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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, November 15,  
1820, 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 Novr. 15. 1820.

Dear Sir

You will receive herewith a copy of the message in which I have endeavour'd without looking at the old governments of Europe, to place our own, in such prominent circumstances as seem'd to require attention from me at this time, in such a light, as to shew a striking contrast between them. The amount of the debt paid off since the war is, I presume, greater than has been generally supposed, and the actual state of the treasury much better.

Soon after I left Albemarle, I made a visit here from Loudoun. Mr. Correa had been here, seen Mr. Adams, & gone to the neighbourhood of Phila., to remain till he could enter the city, secure against the fever of the season. Mr. Adams told me that he had shewn great moderation in conferring on the subject of his not, demanding the institution of a board for the liquidation of claims for property taken from Portugheese

subjects by citizen privateers, charging two of our judges with having disgrac'd their commissions &c. I saw at once that his tone had been changed, by his communications with you, having made his demand under excitement, & without a knowledge of the subject.

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He had promis'd Mr. Adams to send him a communication in the spirit of his former note, as soon as he entered Phila. I waited some time for it, but none arriving, and fearing that his demand might be the foundation of a similar one, on the part of Spain, as a sett off, against our claims admitted by two treaties, I requested him to write Mr. Correa an answer to his former letter, declaring his demand to be inadmissible, unjust in itself, & unwarranted by the usage of all Nations, & to request also the names of the judges whom he had denounced in such unqualified & strong terms, as of the officers said to have servd on board citizan privateers. A letter to this effect was written in the most mild & conciliatory terms; but he gave no answer to it. I suspect his intention has been to transfer this affair to the person left by him as chargé, and that we may probably hear from him on it.

Very respectfully & sincerely your friend James Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).