

Washⁿ. 3^d Jan. 1832

My dear Henry.

On my return from Philad^a this morning by the way of
Ball's. I rec^d your two favours of the 12th and 23^d inst.

I have formed no positive determination about resigning my
seat in the Senate, and it was therefore well enough for you to contradict the
report or not as you pleased. My spirits were not good when I left home, nor
are they very buoyant now; but political events were only one cause of them.
I hope to regain them, and your success and happiness, my dear son, would
contribute not a little to the recovery of their tone. I have certainly, as you justly
remark, much reason to look back, with satisfaction, upon my public life, tho'
it has not been ~~from~~ ^{from} a full share of thorns.

As to the plan of your temporary settlement at N. Orleans, if it
meets your own approbation that is much more important than mine. The plan
which one forms for himself, after full deliberation, is much more likely to
be satisfactory and successful than any which may be recommended by another.
I have only the fear that your preparation may not be as thorough as it should
be, and that if you are not immediately successful you may be disposed
to despond. With regard to a connexion with Col. P. if it be practicable,
you had better consult as to its expediency with Judge Porter, Mr. Ewing
and other friends.

In respect to your wife's estate, all that part of it which is
personal, and which you may reduce into possession, during the coverture,
is absolutely vested in you by law, in virtue of your marriage. A different
rule holds as to her real estate. The fee simple of that remains in her,
and she cannot be divested of it but by deed executed by her and you,
in conformity with the act of Assembly of Kentucky, regulating convey-
ances &c. If your death were to precede hers, she might after her
survivorship dispose of it as she pleased, altho she might have had
issue by you. If you survive her, and should have had any child
by her, you would become tenant by the curtesy, that is you would
be entitled to the use of it during your life and after your death
it would pass to her heirs. If she left any children or child by you
they would be entitled to it, and if they departed this life, during
your existence, you would be then entitled to it as their heir.

Yours