

(34) Washington April 15<sup>th</sup> 1820

My dearest friend,

I am well, and extremely anxious to return to those whom, above all others, I wish to see again; and what gives me the most trouble at present is that I cannot exactly ascertain on what day I can leave here - There is some business to be transacted in which the whole country is very materially interested - and which I ~~cannot~~ am unwilling to leave, lest I shall be accused of deserting my post before the business is through, out of fear of the consequence - I allude to the raising the duties on almost every article imported, to stop all trade with Canada - &c. which under our present situation would nearly ruin Vermont - As soon as this business is disposed of, which I expect will not require more than one or two weeks, I intend to get leave of absence and go home whether Congress adjourns or not - I feel considerable anxiety about the affairs at home - If Mr. Bidden is with you I shall feel left - but he will hardly know what to do - It was my intention to plant with corn that piece of ground East of Garfield's garden which contains about an acre - The piece down North of the barns on which potatoes & flax were raised last year being two or more acres, I intended to sow with wheat - and the hog pasture North of Garfield's house extending down so as to make 2 or 3 acres should be broke up and prepared for potatoes - I wish the fence around the