

Sam[uel] C[lesson] Allen to MVB, 12 May 1833

Northfield, Mass.

May 12, 1833.

Dear Sir,

In the equivocal state of the public opinion here at this juncture I am glad the President & yourself intend to visit New England. There is really no good reason why the people of New York & N.E. sh'd. be any longer separated from one another. It cannot be of use to continue to keep up a prejudice growing out of former divisions after the causes of those have ceased. Indeed the divisions which have existed have been more in appearance than reality & in the form which the public opinion has been made to assume <how> there is any diversity in its elements to the prevailing sentiment in N.Y. There are <illegible> elsewhere conflicting elements but it would require more space than I have here to present them intelligibly to you. If your limited time shall permit, you will not fail to discover the point of this difference between them, as well as the distinctive traits of character by which they are ^will be^ respectively represented to you. There is inseparable from the structures of our society a ^stronger^ sentiment of equality ^probably^ than exists in any other part of the Union. I am not now speaking of this city & larger Towns but of the country of this <mass> of the population & it is founded as much ^on^ their moral habits as in their external condition. This sentiment is now manifesting itself with more distinctness than heretofore & with a [. . .] extend <illegible> <illegible>. It is <directing> itself to the fiscal & commercial interests of the country & especially to the system of public economy in its <illegible> upon private interests & the ^a more^ equal distribution of property. This is taking place of Politics, & the competitions for office are losing the importance they once possessed. You will probably be <brought> acquainted with the leaders of the political parties ^as they now exist^ & may not perhaps see any manifestation of the spirit which I have alluded to. But no correct estimate can be made as I apprehend of the state of things here without taking it into the account. If you shall be in any danger of mistake it will be from this cause. ^&^ the men who will probably effect to be the

exclusive representatives of the democratic <party> ^interest here or who will^ place themselves before you in that attitude, will <allow> <us> no false positions & do not in fact possess the ^its^ <impartiality> or the confidence. This has been, unfortunately, for the people here, the cause which has separated ^them^ in former times from brethren of the same principles with themselves in other states, & thrown the patronage of the government in many instances into the hands of man who had no hold on the <popular> mind & whose chief talent was to keep a minority with which they were well content as they will know they <illegible> <illegible> the <importance> of a majority of the people ^might but <illegible> <illegible> [. . .] importance <among> of the friends of the <illegible> grew into a majority^ Such has been the influences which have governed our <presses> that ^<they>^ have continually labored to misrepresent the politics & politicians of N Y & to excite as much prejudice agt them as they could, agt. the most distinguished men of that state. I think however this prejudice has been in some degree <illegible> > & will yield to the conviction which the times demand, a press established on the sound principles of a sound & liberal policy. The old order of things in this state have been <illegible> out by a sort of conventional understanding between the leaders of both the old parties, and well might such a state of things take place for <illegible> ^leaders^ had <written> of them more affinity between themselves than either of them had with their people, but they carried the people with them as there was ^a^ very personal impression here that Genl Jackson did not possess the qualifications for the office. I think it cannot be carried much further & where it shall have <illegible> out, the popular spirit as now modified & with its pursuit <illegible> will find new impersonations & a new banner be unfurled <around> which ^and^ the people without reference to old political distinctions will rally around it. The decided course of the Prest. in regard to the U.S. Bank unwavering in its firmness & strength of character has met with the ^much^ approbation here & <illegible> <illegible> in the public estimation <illegible> <illegible> the favor of their powerful & growing party ^<illegible>^ which has set itself agt. all monopolies & is aiming to carry the principle of equality into their public <illegible>, as it has been carried <^1st^> into the political institutions of the country. I do not mean by this, that ^it^ is opposed to a discreet protective Tariff ^& is in favor of such protection.^ I ought also mention that this independent & wise measure of the Prest. <illegible> preserve the integrity of the Union agt. Nullification have inspired more confidence in him. It is time that those who agree in principle & <feeling> as I am sure the people of N Y or N E do shd come to an understanding of our <illegible> & views & <illegible> that they may act in concert for the safety & welfare of the country. I have been induced to

make this communication with a view to this great object & I have done it the more freely because I have believed that it was my *<illegible>* to *<accord>* with you in all leading principles of Constitutional Law & measures of policy & I have been *<encouraged>* to it by the free & friendly communication with which you were pleased to honor me, of your sentiments while I was a member of [. . .] Reps. It would give me great pleasure if I could [. . .]sonal interview with you. I commit this to your [. . .] confidence, begging you will excuse the freedom I have taken. I have engaged myself in my favorite studies since I left Congress without *<illegible>* & *<illegible>* with party politics, but I have been an observer of the public transactions & I am glad to see that the public opinions has repelled the *<illegible>* which, it was attempted to cast upon you & that it has raised you to a station, where you may render most important services to your country.

With high consideration I have the honor to be

Your most Obedient &

Very Humble Sevt

Sam. C. Allen

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