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Washington 10<sup>th</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup> 1820

My dearest friend,

Your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> of Nov. is just received, and I am thankful to learn by it that you are all still the inhabitants of this earth. I assure you, considering what frail beings we are, and how many accidents are daily occurring, I never open a letter having the post marks of Craftsburg without emotion - and fearing lest it be the bearer of some unpleasant information. So far, and I desire to be grateful for it, I have received no unfavorable account. You inform me that you have received no papers by the last mail & conjecture that I have given them another direction - I need not inform you that those conjectures are not well founded, because before this can reach you, you will receive the papers regularly directed to you, unless some person without any permission or authority from me, shall take the liberty of detaining them. So soon as I arrived here, I took my papers and after reading them have enclosed them to you or to Samuel, who I have presumed is with you before this - There has nothing of much interest transpired at Washington since I last wrote, worthy of communicating - We have for three days past been discussing the subject of admitting the new state of Missouri - There is far less excitement and irritation this year, than there was last year when that subject was before Congress - and it is the general belief that it will be decided in the course of the present week, and, I believe against its admission into the union, with its present constitution. Altho' the Southern members will probably