

# THE PAPERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON



## From Joseph Anderson

George Town 4th March 1803  
friday morning.

SIR

In my letter of yesterday, I express'd an intention of waiting on you this morning—but as you will probably be much engaged, and as I am very anxious to begin my Journey, after so long an absence from my family—I have concluded, to decline doing myself that honor—As it is of importance however to my concerns, to be inform'd, upon the Subject of my letter—I have to request the favour of an early answer; Cou'd I receive it in a week or two, after my arrival at home, which will probably be about the twentyeth of March—It wou'd very much accomodate me—As Some arrangements respecting my *future pursuits*, will depend upon your answer—please to direct—to Cheeks Cross Roads, Jefferson County.—If you Shou'd think proper to favor this application—I take leave to Observe, that I have express'd a wish, to be of that board of Commissioners, who are to set in the County of Adams—

With Sentements of the Most respectful Consideration—

JOS: ANDERSON

RC (DNA: RG 59, LAR); endorsed by TJ as received 4 Mch. and “to be Commr. Missipi” and so recorded in SJL.

In his LETTER OF YESTERDAY, Anderson requested a place as one of the commissioners to settle land claims in the Mississippi Territory. A statute approved by Congress on 3 Mch. for “regulating the grants of land, and providing for the disposal of the lands of the United States, south of the state of Tennessee” authorized the establishment of two land offices

in the territory, one in Adams County and one in Washington County, to dispose of lands lying west and east of the Pearl River, respectively. In addition to a register of lands and a receiver of public money, each county was to have two commissioners, who, with the register, would decide cases of claims to land from British or Spanish grants or under the April 1802 agreement between the United States and Georgia (U.S. Statutes at Large, 2:229-35; Vol. 37:343-5; Matthew Clay to TJ, 28 Feb.).

## To Joseph Anderson

DEAR SIR

Washington Mar. 4. 1803.

I have this moment recieved your favor of this morning, but as I suppose from it that you were then on the point of departure, this can only follow you. the appointment which is the subject of it will not take place till autumn, and in the mean time we shall no doubt be recieving applications. you are sensible that it will be our duty to select from the whole number of candidates, & not knowing now who they will be, it is impossible now to say on whom the selection will fall. I thought it candid to say this much to you lest your arrangements might be affected by my silence. a multiplicity of business, visits of leave &c. obliges me to break off here with a tender of my friendly salutations & respect.

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (DLC); in ink at foot of text: "Joseph Anderson."

## To Justus Erich Bollmann

SIR

Washington Mar. 4. 1803.

Your favor of Feb. 28. is recieved, and if the box of the wine of the quality I selected, is not reserved for your own use, I shall certainly be very glad to recieve it, and I will ask the further favor of you to import for me a gross of bottles of the same quality: for I observe that it's price places it among those wines which are to be used pour faire bonne bouche, and not for ordinary consumption. is it designated by any particular name, or the particular place of it's growth known? I think it will be pleasing to you to know that Congress have given to the Marquis de la Fayette 11,500. acres of land, which may be located any where, and is probably now worth 4. or 5. times as many dollars. Accept assurances of my respect & consideration.

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (DLC); at foot of text: "Doctr. J. Erich Bollman"; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso.

TJ never learned the PARTICULAR NAME or place of origin of the Hungarian wine he obtained from Bollmann, despite the latter's efforts. Because of commercial restrictions established under the Austrian empire and the relative passivity of Hungarian growers, wines from the region could be difficult to obtain (Zoltán Halász, *Hungarian Wine through the Ages*

[Budapest, 1962], 164-9; Bollmann to TJ, 10 Oct. 1804).

In 1794, Bollmann had attempted to rescue the MARQUIS de Lafayette from a prison in Olmütz, an act that earned him some celebrity on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as a stint in the same prison (Paul S. Spalding, *Lafayette: Prisoner of State* [Columbia, S.C., 2010], 84-124; New York *Argus, or Greenleaf's New Daily Advertiser*, 11 Jan. 1796; Bollmann to TJ, 11 Dec. 1802).

## From John Dawson

DEAR SIR,

George Town—March 4. 1803

I have reason to believe that you think favourably of Captain Barney—an intimate acquaintance with him convinces me that that impression is a just one, and that he is a man of merit.

he does believe that he was ill treated by the late Post master general, on account of his politicks, and that he has been neglected by the present—could he be employ'd I am convinc'd that he would do justice and credit to the public, and therefore I take the liberty of recommending him to you—he will explain his wishes!

With much respect Yr friend & Sev't

J DAWSON

RC (DNA: RG 59, LAR); endorsed by TJ as received 13 May and "Captain Barney for employment" and so recorded in SJL. Probably enclosed in John H. Barney to TJ, 13 May.

John H. BARNEY, a stage line operator and former postmaster at Havre de Grace, Maryland, had written TJ requesting to succeed Joseph Habersham as postmaster general, but TJ appointed Gideon Granger to the post instead in November 1801 (Vol. 33:415, 429, 670, 677).

## From Henry Dearborn

SIR,

War Department

4th. March 1803.

Walker K. Armistead, a Cadet in the Corps of Engineers, having on examination, received honorable testimonials of his progress in science and of requisite qualifications to sustain a Commission in the Army of the United States, I take the liberty of proposing to your consideration, the appointment of said Armistead, as a second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers.

With high consideraton &c.

FC (Lb in DNA: RG 107, LSP). Recorded in SJL as received from the War Department on 4 Mch. with notation "nomn Armistead."

him that the president had approved his appointment. Armistead would go on to serve as chief engineer of the U.S. Army from 1818 to 1821 (DNA: RG 107, LSMA; Heitman, *Dictionary*, 1:169).

The following day, 5 Mch., Dearborn wrote WALKER K. ARMISTEAD to inform

## To Rolfe Eldridge

DEAR SIR

Washington Mar. 4. 1803.

On the receipt of your favor of Feb. 26. I had enquiry made at the clerk's office of the Supreme court, & received information that no such suit as that of *Ld. Granville v. Davie* or any others is on their docket, nor any papers relating to it in their possession. Accept assurances of my esteem & best wishes.

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (DLC); at foot of text: "Mr. Eldridge"; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso.

YOUR FAVOR OF FEB. 26: that is, Eldridge's letter of 14 Feb., which TJ re-

ceived on 26 Feb. Eldridge had requested information on a lawsuit that threatened land claimed in the Granville District of North Carolina by his wife and her sisters.

## From James Jackson, Abraham Baldwin, and Peter Early

SIR,

Washington, March 4h, 1803.

The Act disposing of the lands of the United States South of Tennessee, having required the appointment of two Commissioners, besides the land register for each of the districts, of Adams and Washington; and Georgia being as much interested in their duties, as any State—We take the liberty to state, that we hope it will be deemed proper to take one Commissioner of each board, from the Citizens of Georgia; and therefore recommend as proper Characters, William H Crawford, and James McNeil esquires, to fill those stations, and perhaps as much (if not better) acquainted with the state of lands there, as any others which could be selected.

We are Sir, with the highest respect, & consideration

JAS JACKSON  
ABR BALDWIN  
PETER EARLY

RC (DNA: RG 59, LAR); in Jackson's hand, also signed by Baldwin and Early; at foot of text: "The President of the United States"; endorsed by TJ as received 4 Mch. and so recorded in SJL with notation "Comms. Missipi"; also endorsed by TJ: "Wm. H. Crawford H. Mc.Neal to be Missipi Comms."

Peter Early (1773-1817) was born in Virginia, graduated from the College of

New Jersey at Princeton, and studied law in Philadelphia before moving to Georgia in 1795. He was a member of the House of Representatives in the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Congresses, afterwards serving as a judge in Georgia, as governor, and in the state senate (DAB).

ACT DISPOSING OF THE LANDS: see Joseph Anderson to TJ, 4 Mch.

Jackson had enthusiastically endorsed William H. CRAWFORD in a letter to TJ

4 MARCH 1803

in July 1801. TJ did not name Crawford Mississippi Territory (Vol. 34:592-3; TJ or McNeil to be land commissioners in to Madison, 12 July 1803).

## To Thomas Newton

DEAR SIR

Washington Mar. 4. 1803

Your favor of Feb. 16. is recieved, and according to the permission therein given me, I will ask that two pipes of Madeira of the Brazil best quality may be imported for me annually while here. the two lately sent me by mr Taylor were recieved yesterday. I set out in a day or two on a very short visit to Monticello. if you will be so good as to address the bill for the cyder to mr Barnes of this place he will remit it in my absence. the return of mr Newton your son, will of course give you the Congressional news. Accept my friendly salutations and assurances of constant esteem.

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (MHI); at foot of text: "Colo. TWO LATELY SENT: James Taylor, Jr., Newton"; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso. to TJ, 19 Feb.

## From Samuel A. Otis

SIR

Washington March 4th 1803

In addition to the enclosed I can only repeat that tis my wish to continue Secretary of the Senate so long as that honble body, who yesterday gave me an additional & flattering mark of their approbation, shall permit my continuance

The Senate have uniformly allowed me, after arranging their business, to retire during vacation. In the present, it would be agreeable could I be permitted to exercise the office of a commissioner; which I shall however not presume to do, without your express permission. And in which, should you Sir be of opinion there is any incompatibility I shall cheerfully abide your decision.

Repeating my assurances of being very greatly impressed by the mark of confidence<sup>1</sup> you have done me the honour to confer, & wishing you a pleasant summer & every felicity,

I have the honour to be With every sentiment of respect Your most obedient & humble Servt

SAM: A. OTIS

RC (DLC); at foot of text: "The President of the U States"; endorsed by TJ as received 4 Mch. and so recorded in SJL. Enclosure not found, but perhaps it was the 3 Mch. resolution of the Senate postponing action on the Convention of 1802 with Spain; the Senate ordered Otis to lay the resolution before the president (JEP,

4 MARCH 1803

1:447-8; TJ to the Senate, 11 Jan. 1803, fourth letter).

THEIR APPROBATION: on 3 Mch., the last day of the session, the Senate voted 15 to 7 to postpone “the election of a Secretary, and the other officers of the Senate,” thus continuing Otis in office (JS, 3:286-7).

For Otis’s appointment as bankruptcy COMMISSIONER, see Memorandum on Appointments, 6 July 1802. TJ decided to appoint Edward Jones in place of Otis to fill up the slate of commissioners for Boston (Vol. 39: Appendix 1).

<sup>1</sup>MS: “confidence.”

## From Louis André Pichon

G. Town 4th. March.

Mr. Pichon with his respects incloses herewith the Passport which the President of the United States did him the honor to ask and returns The Passport of Mr Thornton which had been communicated as a model.

RC (DLC); endorsed by TJ as received 4 Mch. and “passport” and so recorded in SJJL. Enclosures: (1) Safe conduct pass, 1 Mch., in French, signed by Pichon, asking civil officials, military and naval officers, and citizens of the French Republic to give protection and aid to Meriwether Lewis and his traveling party, who under the authority of the president of the United States are undertaking a journey of discovery to explore the Missouri River and the western parts of North America; the purpose of the expedition is scientific only, and the party is carrying no more goods than are needed to secure the good will of Indians along the route (Jackson, *Lewis and Clark*, 1:20). (2) Safe conduct pass, 28 Feb., by Edward Thornton as British chargé d’affaires, asking British superintendents of Indian affairs and British subjects engaged in trade with the Indians to allow Lewis’s party to pass, to give them aid and protection, and to advance the objects of their mission; the document seen by Pichon was evidently dated 1 Mch. (same, 19-20, 23).

DID HIM THE HONOR TO ASK: in a dispatch to Talleyrand dated 4 Mch., Pichon reported that in a conversation at the President’s House the previous day, TJ had used a copy of Aaron Arrowsmith’s 1802 map of North America to show him Lewis’s expected route of travel. For some

time, Pichon indicated, the president had hoped that an exploration of the upper Missouri River and the country beyond it would locate the headwaters of the Columbia River. Pichon explained to Talleyrand that while the expedition was for the advancement of science, TJ had to justify his request to Congress for an appropriation on the grounds of promoting trade. When TJ asked him to furnish a passport for Lewis, Pichon inquired if Carlos Martínez de Irujo would be granting such a document on behalf of Spain. TJ replied that Irujo was obliged to do so (in recounting what TJ said, Pichon used the French verb *devoir*). Pichon anticipated that the safe-conduct document he provided might only be needed for the party’s return journey, for TJ told him that the journeyers would have to find some ship on the Pacific Coast to give them passage back to the United States (Jackson, *Lewis and Clark*, 1:22-3; Vol. 32:69n).

TJ also spoke to Edward THORNTON about the prospective exploration, outlining the plan in terms very similar to what he said to Pichon. The president, Thornton wrote to Lord Hawkesbury from Philadelphia on 9 Mch., had contemplated such an expedition “for some years past.” He was eager to see it through, believed Thornton, as a means of “distinguishing his Presidency by a discovery,

4 MARCH 1803

now the only one left to his enterprize.” The transfer of Louisiana to French control had apparently “accelerated the determination of the President, as he thinks

it certain that on their arrival they will instantly set on foot enterprizes of a similar nature” (Jackson, *Lewis and Clark*, 1:25-7).

## To Edward Savage

SIR

Washington Mar. 4. 1803.

Your favor of Feb. 7. is recieved. you mention having enclosed in it one of your proposals for publishing the print of the Declaration of Independence, but none came. I sent to the door keepers of Congress to know if they could inform me of the terms of subscription, but they could not. I shall be glad to become a subscriber, & will comply with the terms whenever made known to me. Accept my best wishes & respects.

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (DLC); at foot of text: “Mr. Savage”; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso.

DOOR KEEPERS OF CONGRESS: Thomas Claxton for the House of Representatives and James Mathers for the Senate (*Biog. Dir. Cong.*).

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Savage’s print of the “Signing of the Declaration

of American Independence,” sold for \$7 by advance subscription, \$8 by regular subscription, \$10 for nonsubscribers, and \$12 for proofs. According to an advertisement, the print would be available for delivery within 18 months (*New York Morning Chronicle*, 26 Feb. 1803; Vol. 1:lviii, 415 [illus.]).

## From Robert Smith

SIR,

[4 Mch. 1803]

The Enclosed is submitted to your Consideration—I will have some Conversation with you upon the Subject in the Course of a few days—

Your Humbl Ser

RT SMITH

RC (DLC); undated; endorsed by TJ as received from the Navy Department on 4 Mch. 1803 and so recorded in SJL with notation “Tingey”; also endorsed by TJ: “Tingey’s applicn for advanced

allowance.” Enclosure: probably Thomas Tingey to Smith, 1 Mch. 1803 (not found, but see Enclosure No. 1 listed at Smith to TJ, 12 Mch. 1803).

## From Robert Smith

Nav: Dep:

4th. March 1803

SIR!

I have the honor to enclose Eight blank Commissions, & Twelve Warrants—to which I request your signature.

The Commissions are wanted for the Lieutenants lately appointed—and the Warrants will, it is presumed, be wanted during your absence—for Midshipmen & other Warrant Officers.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect & esteem, Sir, yr  
mo ob Sr  
RT SMITH

RC (DLC); in a clerk's hand, signed by Smith; at foot of text: "President U:States"; endorsed by TJ as received from the Navy Department on 4 Mch. and "commissions & warrants" and so recorded in SJL. FC (Lb in DNA: RG 45, LSP).

For the LIEUTENANTS LATELY APPOINTED to the navy, see Smith to TJ, 28 Feb. and TJ to the Senate, 1 Mch.

## To Hore Browse Trist

DEAR SIR

Washington Mar. 4. 1803.

Doctr. Carmichael, the Collector at Fort Adams, having absented himself from his post great part of a year, and never yet returned a single account, which calls for an immediate removal under a general rule, he is accordingly removed. this place is *at present* believed to be worth more than the Secretaryship of the territory, but from it's *singular* position must in a very short time become the best office in the gift of the US. it has the benefit too of being permanent, whereas that of the Secretary is probably very shortlived, as it will cease whenever the territory advances to another grade of government, which under it's late enlargement of boundary, & opening of a land office, will probably be almost immediately. it leaves a person too more at liberty as to the state of expences he may chuse to adopt. as it became absolutely necessary to decide between these two offices for you, without the opportunity of consulting you, we have undertaken to judge for you as we believe you would have done for yourself, had you been consulted.—Commission will accordingly be sent to you for the Collectorship of Fort Adams, and mr Cato West is appointed Secretary to the territory. there has been some thought of removing the residence of the Collector to Natchez, and appointing at Fort Adams a Surveyor only, but I do not know that it will be done. all the states on

4 MARCH 1803

the Missisipi, the Tennessee, Ohio, & Wabash will be paying their tribute to this office, and doubling it at very short periods. Mr. Gilmer was here lately and informed me your family was well. Dr. Bache I believe has sailed from Philadelphia for New Orleans, leaving mrs Bache behind. our late elections shew a wonderful growth of republicanism. 14. states are with us. we believe N. Hampshire will chuse a republican Govr. (Langdon) this month, and that Connecticut & Massachusetes will have republican legislatures in one year more. Accept assurances of my affectionate esteem & respect, and present my friendly salutations to Govr. Claiborne.

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (DLC); at foot of text: "Mr. Trist"; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso.

For John F. CARMICHAEL, see Vol. 38:255n; Vol. 39: Appendix I.

TJ had earlier suggested that Trist consider the SECRETARYSHIP OF THE TERRITORY, with a salary of \$750 (Vol. 36:389). JUDGE FOR YOU: on 28 Feb., Gallatin wrote TJ noting that the president had to decide whether Trist was best suited for the position of secretary or collector. Trist's COMMISSION as collector for the District of Mississippi, dated 7 Mch., was immediately transmitted to him. He also received a commission, dated 9 Mch., as inspector for the port at

Fort Adams. Trist commenced his duties on 18 May (commissions in DNA: RG 36, New Orleans, LR; Gallatin, *Papers*, 8:735; Gallatin to TJ, 14 Mch.). For Trist's appointment, see also Vol. 39: Appendix I.

MR GILMER: probably Peachy R. Gilmer who married Trist's cousin, Mary House, in September 1803. He was the son of TJ's friend and physician, the late George Gilmer (Richard Beale Davis, *Francis Walker Gilmer: Life and Learning in Jefferson's Virginia* [Richmond, 1939], 364).

John LANGDON did not win the governorship of New Hampshire until 1805, after three unsuccessful tries (ANB).

## From Augustus B. Woodward

Mar. 4. 1803.

The senate having struck out the provision I contemplated in my late observations to the president, prevents any further attention to that point at this time. It is an object, which, for reasons that are obvious, interests me much; and I will be happy in the presidents retaining a recollection of it.

A. B. WOODWARD

RC (DNA: RG 59, LAR); addressed: "The president of the united states"; endorsed by TJ as received 4 Mch. and "his father Collectr. Washn." and so recorded in SJL.

PROVISION I CONTEMPLATED: the House, on 24 Feb., amended the bill on new collection districts adding Washing-

ton, D.C., to the proposed ports of entry and delivery. The title of the bill as passed by the House and sent to the Senate on 25 Feb. began, "An act to make Beaufort, the City of Washington, and Passamaquoddy, ports of entry and delivery." On 26 Feb., the Senate referred the bill to Robert Wright, Dwight Foster, and Stevens Thomson Mason. Wright

4 MARCH 1803

reported the bill with amendments on 28 Feb. The next day the Senate adopted the amendments and on 2 Mch. passed the bill and sent it back to the House. The amended bill, agreed to by the House, did not include Washington as a new collection district (U.S. Statutes at Large,

2:228-9; JHR, 4:365, 366, 382, 384, 387; JS, 3:273, 274, 276, 280, 282). LATE OBSERVATIONS: Woodward evidently recommended John Woodward, his father, as collector at Washington (see TJ's endorsement above; Vol. 33:212n).

## To Isaac Briggs

DEAR SIR

Washington Mar. 5. 1803.

I have something to propose to you much to your advantage: but it is necessary I should see you; & as I leave this the day after tomorrow, I have only tomorrow for an interview. I send the bearer express, to see if you could come here tomorrow (Sunday) Accept my best wishes.

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (DLC); at foot of text: "Mr. Isaac Briggs"; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso.

SOMETHING TO PROPOSE: TJ offered Briggs the position of surveyor of Mississippi Territory. According to the 3 Mch. act for disposition of lands south of Tennessee, the surveyor was to supervise the

laying out of lands previously owned by Indian tribes into townships and half sections in a manner similar to that used to survey the Northwest Territory. The statute authorized a salary of \$1,500 for the position (U.S. Statutes at Large, 2: 233-4; Gallatin to TJ, 21 Mch.; TJ to Wilson Cary Nicholas, 22 Apr.).

## From William Hylton

SIR!

Savana' la mar Jamaica 5 March 1803.

Sensible how much it is your Excellencies desire, as president of the United States of America, to maintain Harmony; and a reciprocity of Interests, between *Your* and the British Nation; upon a just Understanding—I do not hesitate, to take the liberty of communicating *directly* to your Excellency, an occurrence, which however trivial in *itself*, has produced a difficulty; which left unexplained—may interrupt it!

The valuable Ship Alknomac, trading to this place from New York, and owned by Louis Simond Esqr. of that City, had taken on board, *part* of Thirty hogsheads of *Molasses*, intended to be shipped by me on her—when Mr. James Brown the Collector at this port, forbid the master (Capt. John Gore) from proceeding; and threatened "to seize his Ship and her Cargo, of near four hundred punchions of Rum, unless the molasses was *immediately* Debarked"—allegding, "that it was *Syrup*—because, an advertisement in the newspaper, offering *molasses*

5 MARCH 1803

ses for Sale, by the name of ‘*Syrup*’ to give it a currency, had lately appeared!”

I endeavoured to explain away the objection, by shewing—the Definition given, by every English author of the word, *Molasses*—was, *the general Term for an article made, or produced, from the Raw material, without any Lixivium to Granulate it!* and was *that*, which the Act of Parliament *enumerated* and permitted, to be shipped in American Bottoms—that *Syrup*, was *Sugar*, diluted and boiled up with *Water*!

Finding these expostulations *ineffectual* I caused the molasses to be relanded; and at the moment of the posts departure, hastily wrote a Letter to the Attorney General of this Island, of which the inclosed is a Copy.

Mr. Simonds intercourse with this Country is very extensive; and may be, if necessary, explained by himself.

Subjects or Citizens of either nation, may be greatly injured, if not Ruined; *by the Decoy* of a word, if uninformed Customhouse officers, *are* permitted to give their own pervert Construction to it; And I humbly submit this Information to your Excellency, how far you may see it, a *point*, for the Interests of both Nations, to have promptly explained.

As it may be important that no time should be lost—I have presumed, to transmit a Copy of this notification to his Excellency Rufus King Esqr. at the Court of London—for whatever may be the result of the Atty Genl. opinion—I do not conceive the most learned Legal Character, competent to define the *local* Term in question.

If in obeying *emotions*, from consideration for the general good, I have committed obtrusion, I trust your Excellency will do me the justice to impute it to the Zeal I have for the existing intercourse between the Countries.

With very high Respect, I have the Honor to be Your Excellency’s  
Very Obedt. and most humble servant

WM. HYLTON.

RC (DLC); at foot of text: “His Excellency Thomas Jefferson Esqr. President &c. &c. of The United States of America Washington”; endorsed by TJ as received [8 Apr.] and so recorded in SJL. Enclosure: Hylton to William Ross, “Savana la mar,” 1 Mch. 1803, regarding refusal of customs officers to allow shipment of Hylton’s molasses “or Syrup boiled from *bad* or *tainted* Canes”; he argues that the attorney general will find that “it is usual and customary with

Planters, when there is a taint in the *Liquor*, to send it to the molasses Cistern” and that he determined to divert his cane because much of it had been damaged by drought; the customs officials will not clear the shipment until they receive Ross’s opinion; Hylton trusts that the proper definition of molasses “will not be left to the construction of every busy or envious man who takes in his head, the *Invidious* part of *Informer* to the Custom house officers” (Tr in same).

## To George Jefferson

DEAR SIR

Washington Mar. 5th. 1803

In my letter of Feb 28 I informed you I had drawn on you in favor of Craven Peyton for a thousand dollars payable the 10th. instant, and that that sum should be remitted you from hence on this day. accordingly I now inclose you 18. bills of 50. D cash, and one of 100. making the sum of 1000. D branch bank of this place.

About the beginning of October, I left a box of [. . .] at Monticello to be forwarded to my address here. I believe 3. other boxes, containing busts belonging to Dr. Thornton & addressed either to him or me, [were] joined with mine. they have never been heard of. I have had enquiry made at home, & the information [is] that they were forwarded to you by the boats. do you know any thing of them? be so good as to address the answer to me at Monticello where I shall be from the 11th. to the 28th. Accept assurances of my constant attachment.

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (MHi); faint and blurred; at foot of text: "Mr George Jefferson"; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso. Recorded in SJL with notation "1000. D." Enclosures not found, but see below.

used in the transaction, and TJ recorded the payment to Gibson & Jefferson in his financial memoranda (MS in MHi, in Barnes's hand, endorsed by TJ on verso: "Jefferson & Gibson. bills sent them Mar. 5. 1803"; MB, 2:1093).

On the previous day, John Barnes sent TJ an itemized list of the bank BILLS

## To Daniel Carroll Brent

DEAR SIR

Washington Mar. 6. 1803

Mr. Scott, writer of the inclosed, is engaged in the life of Genl. Washington. it is not in my power to answer the questions he asks relative to his family, and I suppose the family would not do it *for him*, because Marshal's is to be their favorite history. I have thought it possible that your knolege of the family, and your means of making the enquiries, would enable you to procure for me answers to be sent to mr Scott, for which I should be thankful.

Will you be so good as to inform me of the case of Pickering, writer of the inclosed letters, on my return? Accept assurances of my great esteem & respect.

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (DLC); at foot of text: "Daniel C. Brent esq."; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso. Enclosures: (1) Joseph T. Scott to TJ, 25 Feb. 1803, recorded in SJL as

received from Philadelphia on 5 Mch. but not found (see TJ to Scott, 6 Mch.). (2) William Pickering to TJ, undated, recorded in SJL as received 24 Jan. 1803

6 MARCH 1803

and "jail, pardon" but not found. (3) Pickering to TJ, 6 Mch., recorded in SJL as received 5 Mch. and "jail" but not found.

CASE OF PICKERING: during its March 1802 term, the U.S. Circuit Court of the District of Columbia found William Pickering guilty of knowingly receiving stolen property and sentenced him to three stripes and a fine of \$10. In a written statement dated 12 Apr. 1803, U.S. attorney John Thomson Mason declared that Pickering was undoubtedly guilty and that the only circumstance "calcu-

lated to excite compassion" in Pickering's favor was his recent marriage to "a young woman of very respectable deportment & connections." Mason added, however, that Pickering had already suffered a long imprisonment, "during which time he has been very much diseased" (MS in DNA: RG 59, GPR; notation by TJ at foot of text, dated 21 Apr. 1803: "A pardon to be issued. Th: Jefferson"). TJ pardoned Pickering of his corporal punishment, fine, and court costs on 22 Apr. (FC in Lb in same).

## From Andrew Ellicott

DEAR SIR

Lancaster March 6th. 1803.

Your agreeable favour of the 26th. Ult has been duly received, and the contents noted.—I shall be very happy to see Captn. Lewis, and will with pleasure give him all the information, and instruction, in my power.—The necessary apparatus for his intended, and very interesting expedition, you will find mentioned in the last paragraph of the 42d. page of my printed observations made in our southern country, a copy of which I left with you.—But exclusive of the watch, I would recommend one of Arnolds chronometers, (if it could be had,) for reasons which I will fully explain to Mr. Lewis.—

Mr. Lewis's first object must be, to acquire a facility, and dexterity, in making the observations; which can only be attained by practice; in this he shall have all the assistance I can give him with aid of my apparatus.—It is not to be expected that the calculations can be made till after his return, because the transportation of the books, and tables, necessary for that purpose, would be found inconvenient on such a journey.—The observations on which Arrowsmith has constructed his map of the northern part of this country, were all calculated in England.

The week before last I adapted a grid-iron pendulum to my regulator, it is the first ever made in this country, and was the work of six sundays, the duties of my office not allowing any other time:—the rods, and bob of this pendulum together, weigh 18 pounds.—

I had a midling good observation on the beginning of the eclipse of the sun on the evening of the 21st. of last month.

I am in hopes Mr. Madison forwarded my observations to the national institute by Mr. Munroe.—Those on the 4th. satellite of Jupiter, have been lately written for by both la Lande, and Delambre.

6 MARCH 1803

I have the honour to be with great respect and esteem your friend  
and hbl. Serv. ANDW. ELLICOTT.

RC (DLC); at foot of text: "Thomas Jefferson President U.S."; endorsed by TJ as received 18 Mch. and so recorded in SJL. PrC (DLC: Ellicott Papers).

FAVOUR OF THE 26TH: a letter from TJ to Ellicott of 26 Feb. is recorded in SJL but has not been found.

Astronomical observations that Ellicott made during the survey of the SOUTHERN boundary of the United States appeared in the *Transactions* of the American Philosophical Society in 1802 and as an appendix to his *Journal* of the survey published in 1803. With reference to a set of his lunar sightings on the Gulf Coast to calculate longitude, Ellicott made these recommendations about apparatus: "From this example it may be seen with what ease, both the latitudes, and longitudes of places may be determined on land for common geographical purposes with a good sextant, a well made watch with seconds, and the artificial horizon, the whole of which may be packed up in a box of 12 inches in length, 8 in width, and 4 in depth" (*The Journal of Andrew Ellicott, Late Commissioner on Behalf of the United States ... for Determining the Boundary between the United States and the Possessions of His Catholic Majesty in America* [Philadelphia, 1803], appendix, 42; APS, *Transactions*, 5 [1802], 202).

ARNOLDS CHRONOMETERS: for observations to find longitude, Ellicott recommended timepieces produced in England from John Arnold's design (Vol. 34:118, 119, 120n).

CALCULATIONS: Ellicott and Robert Patterson used a lunar distances method

for finding longitude on land. They taught Meriwether Lewis how to measure the angular separation between the moon and the sun or another celestial body and to make multiple observations of the sun's altitude each day. They did not expect him, however, to make the laborious mathematical calculations that their technique required for the computation of longitude from the observational data. In his orders for the western expedition drafted in April, TJ instructed Lewis to make careful observations, record the results accurately, and bring the information back to the War Department, which would have the responsibility of finding "proper persons" to make the lengthy computations (Richard S. Preston, "The Accuracy of the Astronomical Observations of Lewis and Clark," APS, *Proceedings*, 144 [2000], 168-91; Patterson to TJ, 15 Mch.; Document IV of the group of documents on drafting instructions for Lewis, at 13 Apr.).

Ellicott shared his information about the timing of the 21 Feb. ECLIPSE OF THE SUN with his acquaintance José Joaquín Ferrer y Cafranga, who had observed the eclipse in Havana, Cuba. Ferrer used the two sets of figures to calculate the longitude of Ellicott's location in Lancaster, Pennsylvania (APS, *Transactions*, 6 [1809], 158-64; Vol. 36:485).

During the survey of the boundary with Spain, Ellicott collected data on the disappearance and reappearance of moons of JUPITER to determine longitude. A few of those observations were of the planet's fourth moon (APS, *Transactions*, 5 [1802], 188-9, 191).

## To Benjamin H. Latrobe

SIR

Washington Mar. 6. 1803.

Congress have appropriated a sum of money (50,000. D) to be applied to the public buildings under my direction. this falls of course under the immediate business of the Superintendent, mr Monroe, whose office is substituted for that of the board of Commissioners.

6 MARCH 1803

the former post of Surveyor of the public buildings, which mr Hoben held till the dissolution of the board at 1700. Doll. a year will be received. if you chuse to accept of it, you will be appointed to it, and would be expected to come on by the 1st. of April. indeed if you could make a flying trip here to set contractors to work immediately in raising freestone, it would be extremely important, because it is now late to have to engage labourers, and the quantity of freestone which can be raised, delivered & cut, in the season is the only thing which will limit the extent of our operations this year. I set out tomorrow for Monticello & shall be absent 3. weeks, but I shall be glad to receive there your answer to this. Accept my friendly salutations & respects.

TH: JEFFERSON

P.S. on the raising of the freestone be pleased to consult Colo. D. C. Brent, who can give you better information & advice on the subject than any other person whatever, having been much concerned in the business himself.

RC (MdHi); signature clipped; at foot of text: "H. B. Latrobe esq." PrC (DLC); includes signature. Enclosure: TJ's letter of the same day to Latrobe.

The recently passed act "concerning the City of Washington" did not specify a SURVEYOR OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS,

but the legislation made all repairs and alterations of the buildings subject to the president's discretion (U.S. Statutes at Large, 2:235-6).

As he predicted, TJ left Washington the following day for MONTICELLO, where he stayed from 11 to 31 Mch. (MB, 2:1094, 1096).

## To Benjamin H. Latrobe

DEAR SIR

Washington Mar. 6. 1803.

The letter in which this is inclosed being a public one, and to be produced whenever necessary as a voucher, I have thought it would be useful to add a word in one of a private & friendly nature. from the sum of 50,000 D. we shall take between 5, & 10,000. for covering the North wing of the Capitol & the President's house. the residue of 40. to 45,000. D. will be employed in building the South wing as far as it will go. I think it will raise the external walls to the uppermost window-sills, being those of the entresols; and I have no doubt Congress at their next session will give another 50,000. D. which will compleat that wing inside & out in the year 1804. before that period the repairs of their frigates will become so threatening that I have no doubt they will come into the proposition of the dry dock to rescue themselves from heavier calls. I mention these things to shew you the probability of a pretty steady employment of a person of your character

6 MARCH 1803

here, tho' the present job has the appearance of being for the present season only, say of 8. or 9. months; and that your being in possession of the post will put all other competitors out of the question. should you think proper to undertake it, if you come here on a flying trip as suggested in my other letter, you can advise with mr Monroe, who will set into motion whatever you may desire; and if you can be here finally the first week in April, you will then find me here, & every thing may be put under full sail for the season. Accept my best wishes & respects.

TH: JEFFERSON

P.S. I think a great quantity of sheet iron will be wanting.

RC (MdHi). PrC (DLC); endorsed by TJ in ink on verso. Enclosed in TJ's letter of the same day to Latrobe.

Congressional negotiations over the funding of the public buildings were based upon an estimate of \$40,000 for construction of the Capitol's south wing, but testimony characterizing the roofs of the NORTH WING and President's House

as "so leaky as to threaten both edifices with ruin" encouraged the appropriation of an additional \$10,000. Having decided to reroof Monticello with SHEET IRON, TJ seems to have also urged its adoption for the public buildings (*Annals*, 12:608; Seale, *The President's House*, 1:115-7; Latrobe, *Correspondence*, 1:325; TJ to James Dinsmore, 3 Jan.).

## To Joseph T. Scott

SIR

Washington Mar. 6. 1803.

I recieved yesterday your favor of Feb. 25. it is not in my power to answer your queries relative to Genl. Washington's family: but I have put your letter into the hands of Colo. Danl. C. Brent, who will be able to give me the information either of his own knolege or from enquiry which he has good means of making, & shall be forwarded to you. Accept assurances of my esteem & respect.

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (DLC); at foot of text: "Mr. Joseph Scott Philada"; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso.

Scott's FAVOR OF FEB. 25 was recorded in SJL as received 5 Mch. but has not been found. See also TJ to Daniel Carroll Brent, 6 Mch.

Scott's QUERIES concerned a projected biography of George Washington, which

he had proposed publishing as early as December 1799. In seeking out subscribers, Scott claimed to have "obtained in the course of an extensive correspondence, with many gentlemen of talents and information, a large stock of original materials concerning the life of this illustrious Citizen" (*Aurora*, 28 Dec. 1799).