

My dear Brother without any prelude I shall enter upon those topics which I conceive will be most interesting to you, and touch upon the many things that are daily, for the first time in life, falling under my observation. I have been introduced to all the Senate I believe, and a multitude of the House. In the first I am much indebted to Benton, Woodbury & Chandler for many polite attentions. Perhaps you will be surprised at the latter name, but I must assure you Gen C. has a very different standing & character here from what his constituents are willing to award him. Several members of the Senate, some of them whose names are blazoned over the whole Union, and whose eloquence has often charmed our ears in that remote corner of our country where he live, have told me that there was not a more useful man in Congress than Gen. Chandler. I mention this because I have received important favours at his hands, and more still by way of reputation, because I joined, while in Maine, in those success that it was fashionable there to call upon this faithful & laborious servant of the people. How faithful you may judge from the fact that he has not lost a vote in the Senate for four years. No other member can say the same.

Of course you are anxious to know something of the state of parties. Who are to be turned out & who are to come in? Who are to be recalled, and who sent abroad? are questions that all are asking and none are able to answer. In a conversation yesterday with Mr Kramer - Gentle George Kramer, he in that homely shrewdness for which he is so remarkable, observed that "the oldest of them cant tell how the cat will jump." This is the true state of the case. No opposition will be organized till after Jackson's inaugural address. They will endeavour to pick up the smaller materials of an opposition out of that. Great uncertainty prevails as to the next cabinet, but the general opinion here is that Woodbury

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will go into the Army Department, and some say Chandler will be Secretary of War if he is not reelected to the Senate. It is doubtful who will be the next candidate for the Presidency. Clay will be one, this is now certain, so, at least, say gentlemen who ought to know how parties will turn. Some are inclined to think that McLean, Calhoun & Van Buren will all take the field also. Others say they will compromise & that either Calhoun & Van Buren will stand alone & write the partizans of both. I admire the manner of Mr Clay so much that I am in great danger of becoming a Clay man. Indeed he is altogether the most fascinating man I ever saw.

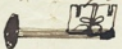
When I arrived here I left my card at the Presidents and heads of the Departments & at the Foreign Ministers. They have sent me invitations to their parties & I have already attended several. There is much etiquette here & some of it very singular. It is unfashionable & vulgar for a gentleman to wait upon his own wife, & married ladies receive more attention & are as much belles as young girls. You would laugh to see me walking down Pennsylvania Avenue with a woman old enough to be my mother, & to see my bowing & smiling for all the world as if I was in love with her. Yet you may see this any day that you will come to Washington. I never enjoyed company half so much as I do here, and I particularly admire the custom to which I have just alluded. Should I ever come back to Maine, I will amuse you by showing you the cards that are left for me, and you will think I changed my nature while I was & turned beau. There are one or two most beautiful ladies here & the Port Master General has a daughter just on the point of marriage, that no one can see without falling in love with her. She is a methodist girl, and you cannot think how delightfully her simple & unaffected style of dress contrasts with the glare of the painted multitude that surround her. I am much indebted to Gen. Woodbury & Lady for much kind attention. Mrs W. & her sister Mrs Olney are very popular in Washington, and it is a great recommendation to a young man to be known as their friend. They are fine women, really so, and I have the privilege of calling familiarly on them at any hour in the

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day, and walk with them frequently - So much for etiquette & fashion -

I shall start next week. Go to Louisville in Kentucky and get admitted, and thence to St Louis. I shall visit Cincinnati, Indiana and Tennessee. The latter for the purpose of visiting Gen. Jackson to whom I shall have several letters of introduction. I am not determined, of course, whether I shall settle permanently in the West, tho' if it offers as fair advantages as N.E. I should not return -

I have just come home from Mount Vernon where I went with a party of young gentlemen to survey the birthplace, residence, and grave of the father of his Country. I have no paper left to tell you what I saw there. The fair garden all laid out & cultivated just as it was in Washington's day - the old grey be servants, who clasp their hands at the sound of their masters name and shew a brighten with joy as they shew us round the grounds. Then the tomb on the banks of the noble Potomac where he lies in glory and in peace, with dark above it, and old oaks beside it, and the green sward all trodden bare to the soil by the footsteps of multitudes, who come to drop a grateful tear and utter a fervent word of admiration on the grave of the departed hero. All this I have this day seen, my heart is full of their memories alike tender, holy, and proud - I shall never forget them. In the road entry we also saw the key of the Bastille, a present to Washington from the Republic of France. This is a draft of its form, it is a heavy iron or steel key - 

Before I start, I shall write Father a long letter telling him minutely all my plans & prospects - So write direct to Louisville Kentucky, it will reach me there, at a friend of Mr. Wickliff, to whom I have letters, and with whom I shall probably spend some days. I am spending my time most delightfully, and hourly seeing the first races in the nation, and receiving attention & kindness from individuals whose very names have been wont to fill me with a kind of reverential fear.

Give my love to your wife & children. Does little Jos talk? Learn him to say Uncle George -

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