

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, May 27, 1794, from
Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe Correspondence,
Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt,
Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

Phila. May 27. 1794

Dear Sir

Early yesterday morning & immediately after my last was written I was called on by Mr. R. to answer the question "whether I wou accept the legation to France." The proposition as you will readily conceive surprised me, for I really thought I was among the last men to whom it wou. be made & so observed. He said the President was resolved to send a republican character to that nation; that Mr. Madison & Mr. Livingston had refused, that he wou not appoint Colo. Burr; lest it shou. seem as if he sought persons from that state only, & probably it wou. not have been offer'd to L. but on acct. of his having been in the department of foreign affrs. & under these circumstances & considerations he was desired by the President to call on me & ascertain whether I wou. act. As I had espoused B. I told Mr. R I could not even think on the subject whilst there was a prospect of his success. He assured me he was out of the question & if I declined it wou. probably be offer'd to Govr. Pace of Maryld or some person not yet thot. of. That he would satisfy the friends of Colo. B. on this head. Before I wou. consult my friends I requested that this be done & in consequence the above assurance was given some of them, & I presume they were satisfied. This point of delicacy being removed I then desired Mr. Madison-in conference with a few of our friends to determine what answer shou. be given to the proposition. The

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result was that I shod. accept upon the necessity of cultivating France, & the uncertainty of the person upon whom it might otherwise fall. An answer was accordingly given last evening to the presidt. to that effect, & the nomination sent in to day. I have not attended nor shall I till after that vote shall be pleased to decide upon it. If approved it is wished that I embark immediately for France. I am however extremely anxious to visit Albemarle before I sit out taking Mr. Jones in my way. But whether I shall be able to visit either of you is uncertain, & will depend in a great measure upon the practicability of getting a vessel about to sail, in a term short of the time, it will take me to perform the journey. Upon this head however I can say nothing untill the nomination is decided on, nor can I say how the decision will be, for my services in the Senate have given me but little claim to the personal regards of the reigning party there. I suspect the nomination created as great a surprize in that house as the proposition to me did, yesterday morning. As yet I have not seen the President. I shall write you more freely in my next. With great respect & esteem I am yr. affectionate friend & servantJas. Monroe

[P.S.] Govr Mifflins movement has been suspended by the President.

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).