
**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, April 26,
1815, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

Washington April 26. 1815.

Dear Sir

I expected to have had the pleasure of seeing you, more than a month past, and to have deliver'd to you the inclosed letters on finance in person, with a paper on the same subject, which was written in our revolution by the President & given to me for perusal with a request that I would forward it to you for the same purpose. The ill health of Mrs. Monroe, and more recently of our daughter, have detain'd me here, and will do it a week or ten days longer. Prior to their indisposition I had suffer'd much from a very severe attack of the sciatick, or rather of the prevailed epidemick which seized on the weaker parts of the system. From this, I soon recover'd , so far as to attend to business, but have not yet regain'd my strength, and am affected by cold & sometime fever on the slightest exposure. Ashamed at having so long retain'd your letters, and uncertain when I may be able to present them myself, I forward them by the mail. I send also a copy of a report which I made, from the dept. of war, on the cause of the differences between this govt. & those of some Eastern States relative to the power of the former over the militia. The letters of govrs. and the time & circumstances under which they were written, prove satisfactorily their object. Arrangments had been made, had the war continued, to

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...a force in that quarter, which, had they preceeded would have render'd the treasonable designs of these men abortive, of which I will give you a detail when we meet. Happily the peace has retired the nation from all embarrassment on that, and very many other causes, that weighed heavily on the government. I hope you have considered it, under all circumstances, an honorable one to the nation. If I can obtain a copy I will send it to you, of my report to the military committees, on the reduction of the army necessary to accomodate it to the peace establishment. Our friends pushed it beyond the limit which I proposed. By the law, two major genls. & 4 Brigrs. are to be retaind. Brown & Jackson were supposed, by service, to have the strongest claim to the first grade, and Scott, Gaines, McComb & Ripley to the second. This will discharge many having claims by long, in some instances very meritorious services, as well as, by age, & poverty. Employment will be given when it can, to these officers, in other lines, but I fear many will remain distressd and discontented.

In regard to our foreign affairs much is to be done. We have treaties with none, and not much kindness to be expected from any. The war, by the gallantry of our land & naval forces, has given us credit, and that may aid us in ...arrangments, tho' in some quarters it will produce a different effect. On these subjects we will confer more fully when we meet.

I am dear Sir with great respect & esteem your friend & servant Jas. Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).