

(25) Washington February 19th 1821.

My dear friend,

I have waited with great anxiety to receive letters from home, which have not yet arrived, probably from the badness of the roads - And fearing that the same cause may prevent a letter, written by me after to day, reaching you next week - I therefore, to prevent you from all unnecessary anxiety on my account, write a few lines assuring you of the continuance of my health, and that if your letters shall arrive in season to give any chance for an answer to reach you next week, I will write again - Samuel's letter received last week give me an account of his health, & of yours, which has given me great concern. I have been very much at a loss whether I ought not to get leave of absence and return home - and if the season was not so near a close I would do it - On the fourth of March I shall be on my return I have engaged my passage in a stage. The members will generally remain a day or two longer to see the inauguration of the President which will take place on Monday - But I shall not tamely my feelings and duty urge me to return home as