

Washington, Jan. 1. 1819 19

I tender you my sincere thanks, my dear friend, for your kind letter to me, and which has given me real pleasure, a pleasure not the less heightened by coming unexpectedly. I hear but seldom from Craftsbury, and excepting a letter from Mr Young dated the 13th of December, written on business respecting the post road, in which is a note at the bottom where he says, 'he has that day seen you, and that you and May are well,' I have heard nothing from home since you wrote being the 11th of Dec^r. It is true I have had a letter from Samuel dated the 9th which gave no information from home later than yours -- I have written every week, part of the time to you, and part to Samuel, and shall continue to do so while I tarry here. You charge me in your letter to give you a journal of passing my time here -- I will do it cheerfully and truly, and so few the incidents, and the same so uniform, that a history of the employment of one day, is with very small variations, the history of every day -- After this preface I will begin in the morning -- I arise about sunrise, look over the business assigned for the day and at nine o'clock we breakfast; after that we attend on the committees, or go to the public office to get the ~~secret~~ claims allowed, which ~~are~~ sent to us in great numbers -- and then meet in the hall of representatives, where we attend until three or four o'clock, then go to our quarters and dine. After which if the ~~streets~~ are dry, we sometimes walk half a mile and back -- at 7 we have tea or coffee, and the ^{rest of the} evening we devote to writing letters, reading the public documents, and newspaper