

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, May 11, 1786, from
Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe Correspondence,
Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt,
Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

New York May 11. 1786.

Dear Sir

Since my last I have recd. yours of Decr. 11th & Jany. 27th last. Untill lately we have had so thin a Congress that few acts of consequence have pass'd, a very pointed recommendation to those States who have hitherto declin'd to accede to the recommendns. Respecting a revenue system only excepted. Since R. Island & Georgia have acceded to the impost fully, so that it now depends on New York, who has granted it but under restrictions as to the officers to carry it into effect, & Pena. & Delaware who have limited the operation of that part wh. respects the impost to the adoption of the other or supplementary funds by all the States, having adopted both themselves. I am inclin'd to believe this measure will pass the Union in the course of the year, so as to be carried into operation. We have now 11 States present & a member from the other two-it is expected we shall have the 13 shortly.

The Commissrs. for treating with the Western & Southern Indians have concluded treaties in both instances with the principal tribes & return'd a statement lately of their proceedings to Congress. The object for wh. these commissions was instituted seems to be now fully obtain'd, and as further management of those tribes so as to regulate the trade & keep up a good understanding with them, is to be effected by some permanent arrangement,

Library of Congress

I apprehend these commissions will be annull'd and such system adopted. The subject is now before a Committee. In my last I mentioned to you that the propriety of the acts of Congress founded on the condition of the acts of cession from the States, fixing the limits of the States westwd. Was question'd-a proposition

or rather a report is before Congress recommending it to Virga. & Mass: to revise their Acts as to that condition so as to leave it to the U.S. to make what division of the same future circumstances may make necessary, subject to this proviso, "that the sd. territory be divided into not less than two nor more than five States." The plan of a temporary govt. to be instituted by Congress & preserv'd over such district untill they shall be admitted into Congress is also reported. The outlines are as follows. Congress are to appoint as soon as any of the lands shall be sold, a govr., Council, Judges, secretary to the Council, & some other officers; the govr. & Council, Judges, secretary to the Council to have certain powers untill they have a certain number of inhabitants, at wh. they are to elect representatives to form a Genl. Assembly, to consist of the Govr. & Council & sd. house of representatives. It is in effect to be a Colonial Govt. similar to that wh. prevail'd in these States previous to the revolution, with remarkable & important difference that when such district shall contain the number of the least numerous of the "13 original States for the time being" they shall be admitted into the confederacy. The most important principles of the Act at Annapolis are you observe preserv'd in this report. It is generally approv'd of but has not yet been taken up. The treaty with Prussia will be shortly ratified & forwarded for exchange. Upon the subject of commerce I have nothing new to give you. The plan of a convention at Annapolis which I believe will be carried into effect, has taken the sub-

-ject from before Congress. As it originated with our State, we think it our duty to promote its object by all the means in our power. Of its success I must confess I have some hopes. The investigation of the subject will always be of advantage since truth & sound State policy in every instance will urge the commisn. of the power to U.States. You will be surpris'd to hear that I have form'd the most interesting connection in human life, with a young lady in this town, as you know my plan was to visit you before I settled myself.

Library of Congress

But having form'd an attachment to this young Lady (a Miss Kortright, the daughter of a gent. of respectable character & connections in this State tho' injured in his fortunes by the late war) I have found that I must relinquish all other objects not connected with her. We were married abt. three months since. I remain here untill the fall at wh. time we remove to Fredericksbg. In Virga. where I shall settle for the present in a house prepar'd for my by Mr. Jones to enter into the practice of the law. I intended to have made you a remittance by this packet to replace the money you have advanc'd for the Encyclopedia, but have been unable. I shall not neglect this. We were unfortunate in an imposition at Annapolis-but yrs. I hope ended there-mine has since been increas'd. A young Mr. Grymes in the most imminent distress, prevail'd on me lately to be responsible for his payment of 50£ Virga.

currency-he moved off & the payment fell on me. I have since made application to his father in Orange who I hears disowns him & will have nothing to say to his engagements. My friend Short will I hope pardon my not writing him at present-a variety of circumstances have interrupted me for a few days since, so as to put it out of my power. If the packet does not sail tonight I will. I observe that the King of France has issued an edict to encourage his own fisheries. I mention this more for the purpose of suggesting to you that the event has reach'd us circuitously-that this circumstance has been noted here-there are always some who deal in things of this kind and although it was no sooner suggested & that in private than an apology was made for the suggestion , yet I have though proper to bring it to your view. Believe me most sincerely your friend & servantJas. Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).