
**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, February 7,
1820, 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 Feby 7. 1820

Dear Sir

I send you by this days mail, the documents of greatest interest which have been presented to Congress during the present session. On our concerns with Spain we have nothing new, & little reason to expect a minister here from that country during the Session, Mr. Vivas said to have been appointed some months ago being under quarantine, within a few leagues of Madrid in consequence of passing on his way thither through some town infected with disease. The Missiouri question absorbs by its importance & the excitment it has produc'd every other, & there is little prospect from present appearances of its being soon settled. The object of those, who brought it forward was undoubtedly to acquire power, & the expedient well adapted to the end, as it enlisted in their service, the best feelings of all that portion of our union in which slavery does not exist & who are unacquainted with the condition of their southern brethren. The same men in some instances, who were parties to the project in 1786 for closing the mouth of the Mississippi for 25 years may be consider'd as the authors of this. The dismemberment of the Union by the Allegheny mountain,

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was then believed to be their object, and altho' a new arrangement of power is more particularly sought on this occasion, yet it is believed that the anticipation of even that result would not deter its authors from the pursuit of it. I am satisfied that the bond of union is too strong for them, and that the better their views are understood throughout the whole union, the more certain will be their defeat in every part. It requires however great moderation, firmness & wisdom, on the part of those opposed to the restriction to secure a just result. These great & good qualities will I trust, not be wanting.

Your letters in favor of the gentlemen, mention'd in them were receivd with the best disposition, to promote your wishes, but it is impossible for me to say what can be done in any instance. Wherever territory is to be sold with in a state the Senators oppose the appointment of the officers intrusted with it of persons from other states, an opposition which is now extended even to the Indian agencies. The number of applicants too for every office is so great & the prospect from the quarter interested, so earnest, that it is difficult in any case to be resisted. With my best wishes for your health & welfare I am sincerely your friend James Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).