

20

Washington May 16<sup>th</sup> 1824.

My Dear Friend,

I have no doubt but you will be disappointed in receiving a letter from me dated so late as the middle of May - But I intend, thro' the blessing of Heaven, to leave here before another week shall pass away. It is not very probable that Congress will adjourn ~~at~~ soon. This circumstance will not alone keep me here - I had made my calculations when I wrote my last to have set out for home on tomorrow morning - But, as evil luck would have it, the bill for the encouragement of domestic manufactures, which has consumed so much of our time, and which is considered by our part of the country of so much importance - will detain us two or three days longer - and it has unfortunately happened that Congress has been so equally divided on the subject, that by the absence of one member at a decision - the whole measure would be defeated - and if it should be lost by my absence, nothing short of the most <sup>for the circumstances,</sup> impetuous necessity, ~~would~~ would exculpate me - I knew, as well as feel, the necessity of being at home at this season of the year, even if you were all in good health - and much more since Samuel