

Washington Dec^r 1st 1823.

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My dear Friend,

I have at last arrived at the end of my journey, and in season. I wrote you while at New York, and gave a short account of my journey to that place. I left New York on ~~Saturday~~^{Friday} and lodged at Trenton, from there we traveled all day & all night and reached Baltimore some hours before day, on Sunday morning, 145 miles of this was by water and about 20 by land - at New York I met with 6 or 7 members of Congress who had been detained on the road; and at Philadelphia, we were joined by some 10 or 12 more, among whom I found Judge Palmer, and several of my former acquaintances. ~~We~~ reached this place a little before sun down last evening. I am now at my old boarding house, (Mrs Hamiltons) and have concluded to room with Judge Matson, from New Hampshire, a member of the last Congress - Mess^{rs} Palmer, Seymour & Rich from Vermont have also taken lodgings at this house - Congress will meet in the capitol this day at twelve o'clock to organize the house & choose a Speaker and other officers - but as yet I have hardly seen any person except those that came with me - I have found the weather ~~and~~ this country colder than I expected at this season of the year - and it is considered to be the coldest fall that has been known for several years - The ground is frozen as hard here as it was at Craftsbury when I left home, and the small streams are covered with ice - perhaps & it is very probable that you have had colder weather since I left home than before.