
**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, April 14,
1823, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

Oak Hill Loudn. April 14. 1823

Dear Sir

I receivd with great pleasure your favor of the 29 of March with a copy of one which you had sent to our friend Mr. Short, and should not be surprised if the predictions containd in the latter should be verified by a rapid succession of events, proceeding from the mov'ment of the French government lately announced in the Speech of the King. When it is recollected that he, his whole family, & all those around him were 20 years in banishment & poverty, & restord more by accident and the folly of a man than at the head of affairs, than the gallantry or wisdom of all Europe imbodyed against him, and when we also see that the position of this King is unsettled & precarious, gaining strength more by habit and time, taking off gallant spirits to the grave, that by any merit of his own, it is difficult to express the feeling, which the declaration in his speech, that any rights which the people enjoy are derivd from him. If the spirit of the revolution & of liberty is not extinct, in France & throughout Europe the passage of the pryinees by the French armies promises to be a signal for great events. That Alexander will profit, of the state of things, west and south of him is probable; what Britain will do is uncertain. The nation presses

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in one direction, the King in another. If he can controul, he will watch the mov'ment and endeavour to give to Spain a constitution

like that of England, and to turn every occurance to British account, by neutral commerce, acquisition of territory &c. I should be surprised however if the nation which had been misruled by Pitt & thrown into the scale of despotism against human rights, should get the ascendancy, & direct the course in which case, it would be on the side of the Cortes, & of liberty. Canning has more talents & a better heart than his predecessor, but yet I fear that he has not those fixd principles, which distinguished Fox among modern English Statesmen, and cannot therefore be thoroughly relied on, for a persevering effort against the crown, and in support of the right cause.

Respecting Cuba the idea which you suggest had occurrd of a mutual guarantee of it to Spain by the UStates & G. B., but a difficulty occurrd, shall it be of a character to prevent the people of the Island, from following the examples of Columbia, Buenos Aryres &c, and would Spain accept it, if it did not extend to that object, or would England unite in it?

The situation of Mexico is peculiar in our hemisphere. When a nomination of minister to the new govt. was made Iturbide alone had sent a minister here. To have nominated to the other govt. & not to Mexico would have been so marked a proceeding, that it would have been felt by the holy alliance, as well as our neighbour. Bu the nomination of Genl. Jackson the complement was fixd & by his declining to accept the appointment, as was anticipated, the object in not sending one, there is attaind as no other will be made for the present.

I shall remain here a few days only, then return to Washington, and shortly afterwards proceed to Albe-

-marle, where I hope to find you & in perfect health.

With great respect & affectionate regards I am dear Sir always yours James Monroe

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