

Washington, April 7<sup>th</sup> 1822

Dear Sir,

I acknowledge with pleasure the receipt of yours of the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo which has just been received. It gives me the more satisfaction as I discover by it that you are convalescent. I have heard frequently of the bad state of your health the winter past, and I assure you that I have experienced much anxiety on your account. I think I can duly appreciate your feelings, and the discouragement that such a precarious state of health must produce upon the spirits of a person of your age and your desire to engage in some employment, by which you might become useful to yourself and to your country. However present prospects may appear gloomy, and discouraging, it is not the part of wisdom to despair. We can not look into futurity; if we could, you might, very possibly, discover many years of health and happiness in store for you. It is not uncommon for persons, who, at your age have been afflicted with complaints that seemed to baffle the skill of the physician, to have gradually got the better of their complaints, and become hale and sound. You propose going to the springs. It may possibly be beneficial; at any rate it may be well to make the trial. Any aid that I can give you to forward the object shall be accorded with great pleasure. I conclude you will not think of the journey before I return home.