
The mouth of this river is about 1000 miles up the Mississippi  
which will make an inland navigation 3700 miles  
at the first rapid the fall is 362<sup>feet</sup> in 18 miles & only 6  
miles down side to the waters of the Columbia River —  
I saw snow 18 feet deep — pines 300 feet high  
& 12 feet diameter — he went 3500 to get to the  
mouth of the Columbia — but can go in 2000 miles —  
he was coming in to Philadelphia to get his travels  
publish'd — With Respect to the prospect of Peace  
with the future steps to be taken by the Administration I can  
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I am inclined to think the next senate will shew itself  
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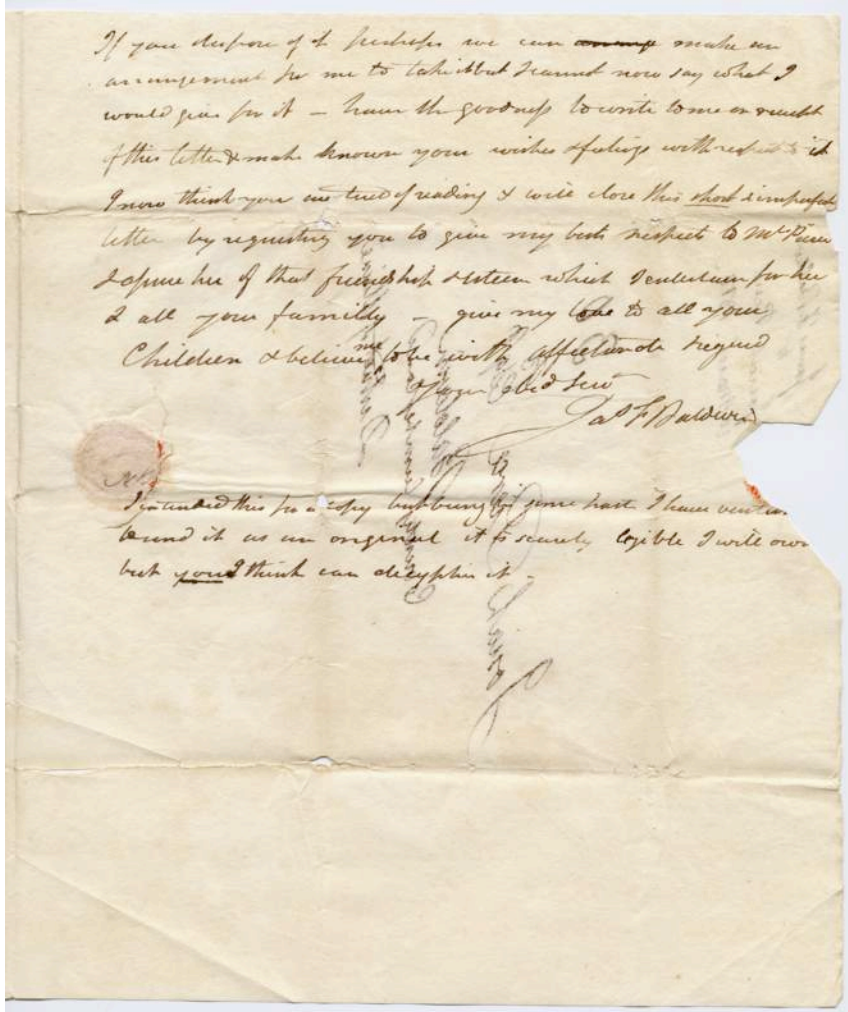
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to pass an embargo law - There are various opinion on  
the momentous subject of Peace or War - & few there are  
I believe who can tell how long the war will continue. -  
Money must be had to carry it on & no small sum  
will be necessary for that purpose - It is supposed that the  
expense of the N Western Army <sup>alone</sup> has cost the Nation  
since Halls Proclamation 8 or 9 Millions of Dollars - I have  
been told that the Flour which has been sent to supply that  
branch of the Army has cost 10¢ p<sup>r</sup> bbl. first purchased &  
40 Dollars for transportation making 50¢ p<sup>r</sup> bbl. The horse provender  
sent to the Army has a great part of it been consumed by  
the teams which carry it - The Army bills all together  
must be immense - I have hastily cast up my expenses  
on this journey & find they amount to about 150 \$ I don't  
know that I have unnecessarily spent any money or time  
more than prudence would dictate - I hope you will  
be satisfied with all my conduct & if you are not so on  
reading this letter I will endeavor when I next see you  
to make you satisfied - I have now here the certificate  
of 10,000 \$ for G<sup>t</sup> Stock standing <sup>in</sup> my own name & as the price of it  
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If you dispose of it perhaps we can ~~arrange~~ make an arrangement for me to take it but I cannot now say what I would give for it – have the goodness to write to me on receipt of this letter & make known your wishes & feelings with respect to it I now think you tired of reading & will close this short & imperfect letter by requesting you to give my best respects to M<sup>rs</sup> Pierce & assure her of that friendship & esteem which I entertain for her & all your family - give my love to all your

me  
Children & believe<sup>^</sup> to be with affectionate regard  
Your obe<sup>d</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Ja<sup>s</sup> F. Baldwin

I intended this for a copy but being in some haste I have ventur [page torn] to use it as an original it is scarcely legible I will own [page torn] but you I think can decipher it-