

The following letter written by him to his cousin, Major Thomas Speed, of Bardstown, Ky., is full of interest :

“ITHACA, 22d September, 1832.

“COUSIN THOMAS: I am really glad to hear from you. Am much pleased with your letter to the Rev. Spencer Clack. It is possible I mentioned it in my letter to you, or you may have heard by the way of the Doctor, that myself, wife, sister and daughter, Martha Caroline, all belong to the Methodist E. church. My daughter, Eliza Julia, lives with her brother. She, however, is to be married soon to a pious young man, a Presbyterian, which suits very well, she also being a Presbyterian.

“John James, who cares but little about religion, has taken sides altogether with the Episcopal church.

“From your saying ‘our society’ in your (printed) letter to Rev. Mr. Clack, one might suppose you are a member of his church. Are you?

“In the list of letters received by the editor of the *Christian Advocate*, as mentioned some weeks ago, I think I saw the name of T. Speed. Was it you? It’s possible, indeed, that you may be a Methodist. Please let me know from you on this subject.

“Very unfortunately for me when I first came to this country, in 1803, I made a large purchase in wild lands, which has proved to be very unprofitable. I have always had something of a disposition to move to the West; I do not suppose I shall, but if I were, Cincinnati would be the place to which I would probably go. How far are you from that place?

“I meddle but little in politics. The three parties here (Jackson, Clay and Wirt) all think they will get the majority. Anything but Jackson for me. I always have been opposed to Masonry, and yet I am not called a political anti-Mason. I would, in some things, prefer Wirt to Clay, but would be perfectly satisfied with either. I am truly sorry that Dr. Joseph Speed and my son have taken sides with the Jacksonians, and Robert H. Hyde, who married Sister Polly, being a full-blooded Mason, has turned to the Jackson party, because he is so much opposed to the anti-Masons. I say anything but Jackson.

“My mother is yet alive and in tolerable health. The rest of us are as well as usual. My best love to all my kinsfolk.

“Very respectfully, JOHN JAMES SPEED.

“By the time I get an answer from you, or before, I shall give up my commission as postmaster. I shall recommend my son, who is the assistant postmaster, and he will probably be appointed. I think it prudent, as I do not live at Speedville, to resign.

“J. J. S.”