

[MVB] to [William Learned] Marcy, 31 March 1834

Washington

March 31st. 34

my dear Sir

I have read your special message with the greatest satisfaction. It is a document, which, as well in its spirit as in its capacity reflects the highest credit upon you, & to which, be assured, you will in after life recur with just pleasure & pride. If the patriotic sentiments & jud it contains are fully responded to reciprocated by the Legislature which I do not doubt, for we have now had a better Legislature you will have nailed the flag of Newyork to the mast on the side of the great principle which <lays> at the foundation of our Government that our Governmt is only Republican so long as it conforms That to & <excites> the regularly expressed will of the people. is <illegible>, & must be obliged. That it may be kept so nailed to the mast, as long as there is a single rag of it left, is my sincere prayer, & will I trust be that also of any true son of NewYork. It was the contest about the establishment of a national Bank that gave <first> gave force to that party which was has so long warred agt popular rights & with which we have always contended its original form & pressure. That the ensuing struggle, of what I <pray> fervently hope may be the last of those institutions should bring onto the political stage men who have been long retired to from it & call into <entire> & violent exercise principles & feelings which have for a long time been stifled with difficulty with so much difficulty been Kept under is quite natural. But if there are any so weak as to believe, that they can at this time of day be made be made successful to succeed, even by means of the odious & oppressive measures which are so unsparingly, & unfeelingly employed in their support, they <are>, be <illegible> <you> their account is I am entirely confident to be made up with some of it, destined to the most decided as well as overwhelming disappointment bitter & overwhelming disappointment. When the march of liberal principles of Government have acquired such <a> <for> consistency & <illegible> power

as to make its progress so extremely ^so extremely^ difficult to avert its ^their progress^ in the arbitrary <governance> ^<institution>^ of the old world it is political madness to ^hope to think of^ making it ^<illegible> <illegible> <illegible> > to^ retrograde in their <antiquated> age & in this free & happy country. The attempt to do may cost the people much distress, but there ^it ca^ can be ^have^ but one result to it. That it <illegible> by means ^was <illegible> by means of^ public & private distress ^in a great degree <curiously> created^ to force the people of the U. States to acquiesce in the continuance of a monopoly to which their unbiased judgments as opposed, <in> too has been rendered too clear to be doubted by any <ingenious> mind: and it is diffie not a little difficult to say whether the ^weakness &^ the restlessness in the folly of the attempt is the most striking. That any well informed mind ^<you> man at all <illegible> <illegible>^ who understands the character of the conscious people, could ^could^ anticipate any other result from the experiment ^these <attempts>^ <illegible> that which accounts it is to me amazing.^{xx}

What a glorious opportunity does this <illegible> of political parties into their <illegible> ^<illegible> prospective elements^ presented to the sincere Democratic ^Democratic^ antimasons of our state to place themselves once more on the only <three> platforms. <And> on that pious <eminence> which they occupied during the War. Will they not embrace it? I sincerely hope so.

[Insertion located on the verso of p. 5.]

^{xx} This terrorism of the present day ^renewed reign of terror <illegible>^ like may occasion much private distress but like its <predecessors> ^<more>^ of by gone days ^spring from the same distinguishable source^ its only abiding effect will be to sink still deeper in the minds of the people the <illegible> ^painful^ conviction that there is a spirit <enough> <as> ^even here^ as prone to trample upon the rights of opinion, & as eager to make "hewers of wood & drawers of water of their fellow men" as its prototype of the old world ^is to be found <illegible> <illegible>^, and to satisfy him still more of the necessity of eternal vigilance to Keep it in check.

Document Information

Date:

31 March 1834

Object Type:

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