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Washington February 19th 1821

My dearest friend,

I sit down to write with my mind filled with fears and apprehensions, not only for Samuel, but also on your account. I am so sensible of the interest you always take in the situation of the unfortunate and distressed, that I fear you will forget the feebleness of your own constitution, and will undertake more than is absolutely necessary for you personally to perform. I therefore beseech you, as much as possible to spare yourself from bodily fatigue, and let others perform what is not absolutely necessary should be done by you. Samuel informs me that Mrs Wilkins was with you when he wrote; I was pleased to hear it, and hope you will continue to employ some person until I come home.

I wrote to Dr Todd some weeks ago, & gave him a particular account of Samuel's situation as I could from your letter. I have not yet received any answer from him, but hope he has written to you before now. Dr Smith has written to me and has been very particular in his account of the complaints with which Samuel has been afflicted, and says that it is his opinion "that the chance, not so evidently for an immediate restoration, as for a prolongation of life, is apparently in his favor." As he appears to have given his opinion with frankness & sincerity, I have been strengthened in my hopes that Samuel may yet have the good fortune to be restored to health.

Your letters I believe have all come on, though very irregularly, the last were dated the thirtieth of January - I have so far ~~been~~ had the good fortune to enjoy my health as well as usual -