

Washington City Feb 14. 1830

My dear Sir,

Your friendly and very acceptable letter, was handed by your kinsman Mr. Stevenson; and I regret to say that being located at a distance from each other, in this extensive wilderness of a city, I have not had the pleasure of as much of his company as I could have desired.

He has been, however, surrounded with friends and attentive acquaintances, who have occupied all the time which he has been able to spare from the object of his visit to the city. I was introduced to him in the lobby of the Senate, where he handed your letter. I gave him a pressing invitation to call at my quarters, but from the cause before stated, I presume, it has not been in his power to do so.

Since the opportunity we have, at the present, of reviewing and strengthening our juvenile friendships, I have frequently turned back to the occurrence with great satisfaction, and among all the pleasant, interesting incidents of the matter, that one has been uppermost, on my memory. It carries me back to by gone days, and to scenes, the most thrarily interesting of my life, when the world lay before us, holding up its honors, distractions and wealth, and inviting to the pursuit, and we were anxiously adjusting the arrangements, necessary to commence it. Many of those who started with us, and

had our warmest wishes for their success, have fallen by the way, and are almost forgotten. which we have been shamed to continue the voyage, and, it would be ungrateful not to add, with as liberal a share of success, as we have a right to claim. Whatever may have been the fate of some of our companions on the same pursuits, we have no cause to complain, and it may be said truly, that we do not.

By this expression, I do not mean, however, to say, that my philosophy is sufficient to neutralize all the incidents that befall me. This you will conclude, is not the case, from the fact, that yourself, with a larger share of it, than I can boast of, are sometimes disappointed, and driven to complain; but the idea which I wish to convey is, that our calculations and hopes, have been so far influenced by Providence, that the general result of our course, has been satisfactory.

I need not, and therefore will not, say how much you would have gratified me by executing your purpose of visiting the Seat of Government.

With very great esteem

I am Yours friend

General Vassall and

J. Burnet

J. Bunnell
1839

New York

Col. H. W.

General James B. Bunnell

J. Bunnell