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Washington Dec 31st 1820

My dear friend,

When I wrote you last week your letter of the 13th of Dec. had not arrived, but it came to hand two or three days after, but so late that a letter written by me would not reach you sooner than one written now. I am much concerned to learn by it that Samuel is so unwell, and regret extremely the distance I am from you which intirely prevents me from knowing, at the time, whatever may happen to befall the family. I have no doubt that you will see that every thing is done for Samuel, that could be done if I were with you; but that does not satisfy me, I wish to be with you to ~~relieve~~ you from the cares that my absence imposes upon you, and perhaps thereby prevent you from being worn down with fatigue of body and mind. If you have given me a correct account of Samuel's situation, ~~as you say~~ you have done, I flatter myself that he will get the better of his complaint - I do not however reflect, without anxiety, on the kind of complaint, which Samuel is so much subject to - that pain which has so often been felt in his side, shows that something is wrong in his system - but I hardly can bring myself to believe that it proceeds from an affection of the liver - you know I have great confidence in Doc. Huntington, and have no reason to doubt Dr Wright's skill, I believe him a young man of intelligence & well acquainted with the theory of disordered &c. but do not feel the same confidence in his judgment of cases in our climate, which may vary considerably from disordered in Europe