MHS 1974 [1170-1235]

Richmond Jan. 7. 1813. friday.

Dear Sir,

I lose no time in returning my poor but sincere thanks for your letter of the 4th which reached me this morning; not that I am weak enough to believe that it can be of any consequence to you to peruse the speculations of a "Politician" in an "Elbow=Chair," but because I would willingly evince that I am not insensible to the attentions of the few persons by whom I am not entirely forgotten.

I congratulate you most cordially on the late transactions in Germany. That they may be attended with such happy effects (in this devoted country) as you seem disposed to anticipate is more than I dare hope: & this despondency (if so it please you to term it) is the result not more of the opinion which I have formed of the composition & character of those who support, or tolerate the Government, than from my observation on the temper & complexion of their opponents. At this moment all heads here are agog for Peace — an undignified exultation has succeeded to an unmanly depression — & I should not be surprized at the end of the week to find the loudest who now rejoice again floundering in the "Slough of Despond". One thing is certain that the Dictatorship established by law, in the person of Mr M. has not created any such sensation as was produced, a day or two ago, by the fall of Colonial Produce; or, this morning, by the report that Mr King was nominated minister to London. That a disposition may exist to abandon Bonaparte when fallen in fortune I have no doubt;

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