Dear Sir,

Alexandria 25th May 1801.

The testimony of confidence you ascribe to me in your letter of yesterday is highly gratifying, and I beg leave to tender you my warmest acknowledgments for the honor you are so good as to confide to me the office of Marshall for the District of Columbia.

After deliberating on all the circumstances attendant on the acceptance of this office, I am led to believe it will not comport either with my interest or convenience to undertake the performance of that trust. Having been actively engaged in commerce for the last ten or twelve years, my opinions have at length left me at liberty to pursue on admire day, any system of business my judgment may dictate.

Yours, etc.,

[Signature]
May I state, of course I should have had no hesitation in accepting this office, if I had not been deterred by the inconvenience and hazard of hazarding business in such an extensive field, while the smallness of the interest would almost preclude the idea of obtaining a dignity of integrity and respectability unless he could be entitled to all the emoluments derived from the office, in which case I would consider the responsibility attached to the principal without a moment of delay.

I am sensible of the honor conferred on me by your kind invitation, and will not fail to indulge myself in the pleasure of paying my respects to you, should an opportunity occur.

I am respectfully,

Yours Obly Sec

Francis Clayton