

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, October 17, 1823.

Washington October 17. th 1823

Dear Sir

I transmit to you two despatches, which were
sent from Mr. Rush, while I was still in Washing-
ton, which involve interests of the highest import-
ance. They contain two letters from Mr. Canning, suggest-
ing designs of the holy alliance, against the Independence
of G. Britain & the United States, & proposing a cooperation, between
the members of that alliance. The project, aims in the
first instance, at a more capricious of opinion, some-
what in the abstract, but which it is expected by
Mr. Canning, will have a great political effect, by
defeating the combination. By Mr. Rush's answers,
which are also enclosed, you will see the light in which
he views the subject, & the extent to which he may have
gone. Many important considerations are involved
in this proposition. 1st Shall we entangle ourselves
at all, in European politics, & war, on the side of
any power, against others, presuming that a concert
by agreement, of the kind proposed, may lead to that
result? 2^d If a case can exist in which a concert,
may, & ought to be departed from, is not the present
instance, precisely that case? 3^d Has not the epoch
arrived when G. Britain must take her stand.

40178

225

Thomas Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress, Manuscript Division.

Monroe James Oakhill Oct. 17. 23

24 Oct. 23

on the side of the monarchs of Europe, or of the U.S. & in consequence, either in favor of Despotism or of Liberty & may it not be presumed, that aware of that unhappy government, has judged on the present occurrence, that, which it deems, the most suitable, to announce make the commencement of that career.

My own impression is that we ought to meet the project of the British govt, & to make it known, that would view an interference on the part of the least power, and especially an attack on the Colonies, as them, as an attack on ourselves, presuming they they succeeded with them, they would extend it, to us am sensible however of the extent, & difficulty of the question, & shall be happy to have your, & the Divisions opinions on it. I do not wish to trouble

either of you with small objects, but the present is vital, involving the high interests, for which we have so long & so faithfully, & harmoniously contended together. We so bend us to enclose to him the Despatches, with an intimation of the motive.

with great respect & regard I am Dear
Your friend James Monroe

[Transcription Page 1]

Oak Hill October 17th. 1823

Dear Sir

I transmit to you two dispatches which were receiv'd [received] from Mr. Rush, while I was lately in Washington, which involve interests of the highest importance. They contain two letters from Mr. Canning suggesting designs of the holy alliance against the Independence of So. [South] America, & proposing a cooperation, between G. [Great] Britain & the U [United] States, in support of it, against the members of the that alliance. The project aims in the first instance at a mere expression of opinion some what in the abstract, but which it is expected by Mr. Canning will have a great political effect, by defeating the combination. By Mr. Rush's answers, which are also enclosed, you will see the light in which he views the subject, & the extent to which he may have gone. Many important considerations are involvd [involved] in this proposition. 1st. shall we entangle ourselves at all in European politicks [politics], & wars, on the side of any power against others, presuming that a concert by agreement, of the kind proposed, may lead to that result? 2d. If a case can exist in which a sound maxim may & ought to be departed from, is not the present instance, precisely that case? 3d. Has not the epoch arriv'd [arrived] when G.[Great] Britain must take her stand, either

[Transcription Page 2]

on the side of the monarchs of Europe, or of the U [United] States, & in consequence, either in favor of Despotism or of liberty, & may it not be presum'd [presumed] that, aware of that necessity, her government has seiz'd [seized] on the present occurrence, as that, which it deems, the most suitable, to announce & mark the commenc'ment [commencement] of that career.

My own impression is that we ought to meet the proposal of the British govt. & to make it known, that we would view an interference on the part of the European powers, and especially an attack on the Colonies, by them, as an attack on ourselves, presuming that, if they succeeded, with them, they would extend it to us. I am sensible however of the extent & difficulty of the question, & shall be happy to have yours, & Mr. Madison's opinions on it. I do not wish to trouble either of you with small objects, but the present one is vital, involving the high interests, for which we have so long & so faithfully & harmoniously contended together. Be so kind as to enclose to him the despatches [dispatches] , with an intimation of the motive.

With great respect & regard I am dear sir
your friend

James Monroe