

Washington Nov 19th 1820

My dear friend,

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your kind letter of the 8th has just come to hand; for which I tender you my most sincere acknowledgements. altho' it has been sometime on its passage it communicates the agreeable intelligence that you and the family were well, at least one week later than I had heard from you; and I pray God that among the unavoidable troubles my absence must necessarily subject you to, that your health may be preserved, and that of our dear children. As to my own I have ~~scarcely~~ little to apprehend, ~~unless~~ than trifling indispositions, &c with which I am sometimes troubled, which never give me any concern as to their consequences. It is true as you heard by Mr Gibb that I had something of the prevailing cold or influenza by the time I reached Burlington, but in its mildest form, which continued until I arrived at this place; but it has intirely left me. I have received much more trouble from an ugly bile which formed on the back of my right hand soon after I left home, and continued to inflame & encrease for severial days - it has at last broke and discharged a great deal of matter & is now free from pain and is fast healing. It was so painful for a number of days, as to prevent me from sleeping. otherwise my health has been perfectly good.

I gave you an account of my journey as far as Albany in a letter written from that place, which I presumed reached you on the 12th, and from there to this place, which in a letter written on the 12th, and which I expect will reach you before this. After arriving in Washington I put up at a tavern, as is usual, until I had an opportunity to look round among the different boarding houses to select a suitable place. And after spending two days, we came to