

friendly feelings.

It will be time enough, upon my return to K. after the 4th of March, to decide whether I shall remain in private or again seek to enter public life. I should be glad to know your views and those of other friends on that point. I presume there will be no difficulty in my returning to the House of R. if I should permit myself to be a Candidate.

The health of Mr. Southard has been bad throughout the winter. He is now confined to his house, but I learn is better to day. Without perhaps there being any cause of immediate apprehension, I think his situation is one full of anxiety to his friends and connections.

Do you not mean to visit us? I need not say that I should see you with great pleasure; - and although this City presents less attractions than usual at this season to the ladies we should be most happy to see Mrs. Brooke also with you at the house of

Your Cordial friend
H. Clay

The Honble F. Brooke.

Washington 10th Jan. 1829.

My dear Sir

(Confidential)

I perceive from your letter of the 5th inst. at St. Julien that you had not then received one which I addressed to you at Richmond, where I presume it now is awaiting your return.

We are here absolutely without any thing new or interesting. Congress is in no disposition to do business. The present Administration is winding up their public affairs, originating no new measures, and endeavoring to turn their Stewardship over to their successors, in the best state possible. In respect to the purposes of the new administration, or rather the intentions of the President elect, nothing seems to be known here. We have vague speculations only in place of positive information. Washington, therefore, is not at present the source of news. We must look to other quarters for it. And accordingly we have been turning our attention towards Richmond. There appears, in your Legislature, to be so many projects, in regard to the basis of the representation in your Convention, that we are at a loss to conjecture whether any thing or what will be done.

As far as I can learn (and on that subject a good deal of information reaches me) there is a good spirit prevailing among our friends every where. They seem to be generally impregnated with the belief that our true policy, at present, is to do nothing but look on. That they ought to avoid alike hostility or professions of support towards the new Admin

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Ms. Jan. 10.