
**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, July 27, 1817, from
Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe Correspondence,
Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt,
Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

I arriv'd here the day before yesterday on my way to Sacketts harbour, & thence to the westward in completion of the tour, which I advised you, that I had in contemplation before I left Washington. I have been, Eastward, as far as Portland, and after returning to Dover in N. Hampshire, have come here by Concord & Hanover in that state, & Windsor, Montpelier, & Burlington in Vermont. Yesterday, I visited Rouse's point, within two hundred yards of the boundary line, where we are engaged in erecting a work of some importance, as it is supposed to command the entrance into the lake, from Canada. Genl. Brown met me here. Tomorrow I proceed, with him, by Ogdensbg to Sackett's harbour, & thence to Detroit unless I should be compelled, on reaching Erie to cling to the southeastern side of that lake, & seek my way home through the state of Ohio by circumstances I may not be able

to controul.

When I undertook the tour, I expected to have executed it, as I might have done, in an inferior station, and even as a private citizen, but I found, at Bal. That it would be impracticable for me to do it. I had, therefore, the alternative, of either returning home, or complying with the opinion of the public & immediately, I took the latter course, relying on them to put me forward, as fast as possible, which has been done. I have been exposd to

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excessive fatigue & labour, in my tour by the pressure of very crowded population, which has sought to manifest its respect for our union, & republican institutions in every step I took, and in modes which made a trial of my strength, as well physically as mentally. In the principal towns, the whole population, has been in motion, and in a manner to produce the greatest degree of excitement possible. In the Eastern section of our union, I have seen distinctly, that the great cause, which brought the people forward was a conviction that they had suffered in their character by their conduct in the late war, and a desire to show, that unfa-

-vorable opinions, and as they thought, unjust had been formed in regard to their views and principles. They seized the opportunity, which the casual incident of my tour presented to them, of making a strong exertion to restore themselves to the confidence, and ground which they formerly held, in the affection of their brethren in other quarters. I have seen enough to satisfy me, that the great mass of our fellow citizens in the Eastern States, are as firmly attached to the union and to republican government, as I have always believed, or could desire them to be.

In all the towns thro' which I passed there was an union between the parties, except in the case of Boston. I had supposed that that union was particularly to be desired by the republican party, since as it would be founded, exclusively on their own principles, every thing would be gained by them. Some of our old, and honest friends at Boston were, however, unwilling to amalgamate with their former opponents, even on our own ground, and in consequence presented an address of their own. This formed the principal difficulty, that I have had to meet,

to guard against any injury arising from the step taken, to the republican cause, to the republican party, or the persons individually. You will have seen their address & my reply, & be enabled to judge of the probable result.

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I hope to see you the latter end of next month, when we will enter into details, which the few minutes I now enjoy do not admit, however glad I shod. be to do it. I most ardently wish to get home to visit my family & friends, & to enjoy in peace, some moments of repose, to which I have been an utter stranger, since I left Washington. With my best wishes for your welfare, I am dear sir respectfully & sincerely your friend & servt James Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).