

Washington Feb. 21. 1818

1

Dear Sir,

I have just received your very friendly letter of the 27th of January, for which you will please to accept my sincere thanks. It gives me much satisfaction to learn by it that my friends at Crabbleury are in the enjoyment of health, and particularly your family. I am sensible that an apology is due from me for not writing oftener; it is not, because my friends being cut of sight, they are also cut of mind; they still occupy that place in my affections, which I trust that neither time nor distance will have power to efface. I have found my situation here much more arduous than I had anticipated. Beside the common business of legislation, I receive innumerable applications from every part of the Continent, to obtain soldiers land warrants, pensions for widows, commutations for heirs of deceased soldiers, accounts to settle, &c. &c. all these are to be attended to at the different departments, each of which requires considerable time, care and patience. The business of legislating for a nation is a very important and responsible employment. Altho' we have in Congress many men of the first talents and virtue, we have also many who are very visionary - and every subject which is brought forward must be closely examined in all its relations, and bearings upon the different classes of society, and are often supported from views which are ^{only} ~~entirely~~ local, and would prove injurious to other sections of country. It is necessary therefore to be attentive to every thing that comes before us, and to this part of my duty I have paid the