

70
Washington Dec^r 3^d 1820

My dear friend,

I sincerely thank you for your kind letter of the 20th of Nov. which is just been received, and which brings the joyful intelligence that you and the family enjoy your usual health. I can hardly conceive why my letter from Albany should be so long in reaching the place of its destination; and I suppose the letters which I have written from this place will not be received in less than a fortnight after they are deposited in the mail. However I am determined that every mail shall bring you one or more, and of course shall not pass any week without writing; and hope you will be equally punctual. Samuel has written to me weekly, and altho' he could not give me any accounts from home later, than has been contained in your letters; yet I have had the satisfaction to learn that he has been well. In his last dated the 25th ult. he informs me that a vacation would take place on last Friday, and I think by this time he may be with you.

I have had the good fortune to enjoy excellent health, so far; and at present have but little trouble with my hands, which are nearly well, and believe with care I can keep them so. There have been but few occurrences taken place here since I wrote last, worth the trouble of relating, or would be interesting to you. In the House, the business goes on in a dull monotonous track, without exciting any particular interest; for we have not yet commenced upon any subject of much national interest or importance. The state of the treasury, which all are anxious to learn, has not yet been communicated to Congress; but is expected in a few days: The question whether Missouri shall be admitted into the Union, will probably be discussed this week, and if there shall be as much obstinacy manifested, as last year, it may last for some weeks.