

This work has not been composed in that philosophic retirement which is so favorable to investigation and reflection: on the contrary, you can bear witness that I have pursued my course amidst the continued fatigue and anxiety of a professional life: and this must be my apology, if the work I now submit to the public does not embrace all the materials which are called for in such an undertaking.

I am, my dear sir,

Your very obliged friend and servant,

SAMUEL GEORGE MORTON

PHILADELPHIA, *October 1, 1839*