

Dolley Madison's Letter to Payne

Washington Jany. 22d. 44

If you love me, my dear son, write to me—tell me when you will come to offer the papers to Congress, and to do something with the 4th volume—we are without funds and those we owe are impatient—the time has arrived now when if lost or neglected will never return to us! Mr. R with whom only I have conversed, assured me that if he could do any thing in it—we should chuse—but he had made himself so unpopular—that no open efforts of his would do any good to my interest and therefore some influential member of the lower house should be chosen and employed. Oh, my son! I am too unhappy not to have you with me, and not to have even your opinion and directions, what to do myself or what individuals to engage and at what time! Do not let this often repeated request offend or hurt you my son—but I will say little more—as it is not good for me to write.

You have no doubt seen in the papers a Resolution of Congress inviting me to a seat—and my answer—It is nothing in my eyes or my heart, nor would compliments even higher, unless you and myself were on safe ground with our creditors.

Astor's interest is due the 19th of February—can you obtain it for me? Miss Legaré's best respects to you.

Ever your affectionate mother
D. P. Madison.

[Envelope]
J. P. Todd
Montpelier
Orange Cy
Va.

Note
chuse = choose



Mathew B. Brady, *Dolley Madison, three-quarter length portrait of a woman, facing front, seated*, 1848. Half-plate daguerreotype. White House Historical Association / White House Collection.



Attributed to Joseph Wood, *John Payne Todd*, ca. 1817. Watercolor on ivory. Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Miss Mary Madison McGuire, 1936 (36.73).