

My Dear Son

S. Chamber 2^d Mar. 1838.

I received your favor of the 22^d Ullr. and I avail myself of the occasion of the delivery of a very dull Speech in the Senate, on the Sub Treasury bill, to write to you. I thank you for the account of the proceedings of our Legislature which you have communicated. They appear to be me generally marked by sound discretion. I have heard from others, what gratified me much, that your own course and deportment were judicious and conciliatory. On the question whether, in the want of Mr. Hawess's retirement (of which by the by I have heard nothing here) you should not become a Candidate, I would advise no hasty or precipitate ~~opinion~~ decision. There is time enough to consider it. I need not say that it would afford me the highest satisfaction to see you in so distinguished a station. In the mean time, you can cultivate your popularity, maintain a cheerful and friendly intercourse with our fellow Citizens, and be in a position to avail yourself of favorable circumstances, just as well as if you were formally announced as a Candidate.

In regard to my being a Candidate for the Presidency, if I am to judge from information which daily, almost hourly, reaches me, there is every where an irresistible current setting in towards me. I believe that if the Election were to come on in sixty days I should be elected by acclamation. But the Election is nigh three years off, great changes may take place, I may die, and therefore we should look to the future with all the uncertainty which hangs over it.

I have not received a letter from Julia this Session. Altho' I cannot promise to write to her, I should be very glad