

Washington Jan. 28 1821.

Dear Sir,

It is so long since I have received a letter from you, & in fact since I have written myself, that it requires a considerable effort to recommence. This I assure you does not proceed from any abatement of friendship or esteem towards you or your dear family, who I trust will ever occupy that distinguished place in my affections, that has heretofore contributed so much to my happiness. I have been so fortunate as to enjoy a good state of health this winter, notwithstanding it has been uncommonly sickly among the members, much more so than has been published in the papers, I believe there are not more than ten or twelve at this time who are not able to attend to business, and none of these are now considered dangerous.

I have lately received unfavorable accounts from home of Samuel's situation — he has for some time been afflicted with a complaint, which the physicians consider to be seated in the liver. He has since the first of December been confined to the house, not much of the time to his bed, they have put a seton in his side, and put him upon a course of salivation. From which I am informed he thought he had derived some benefit — the last letter I received was dated so far back as the 8th instant, and I am anxiously waiting some additional information — Doct^r Smith of Hardwick, and a Doct^r Wright a young physician a foreigner, who studied his profession at the