

Washington Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> 1824.

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Dear Samuel,

Since I wrote last week, I have received your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> ult. which has given me much satisfaction - particularly as it gives so favorable account of your health and that of the family, which I pray may be continue to improve. You mention that you had received but one Washington paper, and had not seen ~~the~~ message of the president - altho' that had been the case when you wrote, I presume that you soon after received several papers - as I have continued to forward the Intelligencer, & Washing Republican direct to you, and the National Sournal, through James, to you also - Niles' Register is sent to me from Baltimore, after reading it I inclose it to Dr Scott - and you have the right to read it if you wish - it is taken by the Doctor, Colonel and myself, each paying his proportion of the price of the paper and postage - From the three papers which I send you, you will get an account of every thing of importance which is done in Congress - I should have sent you a copy of the documents accompanying the presidents message - but I find every document of any interest to be published in some of the papers which I send.

You cannot form any very satisfactory opinion of the prospects of the different candidates for president, from any of the newspapers - as each paper endeavours to set his own favorite candidate in the best possible point of view - and at the same time uses every art to represent the opposing candidates in the most unfavorable light - Therefore it becomes necessary, to avoid wrong impressions, to read the papers which represent the different candidates. After all that has been said in favor of Mr Calhoun, Pickens and Clay, and of the high estimation in which they are said to be held in different parts of the United States