

Washington April 30th 1820

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My dear Friend,

I believe you will begin to think I have taken up my board here for good and all. Two weeks since, I had no expectation of being here at this time; but affairs have taken an unexpected turn, the negotiations between the Spanish minister and our government have been broken off, and there is much disagreement as to the most prudent & proper course to be pursued by our government toward Spain. There is an unwillingness in congress to allow any member to leave here unless in case of sickness; and indeed there is an impropriety in leaving while it is possible that this subject may lead us into a war - If this subject had been settled according to the expectations of the country, I should at this time been on my way home, instead of writing this letter. But as it is I shall not tarry here much longer. I am but little satisfied with the business done this session, and indeed the affairs of the nation is in a bad way, and for any thing I can expect will take place, must continue such for some time at least - I am sensible I ought to be at home, & I assure you my mind, my affections, and indeed every thing which renders life desirable, is there; and God willing I intend to be there in person before long. My health continues