

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, May 8, 1793, from
Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe Correspondence,
Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt,
Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

Fredericksburgh May 8th. 1793.

Dear Sir

I came here a few days past to attend the district court and shall leave this place on the 10th for the chy. in Richmond wh. commences on the 12. In Charlottesville in the case of Barrett the verdict & judgmt. were against you, deducting the interest as you had proposed during the war. He had no proof except that of Colo. Lewis to establish him claim (at the trial). Upon conferring with this latter gentn. I found he had an imperfect recollection of what had passed between him & Barrett, whether he had refused to pay him the whole interest, as well during as since the war, and upon shewing him the paper containing yr. instruction, & upon wh. his proposition must have been founded, he expressed a wish it might be shewn the court & jury in the trial as he could not say he had made any other proposal & the presumption would then be satisfactory that he had not. To this I agreed. Upon the trial I took the opinion of the court whether with out my consent they would avail themselves of Colo. Lewis's evidence, he being yr. trustee which was that they could not. I then admitted it with an

assurance to the Ct & jury that if the claim would in any mode be established it would be allowed. Colo. Lewis referred to the paper in my possession & wh. I then produced making it a point whether that paper amounted to an assumpsit being only a conditional

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proposition, with an absolute decln. you did not believe the debt was due. Tucker was of opinion it was not assumpsit. Roane doubted but both were of opinion it might go to the jury, and their verdict was founded upon yr. apparent willingness to pay it under certain modifications wh. were regarded in it. I moved the court for a new trial as against evidence, & it lay over till the next day., then Roane had left the bench for the residue of the term. Finding that if the verdict had been in yr. favor you were resolved to pay the money in case Barrett wod. from his acct. by affidavit only, & he upon conference assuring me that he wod. not only do it in that mode but by some orders, he was well assured you had forgotten. I saw no benefit resulting from a success in the motion for a new trial especially as in any event you wod. be forced to pay yr. costs of the proceedings. I then proposed to Barrett that if he would permit me to state to the court that if he had known the real contents of yr. instruction to Colo. Lewis (for he declared that Colo. Lewis had refused to pay any interest) he never wod. have brought suit against you, but waited yr. accomodation. I wod. withdraw the motion & to wh. he agreed. Observing further that he knew nothing of the transaction abt. Sheys bond untill after the suit was over-that it was bought up by a brother of his, suit brot. & every operation conducted by his brother & absolutely without his knowledge. I accordingly stated the offer as above agreed & withdrew the motion.

Barrett said he wod. wait till the fall for the money but expected interest of wh. I informed him I wod. advise you. Of your other business I will write you from Richmond.

In my rout I scarcely find a man unfriendly to the French revolution as now modified-many regret the unhappy fate of the Marq. of Fayette, and likewise the executn. of the King. But they seem to consider these events as incidents to a much greater one, & which they wish to see accomplished. The sphere of the opposit policy may be considered (exclusive of the tory interest of the late war) as confined to Alexa. a city which certainly comprehends no enlightened man, and Richmond. At the bar here two gentn. only are in this sentiment, Chs. Lee & Bushrod Washington, the former of Alexa. & the latter Richmd. And tis manifest that their opposition to the general sentiment of their country

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is not confined to the principles of the French revolution only but extends to the general policy of the representation in Congress & particularly the late proceedings & enquiries respecting the use & application of the publick monies. It was declared by the former, and in a manner that shewed it was no vacant conception that Mr. Madison in stating the disobedience of the Secry. of that department to the orders of the President, had placed the merits of the controversy on an improper footing. Col. Mercer, who conducted the argument against him, affirmed the contrary, with other declns. expressive of the strongest disapprobation of his conduct & distrust of his rectitude.

I left Mrs M. in Alb. not well recovered from the fatigue of the journey

in other respects tolerably well. Mr. R & family were & had been absent since our return. Gilmer & others well. You have probably heard of a charge of a very heinous kind aganst. R. Rand. & that before the examining court he was acquitted 12 to 2 of the megistrates in his favor, & upon the question for his enlargment. The accts. here are universally in his favor & seem to have impressions that were before deeply fixed. Very affectionately I am yr. friend & servantJas. Monroe

P.S. I have not recd. a line from any person there since I left Phila.

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).