

New York Feb<sup>y</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1821

Dear Laura

I received a few days since your letter advising me of some extraordinary appointments which had been made at that time by the Council: and the newspapers a day or two after added to the strange list. I have been too much chagrined by these passing events to answer your letter before this, and now I have nothing to communicate but my regret that another opportunity of building up the republican party in a manner creditable to the State is irrevocably lost. I have however been so often disappointed in my hopes, that I now begin to meet these things with philosophy and jog along with the tide without suffering myself to be too much excited by ~~the~~ impetuosity or violence of its current.

There are however affairs of the heart

which I think I feel and brood over more  
than most men. The slights of the world,  
and the deceptions of those in whom I have  
never placed much confidence may vex and dis-  
-quiet me, but they never occasion serious  
uneasiness. But the deceptions of those in  
whom I have placed all confidence - where  
I have relied implicitly and with perfect faith,  
- then inflict a deep and lasting wound. Judge  
Thomson I have felt a warm attachment for  
- I thought him a man of an excellent heart  
- frank - honorable and sincere; and I am  
loath to give up those strong and favorable  
impressions. I cannot but believe that some  
explanation can be given of the course per-  
- sued at Albany, which is so variant from  
what I had every reason to expect; and  
which the dignity and prosperity of the State required.

But this is a painful subject, and  
cannot be pursued to any profit. I should  
be glad to hear from you occasionally, if any

also of  
thing amazing occurs - ~~the~~ the political  
movements of our friend Van Buren, and  
how he accounts to General Scott for ~~this~~  
present course of policy, in which the claims  
of the General have been so well remembered.

Give my regards to Hunter, Althoff  
and Henry and believe me

Truly yours

Wm. J. West

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