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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, July 14, 1814, from  
Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe Correspondence,  
Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt,  
Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson**

Washington Feby 14 1814

Dear Sir

My engagment in preparing instructions for our ministers at Gootenburg, Russia, Sweden & Paris, for Mr. Clay & Mr. Russell to take with the, prevented my answering sooner your favor of the 27th ulto.

Mr. Carter intirely misconceived the import of my letter to him, relative to the mode in which the settlement of the interfering claims between Mr. Short & me would affect Mr. Short. I stated to Mr. Carter, that, til it be settled as it might, he would have to pay the sum given for the land only with interest on it, according to my opinion. By this I meant that if I recoverd of Mr. Short, he would only recover of Mr. Carter that sum, and not the price at which he sold the land to Mr. Higginbotham. If Mr. Short recovers against me, I can have no claim against Mr. carter. The decision in Mr. Shorts favor, could only be on the principle, that the boundary of my land, which was purchased first, had been correctly trac'd in my absence in designating that sold to Mr. Short afterwards. If Mr. Short loses the small strip in dispute between us, by having purchased by a defind boundary, has a claim on Mr. Carter for it. That

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will, I am inform'd by those in practice, be settled on the principle above stated, except that as he may be...as having had possession, till I gave notice of my claim, he cannot recover interest during that period. For Mr. Short I have a sincere friendship, but he will not expect from me in such a case, any sacrifice of interest, he being an old bachelor, rich & economical. I should have been happy that you would have taken the trouble to settle this affair between us, since it would have given content to all parties. I will however agree to leave it to some other person, on whom we will fix when I return to Albemarle.

The accounts recd. yesterday by a vessel just arrived at Boston give reason to expect a peace in Europe. We have papers as late as Decr. 24 with letters of the same date from our commissy. of prisoners in England, which communicate a speech of Boniparte to his legislative corps, from which that hope is drawn. We have also heard from Mr. G & Mr. R who were at Peterbg. On the 15 of Novr. still waiting answer of the British govt., to the renew'd proposition of the Emperor respecting his mediation. This communication is voluminous, & I have not yet read the whole of it. Boniparte states in his speech that he has accepted as the basis of negotiation, the preliminaries offerd by the allies & the morning Chronicle, says, that it is reported that these deprive him of all his conquests except Treves & Cologne. Your hint about

the reservation of rights in case of a peace which may not secure every thing will be attended to. I am dear sir with great respect & esteem your friend & servant Jas. Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress). Misdated July 14, 1814 in presidential papers index.