The Honorable
James Monroe Esqr

Baltimore 15 May 1801

1406

It is not, I assure you Sir, either to a want of respect or inclination that you must attribute my silence since I had the honour to receive your very polite and obliging letter of the 19th March, which came to hand on the evening preceding my departure for Boston, from whence I am but a day or two returned, or I should have shown it that attention, which my, and every thing coming from you deserves.

I never could learn the precise charges alledged against you by Pickering; but in order to convince you that the assertion was founded, it is necessary that I should explain to you how it originated. —— A Major De Butts who was aid to Genl Wayne, on quitting the army on the death of the latter, was very solicitous to obtain the appointment of Consul General to the French Republic. His professional situation and intercourse with the Govt Executive in delivering dispatches made him naturally acquainted with Pickering, to whom he made personal application, but his pretentions were more strongly supported by his friend Judge Peters of Philadelphia who strove to obtain it for him, but who at length told him

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