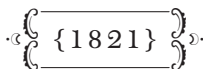


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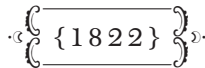
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# THE PAPERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON



## From Mathew Carey

DEAR SIR,

Philad<sup>a</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1. 1821

You will excuse, I hope, the liberty I take in requesting information, of some importance in a discussion in which I am engaged.

Can you inform me what was the situation of the people of Virginia, & the other southern states, respecting their engagements to the merchants of Great Britain previous to the Revolution?<sup>1</sup> Were they not, generally, deeply in debt? Was not the balance as generally against this Country?

Your attention to this subject will greatly oblige

Your ob<sup>t</sup> h<sup>ble</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>

MATHEW CAREY

RC (MHi); dateline at foot of text; endorsed by TJ as received 9 Dec. 1821 and so recorded in SJL. RC (DLC: TJ Papers, 226:40393); address cover only; with Dft of TJ to Philip S. Physick, [3 Apr. 1824], on verso; addressed: "Hon

Tho<sup>s</sup> Jefferson, Esq<sup>r</sup> Expresident U.S. Monticello"; franked; postmarked Philadelphia, 1 Dec.

<sup>1</sup>Preceding four words interlined.

## From John H. Cocke

DEAR SIR,

M<sup>r</sup> Garretts Dec<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1821

Your not having informed me, that I was appointed by the Board of Visitors at the meeting last Spring to examine the Bursars Acco<sup>ts</sup>— (M<sup>r</sup> Garrett being under the impression you so informed him)—and being desirous to have his Acco<sup>ts</sup> passed, we have to ask the favor of you to refer to the proceedings of that meeting and give us the necessary information to enable us to proceed with proper authority

Yours with highest respect & Esteem

JOHN. H. COCKE.

RC (CSmH: JF); at foot of text: "M<sup>r</sup> Jefferson"; endorsed by TJ as received from Charlottesville the day it was written and so recorded in SJL.

## To John H. Cocke

DEAR SIR

Monticello. Dec. 1. 21.

The only entry made on our journal formally is that of Oct. 3. 20. (on the subject of your letter) & is in these words. ‘resolv<sup>d</sup> that Joseph C. Cabell be, & he is hereby desired and authorised to examine & verify the accounts of the preceding year not already examined & verified.’ mr Cabell, at the time expressed some fears he might not be able to attend, and proposed to yourself in that ca[s]e to do the business, and I think I am certain it was agre[e]d between you that the one or the other, as convenient, would do it. this past verbally in the presence of the board who acquiesced in it, and understood that either the one or the other would do it, & their approbation was implied though not formally entered in the journals; for as well as I remember it passed while we were in the act of separation. neither of you being present at the meeting of April, nothing was said on the subject because we expected that the one or other of you woul[d do?] it at your convenience, & for the same reason nothing was said at our late meeting, and most certainly we considered and consider you as authorised by what past verbally, and any settlement by either yourself or mr Cabell will be recieved and approved as authoritative, and I hope you will feel no scruples in [t]he omission of the formality of a written entry. ever & affectionately yours

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (DLC); on verso of reused address cover of Bernard Peyton to TJ, 7 Aug. 1820; several words faint; at foot of text: “Gen<sup>l</sup> J. H. Cocke”; endorsed by TJ.

## From John T. Kirkland

SIR,

*Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. 1 Dec. 1821.*

The Corporation of this University desire to unite with other Institutions in presenting to Congress the Memorial, of which a printed copy is herewith sent. They have authorized me to subscribe it officially, to transmit it to the several Colleges, Academies, and literary Societies, and to request their concurrence by the signatures of their respective principals. If you shall approve the measure, we hope you will be able to act upon it in such season that the Memorial may be offered in the present session of Congress, before the Tariff shall be settled;—and that if a meeting of the body of the Directors or Trustees of your Institution cannot be had in time, you may be authorized by the executive Government or standing Committee of your Corporation to give your name. If you shall think proper to join in the ap-

1 DECEMBER 1821

plication, you are requested to signify it to me by mail, by returning to me the Memorial with your signature, or by giving me permission to affix your name to the copy which shall be sent to Congress. When a sufficient number of names shall have been collected, I propose to transmit the document, with the names annexed, to one of our Representatives, to be by him presented to the National Legislature. The facts stated in the Memorial have been ascertained by the diligent inquiry of one of our Professors at the Custom-House in Boston, and by information from booksellers in the principal cities where books are imported. Should you approve the design, we beg leave further to suggest to you the expediency of writing on the subject to members of Congress from your State.

I am, Sir, respectfully, Your obedient servant,

JOHN T KIRKLAND

*President of Harvard University.*

Printed circular (ViU: TJP); signed by Kirkland; addressed in an unidentified hand: "Thomas Jefferson Esq. Monticello Va."; stamp canceled; franked; post-marked Cambridge, Mass., 6 Dec.; endorsed by TJ as received 22 Dec. 1821 and so recorded (with additional parenthetical notation: "circular") in SJL.

John Thornton Kirkland (1770–1840), clergyman and educator, was born on the New York frontier in what would become Herkimer County, near where his father served as a missionary to the Oneida Indians. While young he moved to Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and he attended Phillips Academy in Andover, 1784–86. Kirkland enrolled at Harvard University in the latter year and graduated in 1789, having also served in a volunteer unit to help suppress Shays's Rebellion of 1786–87. He spent the next year as a tutor at Phillips Academy, studied theology, and in 1792 returned to Harvard as a tutor in logic and metaphysics. In 1794 Kirkland was ordained as pastor of the Congrega-

tional New South Church in Boston, remaining there for sixteen years and guiding its transition to Unitarianism. As a member of the Anthology Society he contributed articles to the *Monthly Anthology* and in 1807 helped found the Boston Athenæum. In 1810 Kirkland was named president of Harvard University. During his tenure the school grew in prominence, increased standards for students and professors, and established law and divinity schools. Kirkland resigned in 1828. After a few years of travel in America and abroad, he settled permanently in Boston in 1832 (*DAB*; Sprague, *American Pulpit*, 8:261–6; *MH*: Kirkland Papers; *Biographical Catalogue of the Trustees, Teachers and Students of Phillips Academy Andover, 1778–1830* [1903], 11, 31; *Harvard Catalogue*, 7, 85, 176; Josiah Quincy, *The History of the Boston Athenæum* [1851], esp. separately paginated section of "Biographical Notices," 64–71; *Boston Courier*, 30 Apr. 1840).

ONE OF OUR PROFESSORS: George Ticknor.

ENCLOSURE

Memorial of Learned Institutions to Congress

[before 1 Dec. 1821]

TO THE  
HONORABLE THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES.

*The Memorial of divers Colleges, Academies, and literary and scientific Societies within the United States humbly shows,*

THAT the several Institutions, who, by their respective presiding officers, have subscribed this Memorial, are deeply interested in the progress of good knowledge; and regret to find from continual observation and experience, that it is impeded by the operation of some portion of the revenue laws regulating the importation of foreign books. They therefore respectfully ask leave to submit to Congress the expediency of modifying those laws and of repealing the duties on imported books for the following reasons.

The duties on imported books are not less than 17 per cent. These duties, however, are not needed or felt as protecting duties, that are to favor domestic printing and publishing; for the printing establishments of the United States are already so extensive and well settled, that they can furnish the English books of which an edition is wanted for less on an average than half the cost of the same books, when imported, so that the competition has long since ceased to be felt between the English and American booksellers, while a competition between the different booksellers in this country, publishing the same work, has taken its place.

As a portion of the revenue of the country, this duty is comparatively unimportant. The exact amount accruing to the public treasury from this source cannot be ascertained, as the duty on books being *ad valorem*, is not returned separately to the treasury department nor kept separately in the books of the respective custom houses. From diligent inquiry, however, it is estimated that less than the sum of thirty thousand dollars is the full amount of books annually imported into the United States, and that this amount has been for several years constantly diminishing; so that the government now receives from this branch of revenue less than five thousand dollars a year; and will hereafter not receive so much as at present.

But while this duty is of little consequence to the revenue of the country and of none at all as a protection to a domestic manufacture, its effects on the progress of knowledge among us are extensive and mischievous. In the first place it falls almost exclusively on books, which are very much wanted among us, and which we can hope to get by importation only, for it falls on books in the dead languages, very few of which, especially of the best editions, are printed in this country, or would, if reprinted, repay the cost of publication;—on books in foreign living languages, which it is not desirable we should reprint;—on books, so expensive in their very nature, that we cannot hope or wish to republish them; and on books, one edition of which, in whatever country it may be published, is expected and intended to supply the demand of the whole literary world. Our want of books of each of these descriptions is very great; they are many of them of the first importance to the progress

and diffusion of knowledge among us; but we can obtain them by importation only, and when it is considered that they are generally of the most expensive class, and that the necessary charges of bringing them into the country are heavy, it will, as your memorialists believe, be at once admitted, that the duty now exacted makes such a serious addition to the price, as to operate as a great discouragement to their introduction, and often, as a prohibition.

Your memorialists would in the next place urge that this duty falls almost exclusively on a class of persons, who can rarely afford to incur any expenses, except those of first necessity to their literary and professional vocations. In order to be of the highest use to the community in their spheres of employment, to furnish themselves with knowledge and to aid its progress in the land, they want constantly books, which they can get only from foreign countries; yet they are compelled by the measures of their own government to pursue their studies in an irksome and inefficient manner, with only a part of the requisite means in their respective departments.

In the last place this duty is annually diminishing the amount of books imported at the very time we most want them, so that the booksellers' shops among us are gradually becoming more and more empty of foreign publications; and that branch of trade, which is to connect us in our youth with the intellectual advantages of the old world and to furnish American scholars with the means of becoming what they desire and strive to be, is gradually disappearing, while other branches of speculation and profit are gradually reviving and growing stronger.

Under these circumstances your memorialists apply to the government for relief; and they do it with more confidence, as they ask nothing for themselves. The liberality of the government has already exempted the Institutions they represent from all duties, and of course the interest they feel is merely an interest in the advancement and dissemination of that knowledge, which is the only sure foundation of our national liberty and republican institutions.

Your memorialists therefore pray, that all printed books may hereafter be exempted from duties.

Printed circular (ViU: TJP); undated. Also enclosed in George Ticknor to TJ, 8 Dec. 1821, where Ticknor claims authorship.

For the failure of this effort in Congress, see editorial note on the Campaign to Abolish Tariffs on Books, printed above at 30 Nov. 1821.

## From William B. McCorkle

DEAR SIR

Wadesboro NC December 2<sup>1</sup>—1821—

I take the Liberty of addressing a letter<sup>2</sup> on a Subject which I wish some information hoping you will condesend so for as to furnish me with it The Subject is Revolutionary claims for Bounty Lands for Service Rendered the state of Virginia in the Continental<sup>3</sup> Line provision was made by several acts of the Legislature of Virginia for the Continental Troops. A Citizen<sup>4</sup> of this place who rendered Service for Virginia in the Revolutionary war under several enlistments claims

{ 7 }

for his toil and Labour in this arduous Struggle for Liberty the Bounty of Virginia and the Gratitude of its Citizens: he is a poore old man and wishes me to interceed in his Behalf to get his Bounty Land as allowed by act of the state of Virginia: will you be so good as to state to me the several act of the State of Virginia granting Bounties of Land to thir enlisted Troops durring the Revolution<sup>y</sup> war and what kind of evidence will be wanting to prove his enlistments and what form of Deposition will be wanting to make good his claim in the Land office of Virginia I presume that in the Session act of Virginia to the General Government the state Reserveed such Tract of Land as would satisfy these Revolutionary claims If you cannot furnish me with the acts of Assembly of Virginia you will give me such information in writing as will afford me such light on the subject that will enable me to proceed<sup>5</sup> in this old mans Claim so that I can get it for him By the act of Congress last session<sup>6</sup> the time of Locating Virginia Land warrants is extended to two years I wish to get the warant before this time expires in Complying with the above request you will do a service that is wanting much

I am very respectulle You most obt Sevt      W<sup>M</sup> B McCORKLE  
Post master

RC (MoSHi: TJC-BC); adjacent to closing; "his Excellency Thomas Jefferson"; endorsed by TJ as received 13 Dec. 1821 and so recorded in SJL.

William B. McCorkle (ca. 1795–1868), merchant, was born in Iredell County, North Carolina. He pursued mercantile business for nearly forty years in Wadesboro, Anson County, and was a postmaster at various locations in that county into the 1850s. In 1830 McCorkle owned eight slaves. By 1850 he had twenty slaves and real estate worth \$7,300. Ten years later he was a farmer in Rowan County with eight slaves, and real estate and personal property valued at a combined total of \$10,287. He died in Rowan County (*History of North Carolina* [1919], 4:206; Jethro Rumble, *A History of Rowan County, North Carolina* [1881], 212–3; Hamilton C. Jones, *Reports of Cases at Law argued and determined in the Supreme Court of North Carolina, from December term, 1854, to August term, 1855, both inclusive* [1855], 444–50; *A Register*

*of Officers and Agents, civil, military, and naval, in the Service of the United States, on the 30th of September, 1831* [1831], 175; Mary L. Medley, *History of Anson County, North Carolina, 1750–1976* [1976], 340; *Table of Post Offices in the United States on the first day of January, 1851* [1851], 285; DNA: RG 29, CS, N.C., Anson Co., 1830–50, 1850 slave schedules, Rowan Co., 1860, 1860 slave schedules; Salisbury, N.C., *Old North State*, 21 Nov. 1868).

THE ACT OF CONGRESS LAST SESSION was a 9 Feb. 1821 "Act to extend the time for locating Virginia military land warrants, and returning surveys thereon to the general land office" (*U.S. Statutes at Large*, 3:612).

<sup>1</sup>Reworked from "3."

<sup>2</sup>Manuscript: "lette."

<sup>3</sup>Manuscript: "Continal."

<sup>4</sup>Manuscript: "Citzen."

<sup>5</sup>Manuscript: "proceed."

<sup>6</sup>Manuscript: "sission."

## From Levett Harris

DEAR SIR,

Philadelphia 3<sup>d</sup> December 1821.

I have lately received from Professor Adelung of St Petersburg, his last work on the general classification of the Languages with a request, that I would tender you a Copy of it, with the homage of his respect.

The Subject treated of in this work, is known to have deeply engaged your researches, and you will hence see with lively interest the result of the labors of this learned philologist.

Mr Adelung is certainly the most distinguished individual in this department of Learning now in Europe, the celebrated<sup>1</sup> professor Vater of Konigsberg being now no more, and he having expressed to me an earnest desire to become acquainted with some of the leading Savans of the United-States, especially in the branch which he So Successfully cultivates, I have promoted a correspondence between him and M<sup>r</sup> Du Ponceau, who has already derived great personal Satisfaction from it, and who promises to turn it, not less to public benefit.

It was my intention to have renewed my respects to you in person last Summer. Another visit to Monticello, I have however, on reflection, deemed proper to defer, till I shall have Succeeded in trying the cause, which you will recollect I have pending in the Supreme Court of this State.

I feel indeed, that it would be far from pertinent, to trouble you further, or prematurely with the merits of a Contest, which, in your retirement, is so little calculated to inspire You with interest. Yet, under every circumstance, I Shall consider it not less due to you, to make you fully & freely known to the machinations of a person, who enjoys high credit in this Government—A person with whom few have been more intimate—who professed himself constantly my Sincere friend, till he reached his present elevation, and who is Still Suffered to use the credit attached to the office of Secretary of State to my injury. And all this in defiance of the acknowledged Satisfaction of the President of my honorable conduct, in relation to those points, which had been a Subject of Cabinet investigations, and which, after having been so Settled at Washington, have since become, thro. the secret & immediate agency of M<sup>r</sup> Adams an affair of judicial examination in the Tribunals of this State.

In March next, I hope it will be brought to trial, when I shall take an early opportunity to apprise you of its result and of my ulterior purposes respecting it.

3 DECEMBER 1821

It has<sup>2</sup> given me great pleasure to learn from our friend M<sup>r</sup> Short, of the generally good state of your health. May it long continue to impart to your declining years all that happiness, of which 'tis your destiny to reap so rich a harvest.<sup>3</sup>

I beg leave to offer my compliments to the Governor and M<sup>rs</sup> Randolph and Miss Randolph, and to remain, with Sentiments of the highest respect & Veneration,

Dear Sir—Your most devoted & Obedient Servant

LEVETT HARRIS

RC (DLC); at foot of text: “Thomas Jefferson Monticello”; endorsed by TJ as received 9 Dec. 1821 and so recorded in SJL. Enclosure: Friedrich Adelung, *Uebersicht aller bekannten Sprachen und ihrer Dialekte* (St. Petersburg, Russia, 1820).

<sup>1</sup>Manuscript: “celebrated.”

<sup>2</sup>Manuscript: “is has.”

<sup>3</sup>Manuscript: “havest.”

## To Frederick A. Mayo

Dec. 3. wrote that I had acknol<sup>d</sup> rec<sup>t</sup> of my books before my departure to Bedf<sup>d</sup> & that if he would send my bill I would order payment by return of mail.

FC (MHi); abstract in TJ's hand on verso of RC of Mayo to TJ, 26 Nov. 1821; partially dated. Recorded in SJL as a letter of 3 Dec. 1821.

## To Thomas Mann Randolph

DEAR SIR

Monticello Dec. 4. 21.

I now inclose you the annual report of the Visitors of the University to the Literary board with it's documents, to be laid before the Legislature. we have had two copies prepared, one for each house, of the ground plan of the establishment. but [a]s<sup>1</sup> these are in a box, not proper for the mail, & the girls expect to set out for Richmond on Saturday, I will send the box by them, and you will recieve it by the time your copies of the report and other documents, can be prepared for the two houses. can you give me any idea when the Literary board will be able to furnish us the remaining 30,900.D. you will see by the report that our debts are upwards of 50,000 D. a larger sum than our workmen can lie out of [wi]thout great inconvenience. affectionately & respectfully

Yours

TH: JEFFERSON

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PoC (MHi); on verso of reused address cover of George Watterston to TJ, 4 Aug. 1820; mutilated at seal, with one number partially rewritten by TJ; at head of text: "private"; at foot of text: "Gov<sup>r</sup> Randolph"; endorsed by TJ. Enclosure: University of Virginia Board of Visitors Report to Literary Fund President and Directors, 30 Nov. 1821, and enclosures.

Randolph forwarded the enclosed ANNUAL REPORT and its supporting documents to Linn Banks, the Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, in an evidently misdated letter of 3 Dec. 1821, which Banks presented to the legislature with its enclosures on 13 Dec. 1821 (printed in *Report and Documents for 1821*, 2, and in *JHD* [1821–22 sess.], 37).

<sup>1</sup>Word faint.

## To Hugh Nelson

DEAR SIR

Monticello Dec. 5. 21.

The inclosed letter is addressed, as you will percieve to our representation in both houses of Congress, and availing myself of the consideration of your more immediate relation to our district I take the liberty of putting it under your cover for it's communication to them. the proposition came to us from the University of Cambridge, who meant to engage the other Northern seminaries in cooperation, and requested me to do the same with those of the South & West. I accordingly made the proposition to those of them with whom I could find any colorable channel of communication, particularly Chapel hill of N.C. Columbia of S.C. Athens of Georgia, and Transylvania of Kentucky. I presume the delegates of Massachusetz will be prepared to bring it forward, and that those of other states will willingly cooperate. I think a simple repeal without any modification is desirable to wipe away the barbarism of the idea of taxing science. there is not a single art more firmly established in the US. than that of printing, nor more able to stand on it's own legs. it is monstrous for such an establishment to wish the labor of their fellow citizens to be taxed for their support. wishing you a peaceable and harmonious campaign I salute you with friendship and respect.

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (ViU: TJP); at foot of text: "honble Hugh Nelson"; endorsed by TJ. Enclosure: University of Virginia Board of Visitors to Virginia's Senators and Rep-

resentatives in Congress, 30 Nov. 1821, and enclosure.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE: Harvard University.

## From William Short

DEAR SIR

Philad<sup>a</sup> Dec: 5. 1821.

I return you a thousand thanks for your kind & friendly letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup>. The details as to the state of your health I had been long wishing for—they are now doubly gratifying to me, as they inform me that you have so perfectly recovered from the only inroad I had ever known on your constitution. And this attack I perceive was brought on by an inattention to the sound maxim—il n'y a rien tant ennemi du bien; que le mieux—for you were well at Staunton but would be better. I have always indulged myself in the belief & hope (founded on your good constitution, regular life, as well au morale as au physique, & the salubrious air of Monticello) that you would gain the tontine of the subscribers of the Act of Independence. You are now only three survivors, & the other two are many years older than you. The drawer of the act then will most probably be the last survivor left to bequeath it to the generations who are to follow; & this is as it sh<sup>d</sup> be.

The last part of your letter gives me an authorization to write to you thus early, or I should not have ventured to trouble you so soon again. I avail myself of your enquiries as to Charles Thompson. I have since been to one of our Wistar parties, where I was certain I should meet with those most in the way of giving me information. I there found a gentleman who had that very day had a long conversation on his subject, with M<sup>r</sup> Norris, the brother of M<sup>rs</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Logan. The Norris family, it appears, keep up a regular communication with him, & M<sup>r</sup> Norris had been expressly into the country about a week before to visit M<sup>r</sup> Thompson—He found that his bodily faculties were in much better preservation than his mental—he ate well, slept well & was erect in his posture—had yet several teeth & sound ones—but his memory quite gone; insomuch that he had no recollection of M<sup>r</sup> Norris, who was well & intimately known to him—& during M<sup>r</sup> Norris's visit which lasted a few hours only, he told him the same story four times.

You will perhaps ask what is a Wistar-party; During the worthy Doctor's life, he had a weekly party at his house principally, but by no means exclusively, devoted to his literary & scientific friends, All strangers so disposed were carried there—In the beginning Sunday was the appropriated evening—but by degrees the company becoming numerous, the religion of the wife became uneasy, & saturday was substituted. At the death of the good Doctor, this kind of rendezvous was so much missed, that six or eight of the attendants who had houses, agreed to take the Doctor's mantle on themselves, & thus in turn, each

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has the rendezvous at his house, & calls it in his invitation the Wistar party. The greatest objection that I see to the system is that the American taste of incessant eating & drinking prevails too much at these supposed philosophical parties—Cakes, almonds, raisins, ice creams, wine & all the paraphernalia of the Ladies tea-parties, are exhibited. Correa used to be a constant attendant, & the oracle of the party.

To your enquiry concerning him I can only say that the last intelligence received here is by the Portuguese consul, who learned indirectly by a friend from Lisbon that Correa arrived there in August last—that his health was bad & that he had gone to some medicinal waters in the neighborhood. Correa has entirely neglected all his friends here, having since his absence written only a few lines once or twice—This as regards Vaughan is more than neglect—it is downright ingratitude[de.] His silence observed towards his friends here proceeds probably in some degree from his aversion to writing; but it is also, I apprehend, not without some kind of Jesuitical calculation. A gentleman who has lately arrived from Paris has also given us some account of C's apparition there. It appears that he soon became disgusted, & after a very short stay left Paris for London. The explication was, that he had become dictatorial, impatient of contradiction & thus made himself disagreeable to his old friends, & of course they became indifferent to him.

I cannot allow you to remain under the impression, which I infer from your letter, that I have voluntarily engaged in a Canada speculation. It was “not my will but my (avidity) which consented.”—or rather my forcibly owning land on the S<sup>t</sup> Laurence (the N. York side) has arisen from the error or inattention of my counsel & agent; & is perhaps a proper punishment for my want of confidence in the public funds of the country. From my first returning I convinced myself that war would exist with England before the peace of Europe—So far I judged correctly—but I was wrong in the inference, that war would destroy the public credit & public funds. But believing this, I sought to convert the stock which I held into a mortgage on landed security, as a more solid foundation. I gave the preference to the State of N.Y. because the laws there are better as to that article than here—& also because the legal interest is 7 instead of 6 p<sup>ct</sup>. As to the means of execution I was obliged to trust for them to counsel, recommended to me by a friend in whom I had with great reason, great confidence. The funds were sold & the amount placed on what my counsel deemed the most ample landed security; & so it was, if there had not been an error of judgment on the part of my counsel, & perjury on the part of the borrower—One whole township & the half of another were pledged—& on an affidavit made that there was no previous incumbrance, my

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counsel paid over the money, instead of waiting to have the records examined—For some years the interest was regularly paid, & would, no doubt, have so continued if the party had not become insolvent. On this the mortgage was foreclosed, & on proceeding to the sale it was discovered for the first time that the whole township had been previously pledged. This occurred whilst I was last in Europe. The half township alone remained secure—this was sold—& fell very far short of my debt of course—What added to the loss was that I was advised to become the purchaser of this land so as to make up my loss. It would have been much better if I had then pocketed the loss of 8 or 10000 dollars deficiency—for since that time this land has never yielded me one cent, & I have been moreover obliged to pay a considerable sum in taxes each year—& moreover was induced to advance at the time a considerable sum on mortgage in the same district, that the borrower might be enabled to make an operation which would put it in his power, as was said, to sell immediately the land I had purchased &c &c.—And this second loan I consider as in some jeopardy—so that my N. York mortgages not only expose me to great present inconvenience, but future loss, under the folly of throwing good money after bad. Thus you will see that it has not been with me a preference of the Polar regions to groves of olives—but an error of judgment or as some would say perhaps, an unavoidable misfortune, although I am willing to attribute it, because I think it just, to an error of judgment.

I am much gratified by what you say of the University, & shall look to the public prints with impatience for the report you speak of—I look forward with confidence & pleasure to the paying you & the University a visit. I cannot fix the time with precision, but nothing within my control shall retard it beyond the ensuing year. Whatever may be the term I beg you to do me the justice to believe that my sentiments for the founder & first cause of the University are invariable—& that no friend whom he has, can feel a warmer or more grateful affection for him than his

friend & servant

W: SHORT

RC (DLC); edge chipped; endorsed by TJ as received 12 Dec. 1821 and so recorded in SJL.

IL N'Y A RIEN TANT ENNEMI DU BIEN; QUE LE MIEUX: "there is no greater enemy of the good than the best." AU MORALE AS AU PHYSIQUE: "morally as physically." Of the signers of the Declaration

of Independence, the THREE SURVIVORS at this time were John Adams, Charles Carroll (of Carrollton), and TJ. NOT MY WILL BUT MY (AVIDITY) WHICH CONSENTED is adapted from William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*, act 5, scene 1, substituting "avidity" for the "poverty" that the apothecary uses to excuse himself for selling Romeo poison.

## From Jesse C. Young

SIR,

Troy (N.Y.) Dec. 5, 1821.

I herewith send for your perusal a copy of “Murray’s English Grammar Simplified,”<sup>1</sup> by Allen Fisk, a Gentleman of this city; which you will be pleased to consider as an offering to yourself.

My motive in sending the above mentioned volume to you sir, is, that you may be pleased to give it, (if consistant with your other avocations,) an attentive perusal; and if you should find it to contain a well digested plan for the more speedy attainment of a correct knowledge of the principles of the English Language, that you may be pleased to give it such recommendation as you in your judgement may see fit.

Being myself but an unlettered mechanic, I am unable to point out its beauties, or its defects—in fact did I possess a common knowledge of the primary rules of the English Language, it would be considered presumption in me to endeavour to shew its qualities when soliciting the avowed approbation<sup>2</sup> of Thomas Jefferson.

You will be pleased to bear in mind that this is but an abridgement of the work, and that a larger volume, for the use of more advanced Scholars, will shortly follow, provided the work meets with the approbation of those qualified to judge.—I am a young man, and have purchased the copy right, and at present my hopes of a future competency rest upon the success of this production—but without entering into a detail of private circumstances, (which must be uninteresting to you,) I should be pleased if after a perusal of the volume, you should see fit to recommend it, that you will with all convenient<sup>3</sup> speed address me a few lines, as I am now waiting for recommendations before I lay it before the public.

With sentiments of respect, I am, &<sup>c</sup>

JESSE C. YOUNG,  
Publisher.

RC (MoSHi: TJC-BC); at foot of text: “Hon. Thomas Jefferson”; endorsed by TJ as received 22 Dec. 1821 and so recorded in SJL. Enclosure: Allen Fisk, *Murray’s English Grammar Simplified; Designed to abridge and facilitate the study of the English language by enabling the instructor to teach without the aid of his birch, and the student to learn without the drudgery of committing to memory what he does not understand. On a New Plan* (Lansingburgh, 1821).

Jesse Comstock Young (1797–1880), publisher and farmer, was born in Lan-

singburgh (later part of Troy), New York. He published the *Lansingburgh Rensselaer County Gazette*, 1826–28, and its short-lived successor, the *Lansingburgh Democrat and Rensselaer County Gazette*, 1828. By 1854 Young lived in Islip as a farmer with an interest in cranberry cultivation, and a decade later as a conveyancer. When he died there his occupation was listed as bookbinder (Arthur J. Weise, *History of Lansingburgh, N. Y. from the year 1670 to 1877* [1877], 40–1; *Schenectady Cabinet*, 25 Oct. 1826; *New-York Observer* 39 [1861]: 352; DNA: RG 29, CS, N.Y., Suffolk Co.,

Islip, 1860, 1870, 1880 mortality schedules; gravestone inscription in Lake Ronkonkoma Cemetery, New York).

The enclosed ABRIDGEMENT by Fisk of a grammatical textbook by Lindley Murray was printed in Troy by Francis Adancourt and published by Young. The following year Adancourt printed Fisk's

LARGER distillation of Murray's work, which was published in Troy by Zephaniah Clark.

<sup>1</sup>Omitted closing quotation mark editorially supplied.

<sup>2</sup>Manuscript: "aprobation."

<sup>3</sup>Manuscript: "convenient."

## From Jefferson S. Myer

SIR

Washington City. Dec. 6. 1821

This in an entire stranger, might be considered the hight of presumption, but should it not meet your approbation, I hope it will not meet your displeasure; therefore a longer preamble I deem entirely unnecessary, and shall proceed to make known my intentions—

In august 1817 I entered the U.S. Military Academy with the intention of making arms my profession, but owing to domestic causes, it was necessary for me to resign my appointment of Cadet, in consequence of which destroying my fondest hopes; but circumstances having so materially changed, that it will permit of my entering the service again, for which I have the fondest inclination; the Marine corps being the one I prefer, I wish to obtain a Lieutenancy in it if possible, for which purpose I take the liberty of soliciting your influence; I presume my father's republican principles are sufficiently known to you having edited a paper during your administration,<sup>1</sup> in consequence of which, his ardent zeal to the devotion of his country, was the cause of his sinking in fortune, and I may say in an early grave; should the fact be recollected by you of his truly republican sentiments, I must ardently beg you would state the fact in order that I may present the same to Hon. Sec. of the Navy to secure my appointment of Lieutenancy in the Marine corps, your not having a personal acquaintance with me I could not ask any thing more, by so doing you will confer the highest favour on one who has only his correct deportment to depend upon, should you be pleased to answer this humble request I beg you would not delay it, as the appointments will be made this month—

I have the honour to be your most obedient and humble Servt.<sup>2</sup>

JEFFERSON S MYER

son of the late Solomon Myer  
of Pennsylvania

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P.S. I herewith subjoin a list of my friends making interest for me; Capt J. R. Bell U.S. Army, formerly my commanding officer—Mr Anderson Ist. comp<sup>r</sup> of the treasury; and Messrs; Pitcher, Gross of N.Y. Clark, Williams of Va. Wallace, Regles. members of the last and present Congress—

J.S.M

RC (DLC); endorsed by TJ as received 9 Dec. 1821 from “Myer Jefferson J.” and so recorded in SJL. RC (DLC); address cover only; with Dft of TJ to Granville Sharp Pattison, 3 Apr. 1824, on verso; addressed: “Hon. Thomas Jefferson Monticello Virginia”; franked; postmarked.

Jefferson S. Myer (ca. 1799–1824), soldier, was a native of Pennsylvania who likely moved in 1804 with his family from York to Washington, D.C. He attended the United States Military Academy as a cadet, 1817–20. Myer afterwards served as a lieutenant in the Mexican marines and died in Alvarado, Mexico (*A Register of Officers and Agents, Civil, Military, and Naval, in the service of the United States, on the Thirtieth Day of September, 1817*

[Washington, 1818], 59; Fredericktown [later Frederick], Md., *Bartgis’s Republican Gazette*, 12 Oct. 1804; *Official Register of the Officers and Cadets of the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y.* [(West Point?), 1820], 11; Washington *Daily National Intelligencer*, 4 Sept. 1824, 25 Mar. 1837).

Myer’s father, Solomon Myer, EDITED the *Unpartheyische York* [Pa.] *Gazette* from 1796 until around 1804, when he moved to Washington, D.C. (Brigham, *American Newspapers*, 2:992; *Bartgis’s Republican Gazette*, 12 Oct. 1804). REGLES was likely Charles H. Ruggles, of New York.

<sup>1</sup>Manuscript: “admirstration.”

<sup>2</sup>Manuscript: “Serv;t.”

## From Hutchins G. Burton

D<sup>r</sup> SIR

Washington December 7<sup>th</sup> AD 1821

I have been much indisposed for several days, is my appology for not answering Your very friendly letter sooner—there is no Individual with whom I am acquainted, that makes it an object, to raise a full crop of Scuppernon wine—it is generally made by the poorer class of the community, and purchased in, by the Country merchants—with many of whom I am well acquainted—Should You at any time want any additional supply of the wine—I hope You will without hesitation drop me a line, and so far from considering it troublesome—I will at all times afford me great pleasure to serve You in this or any other way in my power

I am with highest Respect & consideration Yours

H G BURTON

{Excuse great haste}

RC (MHi); endorsed by TJ as received 12 Dec. 1821 and so recorded in SJL.

## From Frederick A. Mayo

HONO: SIR

Richmond the 7. Dec: 1821—

I hereby take the liberty of forwarding my Account and I should be very thankfull of receiving a answer to the letter of Octover last, of which your honour made mention in your last letter;

Remain Your humble Servant

FREDERICK A MAYO

RC (MHi); on a sheet folded to form four pages, with letter on p. 1, endorsement on p. 2, enclosure on p. 3, and address on p. 4; addressed: "The Hon: Tho:

Jefferson Mounticello"; franked; post-marked Richmond, 7 Dec.; endorsed by TJ as received 12 Dec. 1821 and so recorded in SJL.

### E N C L O S U R E

## Account with Frederick A. Mayo

Spring Hill Bindery Oct<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1821.

The Hon: Tho<sup>s</sup> Jefferson

	To Frederick A Mayo	D <sup>r</sup>
To Binding	Wheatleys Gardening <sup>1</sup> Calf Gilt	\$1.25
" ditto	Apocryfal—New Testament do	1.25
" ditto	Grammatica Ang: Saxon <sup>2</sup> do.	1.12½
" ditto	Owens Geoponics <sup>3</sup> do.	1.50
" ditto	Collectio Plantarum <sup>4</sup> do.	1.75
" ditto	Manuel do	0.75
" ditto	20 V <sup>ols</sup> U. History loose Backs do. @ 1.75	35.00
" ditto	1 Weekley Register ½ Bound	0.62½
" ditto	2 V <sup>ols</sup> Saxon Gospels Quarto plain Clf 1.50	3.00
" ditto	1 Grafic "	1.00
" ditto	1 Psalterion <sup>5</sup> plain Clf.	0.75
" ditto	1 Prophetal ditto	0.75
" ditto	1 Majoras do	0.75
" ditto	1 Poetica do	0.75
		\$50.25

MS (MHi); in an unidentified hand; conjoined with covering letter.

Ernest Grabe's edition of the Septuagint, as do the following four items.

TJ requested the BINDING of each of these works in his letter to Mayo of 12 Aug. 1821 and its subjoined note. GRAFIC is possibly a mistranscription of "Grabii" and would thus refer to a volume of John

<sup>1</sup>Manuscript: "Gardering."

<sup>2</sup>Manuscript: "Saseon."

<sup>3</sup>Manuscript: "Beoponics."

<sup>4</sup>Manuscript: "Plantarun."

<sup>5</sup>Manuscript: "Pasterion."



## To Bernard Peyton

DEAR SIR

Monticello Dec. 7. 21.

I send you my notes for renewal by anticipation as usual. and request you to send me some more blanks. I drew on you yesterday in favor of Wolfe and Raphael for 75.D. and shall forward flour to you as fast as I can get the mill to deliver it, and in time I hope to keep you in funds to meet Bowling's order before it is presented. in the mean while I am considerably at a loss to know how things stand, as you did not forward me my quarterly account to Oct. 31. as usual, which I should be glad to receive now. ever & affectionately<sup>1</sup>

Yours

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (MHi); on verso of reused address cover to TJ; endorsed by TJ. Recorded in SJL with additional bracketed notation: "notes." Enclosures not found.

On 5 Dec. 1821 TJ recorded drawing on Peyton in favor of the Charlottesville firm of WOLFE AND RAPHAEL for \$75 in cash received (*MB*, 2:1381).

<sup>1</sup>Manuscript: "affectionately."

## From Samuel Brown

DEAR SIR.

Lexington Dec<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1821.

Had I been able to convene the Trustees of the Transylvania University on an earlier day, I should have replied to your very interesting Letter relative to the Tax on Books, long before this time—But the absence of some of the Board & the natural supineness of others, prevented them from taking a vote on your propositions before last week. I am, however, happy to inform you, now, that all your wishes, on that subject, have been unanimously & cordially met, & that a Petition signed by the Presidents of the University & of the Board of Trustees has been transmitted to Congress accompanied by the necessary instructions to our Representatives in that body—

The number of students in this university, including the Preparatory school which is immediately attached to it, is, as will appear in the Report of the President 366—The Medical Department, of which I know more, consists of 135 regular Medical Students who will practise Medicine as a Profession—Previously to the establishment of this Medical Institution Kentucky never sent to the Atlantic schools more than 10 or 12 Medical students annually—By examining our Matriculation list it appears that<sup>1</sup> this state alone furnishes our classes with 90—the rest are collected from ten different states—I mention this fact

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to shew how important it is to increase the number of our Medical institutions & to bring Education more within the reach of the lower & middling classes of society, whose habits of industry & labour so often advance them to the highest ranks of professional usefulness & reputation—From what I have seen of the Med. Students here & in Phil<sup>a</sup> & N York I have no hesitation in affirming that, with equal means of instruction double the amount of information would be acquired here in an equal time—We have no amusements to attract, few dissipations to tempt our young men from regular study & we have no fame as a school which can be substituted for individual merit. When Medical Schools become very large the Professors & not the Pupils are the gainers—Two hundred is as great a number as can profit in one class, from the Anatomical Demonstrations or the Clinical cases—Why do not Virginia establish a Medical School at Richmond or Norfolk? The whole expence of the establishment of this Medical school in addition to what one of our Professors shamefully begged (perhaps 1200\$.) was \$5000 given by the state & \$6000 to purchase a Library which the faculty borrowed from the town of Lexington—Even in a pecuniary point of view the foundation of a Medical school in a town of moderate size would be worthy of attention. Lexington now derives a revenue of \$30 or 40,000 from a few thousand Dollars appropriated to this object—Our success would seem to prove that a Medical school may succeed to a certain extent at least, in a town much less than Richmond or Norfolk—Our Library is very valuable & it is manifest that our students are availing themselves of its treasures much more than they would have done in a dissipated Capital—The school of Cincinnati consists of about 30 pupils—Some of the Professors are certainly men of great merit & I wish them success—Empiricism will be suppressed in proportion to the growth of Medical schools in our Country—

Next spring I hope to gratify the best feelings of my heart by paying you a hasty visit when on my way to Philadelphia—I have great curiosity to see the College which interests you so deeply & so worthily & am anxious to place my Son in it as soon as it is open for the reception of Students—

My Brother joins in my warmest wishes for your health & happiness—

Yo Mo Ob<sup>t</sup>

SAM BROWN

RC (DLC); addressed: "Thomas Jefferson Esq. Late President U.S. Montecello Virginia"; stamp canceled; postmarked

Lexington, Ky., 11 Dec.; endorsed by TJ as received 30 Dec. 1821 and so recorded in SJJL.

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On 27 Nov. 1821 Transylvania University's Board of Trustees read TJ's 28 Sept. 1821 letter RELATIVE TO THE TAX ON BOOKS and resolved to "draw up a Petition to Congress to repeal the duties upon books imported into the Union." The petition was presented to the United States Senate on 27 Dec. 1821 (Transylvania University, Trustees Minutes [KyLxT]; JS, 11:41). The PRESIDENTS OF THE UNI-

VERSITY & OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES were Horace Holley and Robert Wickliffe, respectively (*A Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky, February, 1821* [Lexington, 1821], 2, 3). The SCHOOL OF CINCINNATI was the Medical College of Ohio.

<sup>1</sup>Preceding three words interlined.

## To Anthony Dey

Mont<sup>o</sup> Dec. 8. 21.

I thank you, Sir, for the informn yo[u] are so kind as to give me of the invention for breaking & dressing flax & hemp. it is a great invention and will tend to restor[e] those plants to a rivalship again with cotton, the facility of whose manipuln had promised to bring it into almost exclusive use. I presume the public paper[s] will soon inform us of the cost & means of procuring the machine for commo[n] use. accept my respectful salutns.

FC (DLC); on verso of RC of Dey to TJ, 20 Nov. 1821; in TJ's hand; edge damaged.

## From John Wayles Eppes

DEAR SIR,

Dec<sup>r</sup> 8. 1821.

I was just enjoying the pleasing prospect of a permanent return of health when a few days since viz on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult. I was attacked in my sleep and entirely insensible until after being bled—I had certainly improved greatly in my strength as I was able since my return from the Springs to do what I have not done for years amuse myself on foot with a gun & walk for hours without more than common fatigue—This last attack without previous indisposition or warning has dissipated my airy castle of returning health and renders my prospects for the future more gloomy than heretofore—

I heard from Francis by the last mail—affairs at Columbia were at the date of his letter viz the 19<sup>th</sup> of November in a gloomy situation—The students had been guilty of personal disrespect to Doct<sup>r</sup> Cooper—I am almost so selfish as to wish their conduct would disgust him with his present situation and drive him to the University of Virginia. He will be sure in Virginia of meeting on all occasions that respect

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and veneration which her citizens young and old uniformly bestow on the first Talents combined with the purest principles—

From some cause to me unknown my grapes almost entirely failed during the last dry season—Vines which for several years before had been plentiful bearers literally perished—If you should send your cart before it is too late for cutting slips without injury to the vine I shall be much obliged to you if you would send me 15 or 20 slips of your purple grapes which you brought from France.

Present me affectionately to the family & accept yourself my sincere wishes for your health & happiness.

Yours affectionately

JNO: W: EPPES

PS.

I own 2000 acres of land here with very comfortable improvements—It is nearer to you than your Bedford property—How would you like to take the whole & give me the value in Bedford land—2. circumstances have induced me to think of it—Francis will settle in Bedford—The improvements here are on a larger scale than I can give to one child without injustice to the others & if I could exchange the improvements & Lands for lands in Bedford I would myself for the present settle in Lynchburg for the convenience of Educating my younger children & fix my Negroes on the Bedford lands adjoining Francis—I would willingly submit the Two tracts to valuation & receive or pay the difference in Negroes at cash valuation—I think it probable that from the character of my disease whenever I beat a march it will be with short warning & it would be very important to me to leave my family in a situation where Francis could discharge towards them the duties of an affectionate guardian without too great a sacrifice of his time—

My property here is nearer to you—Is more convenient to Navigation & market & capable under your finishing hand of being made a very desirable residence at no expence—2200 bushells<sup>1</sup> of wheat & 27.000 lb. of Tob<sup>o</sup> has been my crop here for several years with 29 working hands—These 29. crop hands are exclusive of Tradesmen<sup>2</sup>—spinners & house gang—I have this year for the first time two overseers & work the two places separate—17. hands on one place & 12. on the other—your goodness will I know excuse me if in examining my reasons for exchange they appear interesting only to myself—If however I know my own heart I should be incapable of even making a proposition however convenient or agreeable to myself which should involve any sacrifice of your interests—

affectionately once more

yours.

JNO: W: EPPES

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RC (ViU: TJP-ER); addressed: "Thomas Jefferson Monticello Near Charlottesville"; stamped; postmarked Raines Tavern, 19 Dec.; endorsed by TJ as received 24 Dec. 1821 and so recorded in SJL.

<sup>1</sup>Manuscript: "bashells."

<sup>2</sup>Manuscript: "Tradesme."

## To Hiram Haines

SIR

Monticello Dec. 8. 21.

I have duly recieved your favor of Nov. 26. with the pocket knife you were so kind as to inclose. I accept it with thanks, as well as a proof of native ingenuity, as a token of regard, which from a personal stranger I duly value. I send you in return, according to the preference expressed by yourself, a miniature likeness, of which I ask your acceptance.

The Notes on Virginia, of which you are pleased to speak with partiality, are nearly out of print, and rarely to be met with on the shelves of the booksellers. I have long been reduced to a single copy myself. after an interval of 35. years, the thing they describe has changed it's form so as to be scarcely recognisable. it was the shadow of the moment changing it's stature ever as the sun advanced. abler pens will hereafter catch these fleeting likenesses at different periods of our growth, and they will serve the Historian as points of comparison of age with age. the changes in your day will still be great. that they may be auspicious to the peace and union of our country is the prayer I offer to heaven, and in the trust that yourself will not be wanting to it, I tender you my salutations of esteem and respect.

TH: J[E]FFERS[O]N

PoC (DLC); on verso of reused address cover of John Hollins to TJ, 4 Aug. 1820; signature faint; at foot of text: "M<sup>r</sup> Hiram Haines"; endorsed by TJ.

The enclosed MINIATURE LIKENESS was probably a small engraving depicting

TJ within a circular background, based on a physiognotrace portrait by Charles Balthazar Julien Févret de Saint-Mémin executed in 1804. TJ purchased forty-eight copies of this print at that time for distribution to his family and friends (Stein, *Worlds*, 198–9; Bush, *Life Portraits*, 51–3).

## To Frederick W. Hatch

DEAR SIR

Monticello Dec. 8. 21.

In the antient Feudal times of our good old forefathers when the Seigneur married his daughter, or knighted his son, it was the usage for his vassals to give him a year's rent extra in the name of an Aid. I

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think it as reasonable when our Pastor builds a house, that each of his flock should give him an Aid of a year's contribution. I inclose mine as a tribute of justice, which of itself indeed is nothing, but as an example, if followed, may become something. in any event be pleased to accept it as an offering of duty, & a testimony of my friendly attachment and high respect.

TH: JEFFERSON

RC (PPAmP: DCAR, Sol Feinstone Collection); at foot of text: "rev<sup>d</sup> mr Hatch." PoC (MHi); on verso of reused address cover of John Vaughan to TJ, 7 Aug. 1820; endorsed by TJ.

In his financial records for this day TJ recorded sending Hatch a \$20 CONTRIBUTION "as an Aid in building his house" (MB, 2:1381).

## To Thomas Magruder

SIR

Mont<sup>o</sup> Dec. 8. 21.

The buildings for the accomodn of the Professors and Students of the University will all be in readiness the ensuing summer. but when it will be opened depends entirely on the pleasure of<sup>1</sup> our legislature. the report lately made to them by the Visitors & which will be in the papers within a few days will possess you fully of the present state and prospects of that instn, and by attending to their proceedings you will be able to form a judgmt whether any fixed epoch can be assigned for it's commencement. if we are enabled to carry into full exn the plan which has been sanctioned by law it will comprehend every useful branch of science

In the mean time should a mere classical school be what you wish for your sons, I do not know a better than that kept in Charlottes. by mr T. Maury, of a family of celebrated teachers from father to son for several generns. I was taught myself by his gr: father upwds of 60. y. ago. tuition is 40.D. a year, and I believe that board in the town is about 125.D. but mr Maury does not teach French now the most important part of educn

with my regrets that I cannot gve you more specific informn<sup>2</sup> accept the assurance of my esteem & respect.

Dft (DLC); on address leaf of Magruder to TJ, 26 Nov. 1821.

<sup>1</sup>Preceding three words interlined.

<sup>2</sup>Manuscript: "informn."

TJ had attended the school of Charlottesville educator Thomas W. Maury's  
GR: FATHER James Maury.

## To Rejoice Newton

SIR

Monticello Dec. 8. 21.

I owe my thanks to the American Antiquarian society for the honor done me some time since, in electing me a member of their useful and much respected society, of which I receive a diploma attested by yourself. I accept it as a mark of their good will, and not with the hope of meriting it by any service I can render. I may say with Seneca 'senex sum, et curis levissimis impar.' age and weakened health render me no longer equal to the labors of science. with my thanks for this mark of attention, do me the favor to tender them, and to accept yourself the assurance of my high consideration.

TH: JEFFERSON

RC (MWA: American Antiquarian Society Archives); at foot of text: "M<sup>r</sup> Rejoice Newton Recording Secretary of the American Antiquarian Society"; addressed: "M<sup>r</sup> Rejoice Newton Worcester. Mass."; franked; postmarked Milton, 10 Dec. PoC (MHi); on verso of reused address cover of Mathew Carey & Son to TJ, 5 Aug. 1820; endorsed by TJ.

Rejoice Newton (1782–1868), attorney and public official, was born in Greenfield, Massachusetts, and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1807. He began practicing law in Worcester in 1810 and served as the Worcester County attorney from 1818 until 1824. Newton represented Worcester in the Massachusetts legislature as a representative, 1828–31, and a senator, 1834. Between 1824 and 1831 he was president of the Worcester Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and he served as the recording secretary of the American Antiquarian Society, 1815–54. Newton died in Worcester (Ermina Newton Leonard, comp., *Newton Genealogy* [1915], 708; *General Catalogue of Dartmouth College and the associated schools, 1769–1925* [1925], 115; MWA: Newton Family Pa-

pers; William Lincoln and Charles Hersey, *History of Worcester, Massachusetts* [1862], esp. 202, 273, 392; *Massachusetts Spy, or Worcester Gazette*, 26 Sept. 1810; *Boston Daily Advertiser*, 12 June 1818; *Massachusetts Spy and Worcester Advertiser*, 25 Feb. 1824; *Massachusetts Register, and United States Calendar* [1829]: 23; [1830]: 24; [1831]: 24; [1834]: 34; American Antiquarian Society, *Proceedings* [29 Apr. 1868]: 19; *Boston Post*, 6 Feb. 1868; gravestone inscription in Worcester Rural Cemetery).

An image of the DIPLOMA sent to TJ at this time and showing his 1 June 1814 date of election to the American Antiquarian Society, which TJ noted was postmarked Worcester, 22 Nov., is reproduced elsewhere in this volume. SENEX SUM, ET CURIS LEVISSIMIS IMPAR is a variant of the apology by Seneca the Younger to the Roman emperor Nero for being "an old man and unequal to the lightest of cares," quoted in Tacitus, *Annals*, 14.54 (*Tacitus*, trans. Maurice Hutton, William Peterson, Clifford H. Moore, John Jackson, and others, Loeb Classical Library [1914–37; repr. ca. 2006], 5:192–3).

## To Elizabeth Page

Monticello Dec. 8. 21.

It would have given me infinite pleasure, dear Madam, could I have afforded you the information requested in your favor of the 27<sup>th</sup> of Nov. respecting the sacrifices of property to the relief of his country

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made by the virtuous General Nelson, your father, while in office during the war of the revolution. I retired from the administration of the government in May 1781. until that time the paper money, altho' it had been gradually deprectiating from an early period, yet served the purposes of obtaining supplies, and was issued, as wanted, by the legislature. consequently until that period there had been no occasion for advances of money in aid of the public, by any private individual.

I was succeeded as governor by Gen<sup>l</sup> Nelson. within his period the credit of the money went rapidly down to nothing, and ceased to be offered or recieved. at this time came on the Northern & French armies, and to enable these to keep the field during the siege of York was probably the occasion which led the General to take on himself responsibilities for which the public credit might not perhaps be sufficient. I was then entirely withdrawn from public affairs, being confined at home, first for many months by the effects of a fall from my horse, and afterwards by a severe domestic loss, until I was sent to Congress, and thence to Europe, from whence I did not return until some time after the death of the worthy General. I then first heard mention of his losses by responsibilities for the public: and knowing his zeal, liberality & patriotism, I readily credited what I heard, altho' I knew nothing of the particulars or of their extent.

It would have been a matter of great satisfaction to me, could I, by any knolege of facts, have contributed to obtain a just remuneration and relief for his family, and particularly for mrs Nelson whose singular worth and goodness I have intimately known now more than half a century, and whose name revives in my mind the affectionate recollections of my youth. with my regrets at this unprofitable appeal to me, be so kind as to tender her assurances of my continued and devoted respect, and to accept yourself those of my high esteem and regard.

TH: JEFFERSON

RC (NN: Thomas Addis Emmet Collection); at foot of first page: "M<sup>rs</sup> Elizabeth Page." PoC (ViW: TC-JP); on a reused address cover from John Vaughan to TJ; endorsed by TJ.

TJ ceased his service as governor of Virginia on 3 June 1781, not in MAY. His SEVERE DOMESTIC LOSS was the death of his wife, Martha Wayles Jefferson, on 6 Sept. 1782.

## From George Ticknor

DEAR SIR,

Boston Dec. 8. 1821.

Your favour's of Sep. 28<sup>th</sup> with an enclosure and Oct. 24, introducing two young gentlemen, came in due season. The latter, I have acknowledged in the way you desired, by offering the persons you

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presented me such assistance as they needed, & having found them lodgings they liked and suitable instructors, they are, I believe, as well off as their friends could have reasonably anticipated, and seem disposed to improve the opportunities we are able to give them in their respective studies. It will always afford me very high pleasure to be able to return to any of your friends or any persons connected with them, some portion of the kindness & protection you have so often shown me.

The petition to Congress to remove the duty on Books is now, I hope, in train to be presented. The very day I received your's of Sep. 28. I wrote the Memorial, a copy of which goes with this letter—and the next day, I had it presented to the Corporation who accepted it and directed the President to commence the necessary correspondence to give it effect. Owing to his habits of procrastination, however,—though desirous to carry on the project, & frequently urged to it by myself,—he never got it ready till just a week since. Now, I believe, the circulars are sent, and, I hope, the attempt may yet be made with success at the present Congress. It is, I think, of great importance;—and, if you think of any further means to facilitate, it, we shall be much gratified if you will use them, or suggest them to us, that we may avail ourselves of them.—

I wish there were any good prospect of succeeding in the other project, touching the duty on wines of an inferior quality, which you endeavoured to get reduced. The physical constitution of our people, as a body, is, I doubt not already affected by intemperance; and if the consumption of spirituous liquor should increase for thirty years to come at the rate it has for thirty years back we should be hardly better than a nation of sots. Great exertions have been made in this quarter of the country to diminish the evil by moral means;—and the people are alarmed; but, though some effect has been produced, we have not much reason to be seriously encouraged. All good men, therefore, are ready here to cooperate with you in any project, you may have, tending to check the progress of this wasting habit.

I am very anxious to hear more about your University; and to learn something of its success. Every day persuades me anew of the truth of an opinion, I have long held; that at Cambridge we never shall become, what we might be very easily, unless we are led or driven to it by a rival. I see no immediate prospect of such a rival, except in your University, & therefore, I long to have it in successful operation.

Gov. Randolph and all your family I hope, are well. I beg to be remembered to them with great respect & gratitude. As I am now married and established in Boston, I hope I may have the opportunity of

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sometimes showing hospitality, to some of your or their friends, who may come this way. Few things would give me more pleasure.

Yrs. with great respect,

GEO: TICKNOR.

RC (MHi); mistakenly endorsed by TJ as a letter of 8 Dec. 1822 received 22 Dec. 1822. RC (MHi); address cover only; with Dft of TJ to Nicholas P. Trist, 13 Apr. 1824, on verso; addressed: "Thomas Jefferson Esq—Monticello, Albemarle Co. Virginia"; stamp canceled; postmarked Boston, 9 Dec. Enclosure: Memorial of

Learned Institutions to Congress, [before 1 Dec. 1821], enclosed in John T. Kirkland to TJ, 1 Dec. 1821.

Ticknor MARRIED Anna Eliot in Boston on 18 Sept. 1821 (Boston *Columbian Centinel*, 22 Sept. 1821).

## To James Breckinridge

Monticello Dec. 9. 21.

I thank you, dear Sir, for your kind attention in procuring me Greenlee's plat. it's exact conformity with my patent will satisfy my neighbor that his junior one must give way to it. we were sorry we had not the benefit of your assistance at our meeting. on the 1<sup>st</sup> day only mr Johnson and myself attended. on the 2<sup>d</sup> day mr Madison and Gen<sup>l</sup> Cocke joined us. you will have learnt the state of the University from our Report, which will be in the papers probably before you recieve this. we suspended a decision on commencing the Library until April when we hope to have a full meeting, and to have observed in the mean time the dispositions of the legislature. we are all decidedly of opinion we ought to begin it if we can be sure of being able to raise the walls and roof them so as to keep them safe. mr Johnson is the only doubtful member on that head, merely from an aversion to bring ourselves into any situation which might oblige us to ask money, in which general sentiment we all concur. I salute you with affectionate friendship & respect.

TH: JEFFERSON

RC (ViU: TJP); edge torn, with missing text supplied from PoC; at foot of text: "Gen<sup>l</sup> Breckenridge"; endorsed by Breckinridge. PoC (DLC); on verso of a reused address cover from Thomas Appleton to TJ; endorsed by TJ.

Following the 29–30 Nov. meeting of the University of Virginia Board of Visi-

tors, Virginia J. Randolph (Trist) reported to Nicholas P. Trist on 2 Dec. 1821 that James MADISON, joined by his stepson John Payne Todd, had "been detained here ever since by bad weather; I really expect that poor Mr. Todd will hang himself if it rains again tomorrow" (RC in DLC: NPT).

## From Arthur S. Brockenbrough

DEAR SIR,

University V<sup>a</sup> Dec. 9<sup>h</sup> '21

I understand from M<sup>r</sup> Garrett he has obtained checks for what money there is now in the Banks to the credit of the Rector & Visitors of U. V<sup>a</sup> and that no arrangement has been made to borrow more money—I have already given drafts to the am<sup>t</sup> of what is placed in the bursars hands, reserving a little for contingent expences—the wants of our suffering Mechanicks induces me to ask of you if no plan can be devised to raise or borrow a part of the 30'000 Dollars immediately say \$10,000—the end of this and the first of the next year is the usual time of paying off, for hires &c, and I have no doubt but some of our undertakers will suffer greatly if they can't obtain a part of what is due them from the University—by the 1<sup>st</sup> January—M<sup>r</sup> Cosby one of our brick-work undertakers is now unabl<sup>1</sup> to raise a dollar, to pay off his Journey men & laborers—I must beg leave to suggest the propriety of borrowing as much of the Banks in Richmond—if it can't be had immediately from the Literary fund—surely the Law can be so amended this session as to enable the Literary fund to loan it out of any money they may have to dispose of—& thereby return it to Bank—our wants Sir induces me to urge you to make some effort for us the Annual Donation has not heretofore been rec<sup>d</sup> untill some time in February—that fund will be of little acc<sup>t</sup> after paying interest on the loan, paying for hirelings &c &c M<sup>r</sup> Garrett set out to Richmond tomorrow perhaps it would be well to make some enquiry through him relative to borrowing of the Banks—\$5000—at least might be obtained & paid out of next annual donation, as our wants are pressing

I am Sir respectfully your Ob<sup>t</sup> sev<sup>t</sup>

A. S. BROCKENBROUGH

RC (CSmH: JF); endorsed by TJ as received 9 Dec. 1821 and so recorded in SJL; with FC of TJ to Brockenbrough, 9 Dec. [1821], beneath endorsement.

<sup>1</sup>Manuscript: “nuable.”

## To Arthur S. Brockenbrough

Dec. 9. answ<sup>d</sup> that we had no authority to borrow until the annuity payable Jan. 1. is exhausted: but that that may be rec<sup>d</sup> punctually on that day

FC (CSmH: JF); abstract in TJ's hand beneath endorsement of RC of Brockenbrough to TJ, 9 Dec. 1821; partially dated. Not recorded in SJL.

## To Joel Yancey

DEAR SIR

Monticello Dec. 9. 21.

In directing the distribution of the pork for this season I believe I omitted to state that 10. hogs should be kept for my use at Poplar Forest as usual. if there is any old bacon left it will be acceptable here when the waggon brings the pork. you will be so good as to inform me on what day our waggon should be there to join Dick's in bringing the pork, butter E<sup>t</sup>c. I propose to send Phill back to work in the shop with Will, that Dick's James who now smites for Will should go into the ground in the place of Randal, and Randal return to live here, and that these exchanges should be made when the waggons go & return. I salute you with affectionate esteem and respect.

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (MHi); on verso of a reused address cover from James Monroe to TJ; at foot of text: "M<sup>r</sup> Yancey"; endorsed by TJ.

## From Hugh Nelson

DEAR SIR,

Washington Dec<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 21.

Your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> Instant came to hand in the due course of the Mail—The papers contained in it have been shewn to the delegation from our State, whose support, I make no doubt, will be afforded to the object of the Memorial. I shall consult the Massachusetts Delegation in relation to the plan of the Cambridge College in regard<sup>1</sup> to the repeal of the duty on imported Books—and endeavour to promote this object by a harmonious cooperation of the delegations of the two States—I shall apprise you of the Course of business in this Instance as the measure shall progress; and shall be happy to contribute all in my power, to the promotion of the Institution, to the advancement of which you are now devoting, with so much honour and Utility to the State, the disinterested services of one, who has spent his whole<sup>2</sup> life in the promotion of the Cause of free Government and of Science—

Accept the assurance of my  
respect and consideration

HUGH NELSON

RC (MHi); endorsed by TJ as received 17 Dec. 1821 and so recorded in SJL. RC (MHi); address cover only; with Dft of TJ to William Short, 10 Apr. 1824, on verso;

addressed: "Thomas Jeffrson Esq<sup>r</sup> Milton Albemarle County Virginia"; franked.

<sup>1</sup>Manuscript: "regarrd."

<sup>2</sup>Word interlined.

## From James Pleasants

DEAR SIR

Washington—10<sup>th</sup> December 1821

I, as surviving commissioner for carrying into effect the decree of the court of Chancery in the case of Jefferson vs Ronald's heirs, received some time since the balance due under that decree. It amounts to something upwards of \$100, and will be paid in any manner you shall direct after receiving this letter. It would have been paid over before this but for my expectation of having it in my power to see you at Monticello. Part of my family were in Lynchburg, and on going to that place myself I purposed to have called on you, but was informed in passing through Fluvanna that you were at the Poplar Forest. When I reached Lynchburg,<sup>1</sup> I was informed by m<sup>r</sup> Radford you had returned to Albemarle, but would be up again in a few days; you did not return however before I was obliged to go home, and though it was my wish & intention to have visited You before I left home for this place, I found it impractical to do so. I have it in charge from m<sup>r</sup> Macon of N. Carolina to present him very particularly to you.<sup>2</sup> With sentiments of profoundest respect

I am dear sir yours

JAMES PLEASANTS JR

RC (CSmH: JF); endorsed by TJ as received 17 Dec. 1821 and so recorded in SJL.

<sup>1</sup>Manuscript: "Lynchbug."

<sup>2</sup>Preceding two words interlined.

## From Francis Adrian Van der Kemp

DEAR AND

HIGH-RESPECTED SIR!

Olden barneveld 10 Dec. 1821.

I should hesitate, to intrude on your moments of Leisure, with my unprofitable correspondence, did I not feel persuaded, that it would<sup>1</sup> not be unacceptable to be informed of my continued health; and I am more encouraged to it, by reflecting on the numerous kindnesses, which you was pleased to bestow upon me, though personally unknown, ever Since my arrival in this country in 1788—and to whose influential introduction I am indebted to numerous favours of others.

I do not presume—to Solicit an answer—but perhaps you may not deem it amiss—to gratify me, by one of your family with a line<sup>2</sup> that you too are blessed with health—which I pray the Almighty may crown your last days with—for your Relatives, Friend's and countrys Sake.

I mentioned in a former Letter, that I continued with translating the old Dutch Record—illustrating these here and there, where it was

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in my power—and observed, that a commercial intercourse took place—between Virginia and the N. Netherland—and Several interesting Negotiations—several Dutch commercial house being established in Virginia— Now I find, that the same intercourse took place between Virginia and Curacao as early as 1655. I presume—the Virginians carried hither victuals—It is Sure—they obtained from there Stock-fish-hout—(yellow dying wood) Turtles—Manatin—or Sea-cow flesh and horses—Did they not obtain Negros from Curacao? I proceed now with 5 vol—Relative to Curacao—in which I met with Several interesting articles, as well as in the former Record—I have now finished 20 vol. in Fol—and—if my days are prolonged, and my weak Sight—being Scarce able to read by candle-light—preserved—or I shall accomplish this arduous task—as it is in part dilacerated—in part effaced and mouldered away—within two years.

Would you have believed before of the Dutch Boors—that Stuyvesand—in a Treaty with the Indians—inserted an article, that their Children—should be educated in N. Amsterdam—which was accepted?—So too—in the Instruction for the Vice-Director of Curacao—was an article—to establish Schools for the Natives. He was indeed a great man, although now little known.—

Did the Virginians trade with the West-Indian Islands—after the N. Netherlands were Surrendered to the British?<sup>3</sup> the N. Engl-men were, if I am not mistaken, more confined—than formerly.

I should willingly have touched other topics, but am unwilling to abuse your Indulgence—though I can not but hope—that the luminous rays of reason and truth—now corruscating—even in this State evry where, shall not Longer be confined in Virginia to Monticello—

Georg. Juranis published last year in Germany a Latin work—against New-ton's theory on the motion of the celestial bodies, offering a reward of £100 to the writer, who should refute his arguments.

Permit me to solicit the continuance of your good opinion—while I take the Liberty to assure you, that I remain with the highest consideration

Dear and High Respected Sir! Your most obed. & obliged.

FR. ADR. VAN DER KEMP

P.s. my venerable friend J. Adams enjoys yet all his mental powers—and a tolerable State of health—

RC (DLC: TJ Papers, 221:39477-8); received 30 Dec. 1821 and so recorded in dateline adjacent to closing; mistakenly SJL. RC (DLC); address cover only; endorsed by TJ as a letter of 16 Dec. 1821 with Dft of TJ to Moritz Furst, 20 Apr.

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