

Washington March 26<sup>th</sup> 1820

41

My dear friend,

I look forward to the time when I hope to see you with much impatience, which I hope will take place in about a month from this time - The day of adjournment is not yet fixed, yet the 17<sup>th</sup> of April is now supposed to be the time which will be agreed upon - I am the more anxious to be at home before the first of May, to relieve you from any care respecting our spring business, especially if Garfield should chose to leave the farm - however I am determined to be at home if I am well about that time whether Congress adjourns, or not - I have received no letters from you for the last week which, according to their usual arrival ought to have been received yesterday or the day before - The mail has been robbed again near Baltimore the driver murdered and all the letters carried off - on account of the money contained in them - but I have just learned that the robbers have been taken and are now confined in the jail at Baltimore, and will be hanged I hope - A very unpleasant occurrence has happened at Washington during the last week, Commodores Decatur and Barron have settled a point of honor agreeably to the laws of this part of the country, Decatur was shot thro' the body and died in about 13 hours, and Barron was shot into his hip - but is not dead and probably will recover - he is in great distress, and not able to turn himself in bed, nor to be raised up without fainting - Decatur has been justly considered the pride and ornament of the navy - and was universally esteemed