

Washington Feb. 5th 1819

My dear Friend,

27.

The last mail from Vermont brought me your kind and affectionate letter of the 23^d ult. for which I tender you my most cordial thanks. Your letter, I assure you, has been doubly acceptable; for it has not only brought the assurance of a continuation of that friendship and affection, which it is my duty, and I pray God, may ever be my fortune to deserve; but it has also relieved my mind from the doubts and apprehensions about your health, which have incessantly haunted my imagination, and placed a weight upon my heart, that nothing but your letter has had power to remove. I am extremely anxious to get home, and, by my assistance and attentions, to relieve you from the burden of care & privations, which my absence has thrown upon you; and I shall await, with extreme impatience, the arrival of the Fourth of March, which will enable me again to revisit the friends who alone have the power to interest my affections, and make me happy. I have very little news to write you - excepting that there has, ~~this morning~~, been a foolish and murderous duel fought here this morning, between a General Mason & a Captain McCarty, both of Virginia, and of high families and large fortunes - the cause was a po-

Feb. 6. 1819.