Dear Sirs.

Washington Feb. 16th 1801.

I have been ever since the 24th of December endeavoring to make a present which is not in itself considerable; but it is of no small consequence as it respects the interest of the State which the gentlemen were chosen to preserve against the Whig party. I am at a loss to say whether you might not be more disposed to an alteration than mentioned; but I believe the true course would be to take such steps as might ward off that evil — Mr. Jefferson, I believe, that he would carry it in the first ballot, and Mr. Burr was still more certain that if they persisted on the point, that the latter would ultimately succeed. Some of us whose terms were similar agreed to vote for Mr. Jefferson in the first ballot. No man in Congress knew more than I did of Mr. Jefferson's determination, and therefore was more anxious to see him in the chair of the nation. I should be the more disposed to vote with Mr. Burr if my friends were at all disposed to give them their advice; having been previously assured that a choice should ultimately be made. These gentlemen believe one now stating that they cannot bring over to their side the States they have not been to, I believe the thing would be finished to-morrow, when I think the most of it will be lost.
end in favor of Mr. Jefferson. The contest has been hard & intense — but conducted with much temper & honor both. It has been an event of great moment not only to the cause of her but to our nation. Particularly in its effect on our President & Executive. The Nancy which I refer to I am told he has authorized them to act. As far as these persons are concerned I believe we may have them & we can not without hope that it will lessen him some degree that the Washingtonian System will be the most prominent for him to follow in his course. It is entirely with the government with Washington. There is a great majority of those who have voted opposed them. But still I hope for a change.

I hope to say very little in my last about yours but what I think is right. That what I may say to be in the way of the thing is better. Therefore not to say much in that way as to absolve us & neither. I am in which case what is deem'd may be done. What you receive will be the same as what is written to me. I am not at liberty to write you anything about his. I have written what I wrote of that respect. Some will also be writing to you for my letter. I wrote you by the last for my Father to here the 1st of March.

Yours sincerely
Loren Powell