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Sackett's Harbor March 4th 1815

Dear Sir

Peace, with all her smiling train, having once more taken her abode in the land of Freedom, & my Country seeming no longer to require my feeble services in the tented field, I fondly anticipate the pleasure of soon visiting my connexions & friends - participating with them in all the enjoyment of social life. The time has arrived when I can again indulge ~~myself~~ in seeking a provision for myself. At this critical moment of commencing a new race, I feel a pleasure in having a Friend whose advice I am free to ask & who is so able & I flatter myself, willing to advise me. The army will probably in a month or two be disposed of when I shall be at liberty to look out for a stand & at my age you know it will be necessary to do it immediately - but the great question is, where? — I have it in contemplation to visit the western country as far as the Indiana or Illinois Territories & satisfy myself of the prospects there before I return to Maine. What think

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think you of such a project? Is the prospect in the D. Maine sufficiently encouraging as ought to destroy all thoughts in me of migrating into the western woods? Please to favor me with your ideas & advice on this subject. I have an idea that, at present, law business in Maine must be small & lawyers plenty in general, tho' perhaps some particular openings may offer where a beginner might with advantage commence. Do you know of any such? I do not know what changes may have taken place in the County of York but suppose no prospect in any place there. I know of no place nearer than Kennebec where there can be much prospect & not there except in new Towns that in course of time may afford business.

Nothing new here except what comes in the public papers of which you are first informed. The ships building here will not be finished — The carpenters are mostly gone home. The ships are planked up to the ports of the upper deck & calked nearly to the lower ports — They would have been ready to launch before April — one of them ~~is this~~ has more keel than any ship ever launched! The frame of another is completely ready & would have been set as the same ways & launched in thirty days after the others. The ordnance, stores & rigging would all have been

here by the 1st of April. The enemy were also making great exertions but I think we should have had the superiority by June next had the war continued.

The Lieut. Offr at Kingston has not yet rec'd official information from his own government of the peace and consequently would not admit our flag officers into the Town when they carried the treaty &c. In strictness of military etiquette this was correct tho' perhaps the occasion might have justified a little more liberality had they felt much cordiality on the event. Their officers who rec'd the flag treated us with extreme politeness tho' they were evidently chagrined at the termination of their famous N. Orleans expedition. They made but few enquiries respecting the affair, seemed sore on the subject, and the treaty coming immediately after, looked like their rec'd the last blow.

Soldiers enlisted during the war will be soon discharged but not till they are paid - Those on this station can then return home with nearly 100 dolls. in their pockets.

How do the Hartford conventionalists feel now? At a distance they look rather foolish.

Give my respects to Mrs Holmes — neighbors & friends are not forgotten — Where is Mr Goodwin? I remember all the children as they were particularly my little favorite Hannah. Two years however may have effected considerable alterations in their appearance. Yours respectfully Rufus Mather

Rufus M. Patrie
4th March 1814
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s. Harbor Mark

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Hon. John Holmes
Counsellor at law
Alfred.
York Co. D. Maine