

found in him, since I have been associated with him in the Executive Government as little to censure or condemn, as I could have expected in any man. Truth compels me to say that I have heartily approved of the leading measures of his Administration, not excepting those which relate to Georgia. I have not time, if I had ability and it were necessary, to vindicate them. But, my dear sir, I must invoke your frankness and justice to reconsider the only exceptionable measure which you have specified, that of his recommendation of light-houses to the States. It is not the metaphor, I presume, but the thing (an observatory) which has provoked your censure. And can you justly censure Mr Adams for a recommendation which almost every previous President has made? If there be no power in the General Government to authorize the erection of an observatory within the limits of a State, is there more to sanction its location in this District? The message, I believe, was silent as to the place where it should be built. But I will dwell no longer on public affairs. I should not have touched the topic but for your friendly allusion to it. I turn from it with pleasure to the recollection of our amicable relations. Whatever you may have thought or may have been thought to be infused into your mind, my friendly feelings towards you have never ceased. And although our correspondence has been interrupted four or five years, I have always entertained a lively solicitude for your welfare, and availed myself of every opportunity to enquire particularly about your health and situation. I have heard with unaffected pleasure of the improvement of your health. That it may be perfectly re-established, and that

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Washington 13th February 1823.

My dear sir

I received your letter of the 4th instant, and will take pleasure in having forwarded the letter which it enclosed to Mr Poinsett with the first public dispatches. I should not hesitate to intimate to him my wish that he would comply with your request for the Mexican seeds &c, if I were not persuaded that it would be altogether unnecessary for me to second any expression of your desire to him. Our country needs much the multiplication of the products of the earth, as well as of industry & husbandry applied. And he deserves well of it who will introduce a new, or more successfully cultivate, an old article of agriculture.

I do, my dear sir, know you too well to suppose that you ever countenanced the charge of corruption against me. No man of sense and candor - at least none that knew me - ever could or did countenance it. Your frank admission that you would have voted as I did, between Mr Adams and Genl Jackson, accords with the estimate I have always made of your intelligence, your independence, and your patriotism. Nor am I at all surprised or disappointed with the expression of your opinion that I erred in accepting the place which I now hold. When two courses present themselves in human affairs, and one only is pursued, experience develops the errors of the selection which has been made. Those which would have attended the adoption of the opposite course can only be matter of speculation. Thus it is in the case referred to.