

Honble George P Marsh

Worcester Oct 22<sup>d</sup> 1857

My Dear Friend

It is a long time since I have written to you - an heard from you - and I owe you a letter - but I have had little of a satisfactory nature to tell you - We have had much affliction - have lost a dear little daughter of 8 years - and have another who has only partially recovered from Rheumatic Fever, My wife & two, has been far from well these last two years - and to add to our troubles. My Government appropriation has never been - and is not likely to be realized - without another act of Congress - taking it out of the hands of the Executive - My eminent friend Mr Everett, has done all he could to effect a settlement of the difficulty - and he now writes me, that unless I come home, it is his firm belief that our friends or friends can do any thing - I cannot leave my family - some of them in an precarious a state of health, and it seems hard that I should be required to do so, when the matter could be settled by a few strokes of the pen by the President with whom Congress left the Commission to be negotiated - You will see the form of the amendment to the Civil and diplomatic list of 1855 by referring to that act of Congress, and thus understand why President Pierce admitted in one of his letters to Mr Everett, that the wording of the law would justify him in receiving any Statute of "America" It is clear from the words "authorizing the President to contract with his own Powers for some work executed or to be executed - and suitable for the adornment of the Capital - a sum not exceeding \$25000," that some work already executed was alluded to, and such indeed was the case. The friends of the measure intended that Statute, and the words - "or to be executed" meant, a Colonial Substitute should that be deemed preferable - But Capt Migs. who seems to have all power in his hands, touching the adornment of the Capital has evidently exerted his entire influence to thwart this measure - and some months after the act was passed - went so far as to give an order to Mr Crawford for a Colonial Statue of our Country to the ~~the~~ Crawford, I knew nothing of this until the day after Mr C. called upon me on his way to Washington about a year ago, when I saw in the hands of my neighbor - Mr Hinney - a photograph of his Statue which is a military figure - with helmet sword and shield - the opposite in all essentials to mine - for I have embodied a peaceful and - Captive of our Country - I shall not argue the