

Woodbury, March 19th, 1808

Dear Sir (Wm. Cooper),

Yours of the 20th January was received by my family during my absence on a circuit. But I have now returned & have the pleasure to find that an old & highly esteemed friend has me yet in mind.

You inquire what I think of a War with England and I must frankly confess to you, that I know not what to think or what to say. I have never known a period where the iron fist of our administration was so militant & alarming as at present. They seem determined to involve us in a war, and appear equally so to keep the country entirely unprepared for that war.

I feel with you very anxious for our friends at De Kalb in case of troubles with Canada or the gring though I'm inclined to believe that such a state of things would drive many settlers from that side over into the states.

You inform me that you conjecture Thomas is in love, and I have since heard that he is married. The young woman who it seems has taken possession of his heart & led captivity captive, I know nothing of personally, but I rely mostly on your judgement, & have no doubt of finding her to be all that his friends in this quarter could wish.

I thank you for an invitation to meet you, with Mrs. Smith next September and the truth is that Mrs. Smith says she must see where her brother Thomas lives, and I am already under marching orders for some time next fall, but what time in the fall can not say yet with certainty, as soon as I can determine will inform you & if your business should render it convenient to meet with us at Cooperstown, or Williamstown it would make our journey more pleasant.

I am Sir yours with the highest sentiments of esteem & respect.
Nathaniel. Smith