

# James Innerarity to Harry Toulmin

22 November 1810, with Harry Toulmin's reply of 23 November

## Text PDF - original-language transcription

Source: Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, James Madison Papers, Series 1, reel 12; mjm016106; images 0951d, 0952, 0953, 0954. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mjm016106/>

Prepared by Codex for Crypt of Echoes, 30 September 2026. Every image was visually compared during preparation; no separate human proofread is claimed. Bracketed material is editorial. Uncertain readings and illegible marks are identified in place. Line endings, capitalization and punctuation have been lightly regularized for reading; historical wording is retained. Consult the Image PDF for exact letterforms, cancellations and placement. This transcription does not independently verify the claims in the letters.

All four images in the Library of Congress item are included. The unrelated opening page dated 24 November that was originally grouped with this letter has been excluded and retained as a separate pending item.

## Image 1 - 0951d.jpg (folio 10199)

Mobile 22d. November 1810

My Dear Sir

Your esteemed favor of the 20th came to hand last night. Every inhabitant of this province certainly owe you the greatest obligation for your endeavours to maintain peace - Gloomy as our prospects are, I still hope your exertions will not prove altogether unsuccessful -

Governor Folch arrived here yesterday afternoon. I have had some interesting conversation with him today. He opened himself the subject of our present critical Situation, and informed me of some decisive Steps that he had taken, of which I was previously ignorant, but which you will have learnt from a letter written to you by my brother in his name, & which he now tells me to confirm to you in all points - He desires me moreover to add, that provided no Succours of any kind are given directly or indirectly by any of the inhabitants of your district to the agents of the Convention in their intended attack upon this [continues on Image 2]

[Editorial inventory: circular repository stamp near the heading; its small lettering is illegible at this resolution. Pencil folio number: 10199. Reverse-side show-through is not a separate text on this face.]

## Image 2 - 0952.jpg (main text and separate strip)

[Continuation from Image 1] part of the province, he will abolish the duties paid at this post on American goods passing up & down the river, and the Said abolition Shall take effect from the day on which he receives from you a notification, that the expedition under Kemper & Kennedy is entirely laid aside, & abandoned by all the inhabitants of your three Counties -

If this great boon does not avert their arms from this place, nothing will remain for him to do, but to oppose force with force, & the duties will remain as formerly -

He has Stated to me that it is pure motives of humanity that have prompted him to this act, as also his desire to Save the effusion of blood between men who will probably soon become Citizens of the Same Community as you are already informed -

I hope this will arrive in time to prevent your neighbours from crossing the line in hostile array -

The bearer has orders to remain until you can return a decisive answer on this interesting Subject - I entertain great hopes that you will be able to Send a [continues on Image 3]

[Editorial note on alterations: 'down' is inserted above the line after 'up'; '&' is below it. In the sentence beginning 'He has Stated', an earlier 'is' and another word are struck through; the other word is illegible. A struck-through 'that' precedes 'have prompted'. Underlining is visible beneath part of the passage about becoming citizens of the same community.]

[Separate strip at right, folio 10201 a:] I would Still wish my name to be concealed as it is not necessary to mention it. The wish does not arise from the slightest doubt that the arrangement will be carried into effect. [The words 'doubt that the arrangement' and 'effect' appear crossed through; the strip is reproduced in full in the Image PDF.]

### Image 3 - 0953.jpg (folio 10203 a)

[Continuation from Image 2] a favorable one -

You can communicate this to my friends Coll. McKee & Capt. Gains to whom I have not time to write in answer to their very much esteemed favours by Davy -

I remain Dear Sir / Yours Sincerely / Jas. Innerarity

It will I think be proper to conceal the under noted lines until the full Development of the plan that is in agitation -

[Answer, in a different hand:] Dear Sir

I have this moment recd your favour of yesterday.

My own impression is that much as we groan under the duties and are severely oppressed by them, and willing as every good citizen wd be to go to any length under the authority of government to get rid of them, - that the leaders of the expedition influenced more by a regard to personal preponderance and popularity, and the power to be acquired under a new state of things, than to any public consideration, make use of the affair of Spanish imposition, only as a pretext for their illegal combinations.

There are however honest men with whom the suggestions you have been so good as to communicate will weigh much. I will present them to their minds.

Indeed I contemplate - but I contemplate it hastily, and perhaps I may retract; but I think I will meet them tomorrow at M'Curtin's bluff [reading uncertain] (the place of rendezvous) and talk with them. Common sense may perhaps for once prevail. I shall drop no hint of the [continues on Image 4]

[Address below the letter:] The Honble Harry Toulmin -

[Editorial inventory: a strip on the left shows faint reverse-side writing rather than a clearly legible separate passage; no additional text can be reliably read from it. Pencil folio: 10203 a. 'under the authority of government' is underlined.]

## **Image 4 - 0954.jpg (reply conclusion and address panel)**

[Continuation from Image 3] communication from you, unless under circumstances which I cannot at present anticipate; for I feel averse to flatter treason so much as to suggest that it can ever be an auxiliary in the cause of justice.

I am, Dear Sir / Yours very sincerely & respecty / H. Toulmin

23d Novr 10 -

[Address panel, written sideways:] No. 2 / The Honble Harry Toulmin

[Repeated docket at the lower edge:] No. 2

[Editorial inventory: reverse-side writing is visible through the sheet. It is not transcribed a second time. The reply's final signature is faint; attribution and date are also supported by the Library of Congress catalog.]