

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, October 20, 1790, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

Richmond Octr. 20. 1790.

Dear Sir

After the most mature reflection I have at length yielded to my inclinations to suffer my name to be mention'd for a publick appointment. If it takes place, unless some unpleasant reflections on probable future events shod. press on me, it will contribute greatly to my own & the gratification of Mrs. M. as it will place us both with & nearer our friends. Not be candid there is not that certainty in the event we seem'd to suppose. Mr. Harvie, Mann Page, Walker & Govr. Harrison are in or rather will be in the nomination, and as some of them are active in their own behalf it is extremely doubtful how it will terminate. Colo. Lee & Mr. Marshall are for others. How a particular character of whom we spoke is dispos'd, I know not, but other circumstances have intervned to make his inclination in my favor more questionable. There are but a few men of any weight in the house & I really know none on whom I can rely with certainty. I have reason however to believe that with the body of the house I stand well, but the body if well dispos'd requires a head to keep it in a proper direction. I shall write further by the next opportunity & am sincerely yr. friend & servant Jas. Monroe

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