

# THE PAPERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON



To James Barbour

DEAR SIR

Monticello Jan. 19. 17.

Your favor of the 9<sup>th</sup> is recieved by our last mail. I have been very long and intimately acquainted with Col<sup>o</sup> Trumbull, have had the best opportunities of knowing him thoroughly, and can therefore bear witness of my own knolege to his high degree of worth as a man. for his merit as a painter I can quote higher authorities, and assure you that on the continent of Europe, when I was there, he was considered as superior to West. Baron Grimm, who was the oracle of taste at Paris, in sculpture, painting and the other fine arts generally, gave him the decided preference, and came often to my house in Paris, while Col<sup>o</sup> Trumbull was with me, to see his paintings. I pretend not to be a Connoisseur in the art myself, but comparing him with others of that day I thought him superior to any historical painter of the time except David: it is in the historical line only that I am acquainted with his painting. in England West was preferred by the king, to whom all others followed suit. the subjects on which Col<sup>o</sup> Trumbull has employed his pencil are honorable to us, and it would be extremely desirable that they should be retained in this country as monuments of the taste, as well as of the great revolutionary scenes of our country.

You know how averse I am to be quoted on any occasion. yet as far as my testimony to Col<sup>o</sup> Trumbull's worth & talent can be of any avail, by using it in private circles, you are entirely free to do so, as a just tribute to truth and worth. Accept my friendly and respectful salutations

TH: JEFFERSON

RC (NN: Barbour Papers); addressed: "The honble James Barbour of the Senate of the US. now at Washington"; franked; postmarked Milton, 22 Jan. PoC (DLC);

on recto of reused address cover of John Payne Todd to TJ, 19 Sept. 1816; endorsed by TJ.

## To Thomas T. Barr

SIR

Monticello Jan. 19. 17.

I am very sensible of the honor done me by the Kentucky Agricultural society, in appointing me one of their honorary members. distance will be one great obstacle to my being of use to them; but a much greater and growing one will be the increasing torpor of age, now sensibly felt in body and mind. should any occasion arise however in which I can serve their institution, I shall do it with all the zeal which this mark of their kind attention entitles them to expect. in praying you to become the channel of my acknowledgements to them, I beg leave to assure you of my high respect and consideration for yourself.

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (DLC); on verso of reused address cover to TJ; at foot of text: "M<sup>r</sup> Thomas T. Barr"; endorsed by TJ.

## To David Hosack

Monticello Jan. 19. 17.

I thank you, Sir, for the books you have been so kind as to send me. they will afford me amusement as well as instruction. from a general view I have taken of Thomas's work, it appears, with your aid, to be valuable for family use. without science in Medecine, I am yet fond of it's philosophical speculations. with these I observe your Medical Register<sup>1</sup> mingles disquisitions in all it's kindred branches of knolege. I am the more gratified in executing the duty of rendering you my thanks by the occasion it affords me of expressing my sense of your eminence in useful science and of assuring you of my high respect and consideration.

TH: JEFFERSON

RC (PBm); fragment consisting of lower half of a single sheet, with missing text supplied from PoC; at foot of text: "D<sup>r</sup> Hosack." PoC (DLC); on verso of reused address cover of John Prout to TJ, 17 Nov. 1816; endorsed by TJ.

Hosack supplied an appendix to Robert THOMAS'S WORK, *The Modern Practice of Physic, exhibiting the Characters, Causes, Symptoms, Prognostics, Morbid Appearances, and Improved Method of Treating the Diseases of all Climates* (4th Ameri-

can ed. from 5th London ed.; New York, 1817; Poor, *Jefferson's Library*, 5 [no. 184]; TJ's copy in ViU, inscribed "Thomas Jefferson Esq<sup>r</sup> with the respects of the Editor D Hosack New york Dec<sup>r</sup> 1816"). Hosack's MEDICAL journal was the *American Medical and Philosophical Register: or, Annals of Medicine, Natural History, Agriculture, and the Arts*, 4 vols. (1811-14; Poor, *Jefferson's Library*, 5 [no. 190]).

<sup>1</sup>Recoverable text in RC begins with this word.

## To Hezekiah Niles

SIR

Monticello Jan. 19. 17.

Accept my thanks for the specimen you have been so kind as to send me of the new preparation of mucilaginous substances for clarifying liquors. it is in the neatness of the manner of preparation, and equality of distribution on catgut, I suppose, that what there is of invention in it consists; as the clarifying powers of the mucilages, animal and vegetable, have been always known.

I am sorry it is not in my power to assist you with any thi[ng] towards the collection of revolutionary speeches proposed by your correspondent in the Register [of] Nov. 23. I did not even know of the existence in print of thos[e h]e mentions. if I ever possessed any they have all gone with my li[b]rary to Congress, and my memory does not enable me even to ref[er] to them. if such a collection can be made to any extent, there can be no doubt of it's value; but where the materials are to be f[ou]nd I am entirely ignorant. Accept my friendly and re[s]pectful salutations

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (DLC); on verso of reused address cover to TJ; edge chipped; torn at crease; at foot of text: "M<sup>r</sup> Niles"; endorsed by TJ.

For the COLLECTION OF REVOLUTIONARY SPEECHES, see Niles to TJ, 23 Dec. 1816.

## From Craven Peyton

D. SIR.

Monteagle Jany. 20. 17.

Nothing shall prevent my attending in Milton the day aftar tomorrow agreeable to Your request. please send John Hendersons—quit Claim to refresh my Memory—with great Esteem

C. PEYTON

RC (MHi); addressed: "Thomas Jefferson Esqre Monticello" by "Boy"; endorsed by TJ as received 20 Jan. 1817 and so recorded in SJL.

For the QUIT CLAIM, see TJ to Peyton, 30 Dec. 1816, and note. A letter of 20 Jan. 1817 from TJ to Peyton, not found, is recorded in SJL with the additional notation: "Peyton Craven (no copy) to attend arbitrn."

## From Horatio G. Spafford

ESTEEMED FRIEND—

Albany, 1 Mo. 21, 1817.

I am obliged by thy kind attention. Thy Letter of Dec. 20, was duly received, & I shall avail myself of the Suggestion contained in it.

By this day's Mail, I Send No. 9 of the Magazine, with the conclusion of the Essay of 'Franklin,' to which I invite thy particular attention.

21 JANUARY 1817

Looking over Some old Papers, I have, just now, accidentally taken up the Letter enclosed, which I Send for thy perusal. The writer is a Doctor of Divinity, & was lately President of the University of Vermont. For the opinions that Franklin advances concerning the Clergy, he has ample evidences that they are not too Severe. Shouldst thou think it can answer any good purpose, or even gratify a little curiosity, please Send the enclosed to President Madison, for perusal, & request him to transmit the original to me. I should be quite unwilling to lose this.<sup>1</sup> Concerning the School, & the Patent System of Franklin, I am very anxious to get thy opinion. It is the same Essay, (with some additions,) that I sent thee in M.S.—I have an invention, which I dare not entrust to the guardianship of our present Patent department, or the laws of the Patent System, which would be worth 1 million per Annum, to the United States. This is the cause of my great anxiety on this subject—& I despair of ever living to see it legally patronised in these States:—& still I feel anxious to cherish some hopes! Should not Congress do something for the benefit of Inventors, at the present Session, I expect to seek foreign aid, & appeal to the justice & policy of the Autocrat of all the Russias. I have many reasons for my dislike of the administration of the present Patent System & the conduct of the Patent Officer, which, in due time, I design to state to the public.

With great esteem, thy friend,

H. G. SPAFFORD.

RC (MHi); at foot of text: “Hon. Thomas Jefferson”; endorsed by TJ as received 5 Feb. 1817 and so recorded in SJL.

been from Daniel Clarke Sanders, a Congregational clergyman and educator who had been the first president of the University of Vermont, serving 1800–14 (ANB).

For the ESSAY of ‘FRANKLIN,’ see note to Spafford to TJ, 15 Dec. 1816. The LETTER ENCLOSED, not found, may have

<sup>1</sup>Sentence interlined.

## From William A. Burwell

MY DR SIR

Washington January 22<sup>d</sup> 1817

Colo Waller Taylor Senator from Indiana has requested me to enclose the papers of Mr Graham for your examination; Mr Graham he informs me is very respectable & attaches considerable importance to the discovery he thinks he has made, But such is the confidence he places in your opinion that it will be abandon’d upon a suggestion from you—I am aware that this will give you trouble, but to gratify a worthy, man, to arrest his labors if useless or stimulate them if useful will be sufficient motives to encounter it;

[ 6 ]

23 JANUARY 1817

please remember me to the family and accept yourself my Sincere wishes for your happiness  
W. A BURWELL

RC (DLC); addressed: "Thomas Jefferson Esquire Milton Virginia"; endorsed by TJ as received 5 Feb. 1817 and so recorded in SJL. Enclosures not found.

## From Thomas Humphreys

SIR,

Lynchburg 2 [ca. 23] January 1817

The unbounded expansion of your mind, leaves me no doubt, of an excuse being extended, for the unpresidented Liberty, I have here taken, in addressing to you, the subject matter embraced in the Envelope.

In submitting to a gentleman of your eminently high, & Commanding Station, in the literary world, together with your vast, & extensive experience in life; the enclosed plan; having for its object; the Libration from chains of slavery, (& permit me to add too,) and the princely settlement, of upwards of a million of the Human Race: I derive a satisfaction, far beyond the power of language to express. The plan is vast, it is worthy of such a great free, and magnanimous People, as constitute the great American republic;

The enjoyment of 20 years peace, & prosperity, would completely repay, & refund the Government; the money expended; in the purchasing, transportation, & settling of the Coloured People.

The principle number of the Male slaves; Understand Farming, & Planting; Or are well versant, in the various mechanical branches of business.

Many also of the females; having been brought up in genteel families, would prove greatly instrumental, in producing industry, Taste, & neatness; & in manufacturing, & making, a vast deal of their necessary clothing.

This republic of coloured people; would be greatly instrumental, in civilizing & planting the christian religion, as also the principles of Liberty, & independence; in that degraded Country of Africa: and Again, If they exercised the principles; that would be put within their grasp; they would with the advantages, & experience they possess; in 50 years, be in as high a national state of advancement; as many of the nations of the Earth, have arrived at, in the space of 200 years.

Whether you will approve of the principle, embraced in the enclosed statement: Or out of the vast & inexhaustible store, of your own expanded mind; produced a plan; vastly superior: nothing would have

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so great a tendency to ensure its adoption, as your personal recommendation of it, to Congress; & to the assemblies of the several slave states. At the request of M<sup>r</sup> John Kerr, member of congress from this district, I lately forwarded him a copy of the Enclosed: & also one to M<sup>r</sup> William J Lewis, & Christopher Anthony, the present delagates, from the County of Campbell to the General Assembly of Virginia.

A few lines embracing your sentiments, of this momentuous subject, when your convenience will admit, will be considered a very great favor conferred on me.

With Sentiments of Respect & Esteem I Remain

THOMAS HUMPHREYS—

RC (DLC: TJ Papers, 209:37223); misdated, with correct date conjectured from second date on enclosure; composed in two sittings, with some revisions and signature in a different ink; between date-line and salutation: "The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Thomas Jefferson"; endorsed by TJ as a letter of 2 Jan. 1817 received 5 Feb. 1817 and so recorded in SJL. RC (DLC); address cover only; with PoC of TJ to Humphreys, 8 Feb. 1817, on verso; addressed (torn): "The Hon<sup>ble</sup> [...]"; postmarked Lynchburg, 1 Feb.

Thomas Humphreys (ca. 1748–1825), druggist and physician, opened his Lynchburg shop in 1789. He served variously

thereafter as a justice of the peace, magistrate, and sheriff for Campbell County (Campbell Co. Order Book, 3:206, 10:1, and in vol. 7 preceding p. 1; *MB*, 2:1340; Margaret Anthony Cabell, *Sketches and Recollections of Lynchburg by the Oldest Inhabitant (Mrs. Cabell) 1858* [1858; repr. with additional material by Louise A. Blunt, 1974], 298–301; Samuel J. Harrison's Answer to Bill of Complaint in *Scott v. Jefferson and Harrison*, [by 1 Aug. 1812]; *Lynchburg Press*, 4 Apr. 1817; *JHD* [1823–24 sess.], 99 [1 Jan. 1824]; Lynchburg Hustings and Corporation Court Will Book, A:179–80, B:235–8; Lynchburg *Virginian*, 2 Jan. 1826).

ENCLOSURE

Thomas Humphreys's Plan for  
Emancipating and Colonizing American Slaves,  
with his Note to Thomas Jefferson

Lynchburg 1<sup>st</sup> January 1817

The following plan, for emancipating the whole Race of the people of Colour, from United America: Is respectfully submitted, to the honorable the House of Representatives, of the United States; for their Consideration:

Of all the extraordinary, and Rare phenomenon, exhibited by any nation on the theatre of existence; that of the southern parts of the United States of America, is most surprising. We observe to our astonishment, an enlightened, and polished people, richly versant in every political, Literary, agricultural, Commercial, Mechanical, and Manufactural improvement, Renowned for their skill in Military, and naval tactics; proudly eminent for their courage, in the Feilds of Fame; and high in Their profession of, and attachments to the most pure, and rational republican principles. The guarantee of genuine

Liberty, equality, and the rights of Man. Retaining Confined in Chains of abject slavery, in the very bosom of their Country; 1,000,000 of their unfortunate African Brethren; many of whom, or their forefathers, were dragged from their native Shores, in the fetters of despotism, and Tyrannically traded, and traficed for, like the beasts of the Feild; and what renders the continuation of this degrading principle the more unaccountable to Mankind, is, its being at direct War, with the Bill of Rights, or charter of Liberty; and Independence, of the several states that permit it, and in immediate opposition, to the Fundamental principles of the Government:

When we contemplate, the United States of America, in the high and commanding station they at present occupy, in the existing scale of nations; Basking themselves, in the full meridian Blaze of Liberty, and Independence;<sup>1</sup> we are obliged to turn away from the horrid scene of Cruelty and Injustice before us; can it be possible, that any of us, in this degraded part of the country, can have the assumptive effrontery, to boast, and talk about our patriotism, our republicanism, about Liberty equality, Rights of Man, Independence &c &c: and not blush; and what relation do we stand in, with respect to candour and truth, we must know, that we are political hypocrites, and greater Tyrants, than the Dey of Algiers, Tripoly, or any other eastern Despote.

The effects which slavery has, on the Morals, the Manners, the virtue, the Industry, and Economy, of the Inhabitants of the Country, in which it is tolerated; merits the highest consideration; But to do Justice to this subject, would require a volume, in which, to discuss it; suffice it for the present, merely to state, that in those states and parts of the country, where there are no slaves, the Inhabitants are generally more virtuous, more sober, more industrious & more attentive to their professional pursuits; have in general, a greater command of money, are not generally speaking, half so much involved in debt, enjoy a greater share of domestic happiness, and peace of mind. Again were there no slaves in the United States: the proprietors of Lands, and particularly of large Tracks would either lease the said Lands out, to the poorer classes of honest Industrious citizens; or employ them as Labourers: in the one Case, he would receive in compensation by way of Rent; such an amount in produce; or money, as would render him Indepen[d]ent, in his Circumstances: his Lands in place of being worn out, as by the former manner of culture, in the reign of slavery: would be every year improved, & in place of wild uncultivated woods, and old worn out fields, rotten fences &c &c, he would behold a number of valuable, well improved Farms; with good orchards, and Buildings, Spring up on his Estate; on the one hand, and on the Other, he would have the felicity of giving bread, employment, and happiness, to Hundreds of people, and of being conducive to the glory and strength of his country; in being instrumental to the Raising of a Number of usefull citizens, on Lands, which before, were neither to him, nor his Country, of any immediate benefit.—Again should the farmer wish, to Cultivate his Lands, by hired servants in place of leasing the custom would probably be, as in Europe, to pay off the Labourers every saturday night, in this case whatever necesseries of Life, the labourer wanted for his family, if the farmer in whose employ he then was, had the same to dispose of; the Labourer would no doubt, Lay out part of the money, he received, by way of wages, this would be a mutual Convenience to all, and would do away the necessity of Credit;



then would this country enjoy the substance of Independence, and not as at present, the Shadow. —

This situation of the country, would when once known produce vast emigrations of the poorer and industrious Classes of People, from Europe, to the United States and would add to the safety, and strength of the country. —

The people would be generally clear of debt, and the supernumerary productions of the farm, in place of being laid out in the purchase of Slaves, and supporting the same; will be expended in enriching, and aggrandizing Farms; in the hire and support of a virtuous race, of usefull, Labourious Citizen[s?] who will greatly add to the strength and riches of country. —

So much for a preliminary, to the introduction of the main subject of discussion Viz<sup>t</sup> The emancipation, final disposal of; & transportation of the whole race of the Coloured people, from amongst the Citizens of these States.

And in the first place permit the Writer hereof, finally to suggest.

1<sup>st</sup> That the emancipation &<sup>c</sup> of the Coloured people, be made a national Act and to commence on the            day of            , in the year of

2<sup>ed</sup> That one tenth of the whole number of coloured people in the United States; shall be emancipated, and sent off yearly: untill the whole number, bond & free, shall be disposed of, in the Manner, to be hereafter Mentioned.

3<sup>d</sup> That the slaves be brought to a certain seaport Town; to be hereafter named: and there delivered to Commissioners, appointed for the special purpose, of Receiving, (and paying the holders for the same); at a certain given time in each year, as before stated or as soon after, as convenience will admit. —

4<sup>th</sup> That all slaves be valued by disinterested Men, to be appointed by the general Government; from the recommendation of Members of Congress, from each congressional district, a slave of the first grade, to be valued at \$            ; and so in proportion to a child: All the free people of colour, shall also in like manner be sent off, and that in the course of the first, and second years, at furtherest; & shall be paid, each, the sum of \$20. $\frac{00}{100}$  and shall participate in all the Benefits, and emoluments, in transportation, and settlement, as the slaves themselves; also in provision Tools &<sup>c</sup>.

5<sup>th</sup> That six months, previous to the assemblage of the first divission of the coloured people: one of the most healthy situations on the Continent of Africa, shall have been selected out, by Commissioners, appointed for that special purpose, and such a situation, may either be found, Embraced

From 15° to 20° North Latitude  
& from 0° to 15° West Longitude from London  
Or Embraced

From 10° to 23° South Latitude  
& from 15° to 30° East Longitude from London  
Or Embraced

From 12° North Latitude, to 12° South Latitude;  
& from 30°, to 40°, & from that to 50° East Longitude from London,  
Having the equinoctial Line for its centre, and although this is the furthest off, yet it is by far, the most eligible situation, and probably at present the least inhabited

6<sup>thly</sup> That Suitable Shipping, and provissions for the voyage, be provided to transport them to their places of destination, with 1 years provisions for them: 2 Hoes, & 1 ax to each family, also 100 Common Work Horses, with as many plows, and Gear, &<sup>c</sup>, for the whole Decade:<sup>2</sup> accompanied by a Guard



of 1000 Soldiers, with their officers: to protect them from the incursions, & Molestations, of the Natives; as also to preserve Order, enforce obedience to the Law, to be passed for their regulation, by Congress; preserve peace, enforce Industry, and attention to the Culture of the Earth, and the various Mechanic Branches of Business, which may be prosecuted amongst them, either for their own private advantage, or the benefit of their Government, and also to see, that Justice be duly administered: that to each 1000, shall be furnished One Ton of Barr Iron, a sett of Blacksmiths, Carpenters, Coopers, saddlers, & shoemakers, Tools; also the necessary implements, for Manufacturing Flax, and Cotton Cloths; also, all necessary stationary, together with such school, & Religious books, as shall be deemed necessary, both for their instruction, as also the laying the Foundation, of Moral, and religious lives among them,

7<sup>th</sup> That the Commanding officer, shall under the direction of the President of the United States, act as Governor, or President, of the Republic: that he shall have the direction, of the internal regulations of the Establishment; such as surveying, and parcelling out to each family, their respective share of Land, the direction of its culture; The Establishment of a cotton, and flax, or Linen Manufactory, an Iron Foundery, for the purpose of manufacturing such Tools; as are necessary for the Culture of their Farms, Erecting Mills, and other public Buildings, such as a State House, to transact the public Business in, Houses for Public Worship, Academies, and Court Houses, for the administration of Justice; Planning their Towns, and establishing Markets, and distributing rewards, and inflicting punishments; under such regulations, as Congress shall from Time, to Time, point out; That it shall be the Business of the United States, to establish one Large Seminary in the settlement, where all the usefull sciences shall be taught, and that this establishment shall be conducted by 3 able professors<sup>3</sup> Viz<sup>t</sup> One of Divinity, the Mathematicks, and the several Branches of science, thereon dependant; One of Law, One of the Practice of phisic and surgery, in conjunction with 10 Inferior Teachers, whose Salaries are to be paid by the United States;

8<sup>th</sup> That at the end, and expiration of three Years, the whole of the then existing Army of 1000 Men, Except 50 who shall be retained as a Guard to the Governor, shall be sent back to the United States; that a Body of 600 Men of the Blacks, which shall have been previously trained, and armed for that purpose, shall be substituted in their places. That at the expiration of one year after the whole coloured people, shall have arrived at their place of destination, from the United States; which will be about the Eleventh year from the arrival, and settlement of the first division; The President of the United States, shall Transmit to the Governor, the draft of such a Constitution, as from the best Information, of the state of the Coloured Republic, he with the advice of the council of State, Shall Judge, will best suit them; with directions, to lay the same, before a Chosen Body of their principle Men, and if approved of, to put it in Complete Operation.—

That the United States, shall continue to exercise the necessary Sovereignty, in, and over this Colony or republic of Blacks, for the space of 21 years; from the time the 1<sup>st</sup> division, or decade landed in Africa, in which process of time, there may, it is presumable, be established such a constitution, Laws, & Regulations, as will nearly resemble, that of the United States itself. After which all the duties of the United States, shall be considered as

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discharged; Its Governor, Teachers, officers, & Soldiers, shall withdraw; & return to their native Country; & from that time, all further Connection shall cease, except such, as is between Freindly nations, through the Medium of Commerce, and at which time, too, it may be presumed, there will be a sufficient number, of their own colour, completely qualified, to Conduct, preserve, and perpetuate, the happy institution, which may be, by that time, established amongst them.

The whole aggregate amount, necessary to effect the purchase, the Equipment, the transportation, and Establishment of these people, on the coast of Africa; will not exceed \$82,000,000 of dollars, which agreeable to the last Census; will not exceed \$12. each free white person, in the United States.

Thus will the United States be freed, from one of the greatest of all earthly dangers, an Internal Enemy.

Slavery!!! This Blot; on the fairest page, of the Charter of freedom; being thus expunged, by a single Legislative Act: and the once victims of despotic power, not only Liberated, but Settled, supported, & protected, untill they are taught how to Live, be happy, and enjoy that very Liberty, Which they so often, sighed after the possession of; and that too; by their former<sup>4</sup> Masters.

This magnanimous display of Justice, and humanity, in the American people; would be received, with universal bursts of Applause, and Inscribed High on the Majastic Front, of the sacred Temple of Gratitude, by all the Nations of the earth, who should hear of the God like Act.—

Lynchburg 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1817

The Foregoing sentiments on the subject of Emancipation, & Transportation of the whole race of Coloured People, Bond & free, from among the Citizens of the United States of America, is Subjected to the Honorable Thomas Jefferson; former President of the United States; for his Consideration by his Freind

MS (DLC: TJ Papers, 209:37220–2); entirely in Humphreys's hand; edge trimmed.

The LAST CENSUS of 1810 enumerated 5,862,093 free white persons in the United States and its territories, plus 186,446 nonwhite free persons and 1,191,364 slaves. According to these figures, Humphreys's estimated maximum cost of \$82 million for his plan would cost each free white individual nearly \$14. Even if one excludes free blacks from the calculation alto-

gether, the plan allows an average of just under \$69 for the purchase, transportation, and equipment of each slave (*Aggregate amount of each description of Persons within the United States of America, and the Territories thereof, agreeably to actual enumeration made according to law, in the year 1810* [Washington, 1811]).

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

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

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

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

## To William Duane

DEAR SIR

Monticello Jan. 24. 17.

I am sincerely concerned and mortified at the failure of the remittance I had supposed made to you as long ago as March last. I received an account signed 'John B. Smyth for W<sup>m</sup> Duane' in Feb. consisting of 2 articles to wit the translation 60.D. a year's subscription for the Aurora to become due May 1<sup>st</sup> 16. and on the 18<sup>th</sup> of Mar. I desired my correspondents Gibson & Jefferson of Richmond to remit you 65.D. and never doubted it had been done until the receipt of your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. it must have been accidentally overlooked by them, as it is the first omission of the kind on their part which has happened in the course of a 20. years correspondence. however in a great mass of business, such things must sometimes happen. to avoid delay & the possibility of another failure I have thought it best to make the remittance to yourself directly in bills of a Richmond bank which I understand are negociable with you without loss. however if there be any loss, place it to my debit. to the former account of 65.D. I add for the present year ending May 1. 17. and therefore inclose 70.D. as transmissions of money by post sometimes fail, a line of information that it is recieved will put my mind at rest.

A great decay of bodily powers has not been without effect on the mind also, which is become sensibly sluggish, averse to the labors of the writing table, and almost incurious and insouciant as to the affairs of the world. I have scarcely the curiosity to read the newspapers, and resign myself willingly to the care of those on whom that trust has devolved in the due course of nature. I salute you with continued esteem and respect

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (DLC); on verso of reused address cover of Fitzwhylsonn & Potter to TJ, 6 Jan. 1817; at foot of text: "Genl. Duane"; endorsed by TJ.

## To Nicolas G. Dufief

DEAR SIR

Monticello Jan. 24. 17.

I have duly recieved the Connoissance des tems for 1817. & 1818. two copies\* of Blunt's Nautical almanac for 1817. and Graglia's Italian dictionary. I presume Blunt has not yet published his Almanac for 1818.

\* I find on reexamn that it is a single copy of Blunt for each of the years 1817.18. that I have rec<sup>d</sup>

24 JANUARY 1817

At the time I recieved your favor of Dec. 16. my account with mess<sup>rs</sup> Gibson & Jefferson to the end of the year had not come to hand. I recieved it a few days ago, and on examination find charged in it as of Aug. 4. the remittance of the 31.D. to you which I had ordered in June. unless you may have omitted to enter it therefore or overlooked it, mr Gibson's correspondent must have failed either to execute his order or to inform him that he had not done so. I have thought it safest to ask your re-examination of your own books before I ask mr Gibson's enquiry into [...] failure, which I will withhold until I have recieved your assurance that the error is not with you. I salute you with great esteem and respect.

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (DLC); on verso of a reused address cover from James Barbour to TJ; torn at seal; adjacent to signature: "M. Dufief"; endorsed by TJ.

TJ's ACCOUNT WITH MESS<sup>RS</sup> GIBSON & JEFFERSON (not found) was enclosed in James Ligon (for Patrick Gibson) to TJ, 16 Jan. 1817. TJ ordered the REMITTANCE from Gibson on 8 June 1816.

## To John Wayles Eppes

DEAR SIR

Monticello Jan. 24. 17.

Francis arrived here in good health the day before Yesterday. I think he cannot do better than to take this occasion of learning Spanish, because it is a language rarely taught in this country, and will be of great importance within his day. it is that too in which all the early history of America is written. I suppose he may acquire so much of it in 2. or 3. months as to pursue it easily himself afterwards.

Martin begins to turn tolerably. I send some specimens of his turning by your servant, and one of them is of the head proposed to your garden posts. I added a neck to the ball, which however nearly doubles the work. about 20. are made, and the stuff all ready for the whole. but I do not think he can do two aday. still he had better go on with them here as long as you can let him stay; however this must be as is convenient to yourself. I shall give him a pass to go home the first week in February, unless you inform me in the mean time that you can conveniently spare him. had Francis come in a gig I should have sent mrs Eppes some shrubs which she has not; but shall not fail to avail myself of some other opportunity.

I rejoice that your health permits you to return into public life, and that you are returning; nor is there any place where an honest disinterested patriot can be more useful than in the Senate of the US. I suppose you will hardly go to the call of the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, which I

[ 14 ]

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presume is a matter of ceremony. Patsy is absent with mrs Bankhead who is in the straw and very poorly. the rest of the family join in affectionate remembrances to mrs Eppes & yourself; be assured always of my sincere esteem & respect

TH: JEFFERSON

RC (ViU: TJP); addressed: "John W. Eppes esq. Millbrook." PoC (MHi); on verso of reused address cover of Micajah Davis to TJ, 3 Sept. 1816; mutilated at seal; endorsed by TJ.

President James Monroe. PATSY: Martha Jefferson Randolph. IN THE STRAW: "in childbed, lying-in" (*OED*).

Eppes's reply of 30 Jan. 1817, not found, is recorded in SJL as received 6 Feb. 1817 from Mill Brook.

The Senate convened briefly on the 4<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH 1817 for the inauguration of

## To Dabney Minor and Peter Minor

GENTLEMEN

Monticello Jan. 24.

On the subject of the rents claimed from me by the representatives of Bennet Henderson, my grandson desires me to put into your hands what information I have as to the rents for what are called the lower and upper field. I had given him a statement of those recieved after<sup>1</sup> 1807. when returning home to live<sup>2</sup> I had taken the business into my own hands, and for the period before that while transacted by mr Peyton I had requested mr Peyton to attend you, as I knew nothing on the subject but through him. on examining my papers I find statements of those rents as I made them out from his information, and according to which I believe I settled them with him. be pleased to observe that the rents paid by mr T. E. Randolph were for Henderson's upper field, the Dower lands and house, and a small peice of my own land adjoining the upper field. his account mentions a Thorpe's fiel[d] [I do] not know what ground that was: for indeed these lots, [...] claimants and tenants were so numerous and complicated that I do not retain them in my memory, and sometimes without understanding them, rested them entirely on mr Peyton. I am very thankful for your kindness in undertaking to settle them, and shall recieve your judgment whatever it is with the most implicit satisfaction and conviction that it is right. I pray you to be assured of my thankfulness and friendly esteem & respect

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (MHi); on verso of reused address cover to TJ; partially dated; mutilated at seal; at foot of text: "Mess<sup>rs</sup> D. & P. Minor"; endorsed by TJ as a letter of 24 Jan. 1817 to Dabney Minor and Peter Minor and so recorded in SJL.

Dabney Minor (1774–1824), planter and public official, represented Albemarle County in the Virginia House of Delegates, 1817–18. Appointed a county magistrate in 1806, he was also a founder of the Agricultural Society of Albemarle

in 1817, a director of the Rivanna Company, and an officer in the county militia. Minor's second marriage was to TJ's great-niece Martha Jefferson Terrell. In 1819 he purchased Carr's-brook from the widow of his cousin, TJ's nephew Peter Carr. Minor subscribed \$400 toward the establishment of Central College. At his death his personal estate included more than fifty slaves and a library containing some two hundred volumes (John B. Minor, *The Minor Family of Virginia* [1923], 14–5; Leonard, *General Assembly*, 289; Woods, *Albemarle*, 84, 373, 377; True, "Agricultural Society," 263, 269–71; Master List of Subscribers to Central College, [after 7 May 1817], document 5 in a group of

documents on The Founding of the University of Virginia: Central College, 1816–1819, printed at 5 May 1817; Albemarle Co. Deed Book, 21:397; Albemarle Co. Will Book, 7:412, 8:138–50; TJ to Minor, 28 Sept. 1806 [NjMoHP: Lloyd W. Smith Collection]; *Fredericksburg Virginia Herald*, 20 Oct. 1824).

MY GRANDSON: Thomas Jefferson Randolph. The STATEMENT, a version of which may have been enclosed here, was TJ's Notes on the Rent of the Henderson Lands, [by 24 Jan. 1817].

<sup>1</sup>Word interlined in place of "from."

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

## Notes on the Rent of the Henderson Lands

[by 24 Jan. 1817]

Notes for the clear rents of the Upper & Lower fields of Henderson's lands

1807. Nov. 17. <sup>1</sup> possession was delivered by John Henderson.	D
1808.9. T. E. Randolph pd rent for the Dower house & lands & the upper field	90
he then gave up the lands & paid for the house & garden	<u>60.</u>
consequently the lands had been rated @	30.
deduct for the Dower lands 15. a <sup>s</sup> $\frac{15}{65} = \frac{3}{13}$ of 30.D.	<u>7</u>
rent for the upper field for 2. years by T. E. R. & 3. y. to wit 1813. 14. 16. <sup>2</sup> by myself	23
1808. Johnson paid for the Lower field 34.D. it is believed he pd no rent for 1809.10. in considern of the house E <sup>t</sup> c he built & repaired. <sup>3</sup> the rents remitted may be supposed @ 34.D. for 2. years to wit 1809.10.	
1811. the rent for the house & lands was settled @ 60.D. and so has continued I suppose the rent of the house may be considered as $\frac{1}{3}$ and consequently the lands @ 40.D. for 5. years. to wit 1811–15	
fencing. the circumference of the Upper field by the plat is about 323. po. or 1776. yds @ 5. rails to the yard	

is 8882.<sup>4</sup> rails; put up in spring 1813. the side on the river was carried away the following winter & the lower end entirely burnt by the people of Milton, being one half. the remaining half, after 3. years service may be reckoned at half price say therefore 6661. rails lost. cutting & mauling is worth 5.D. the 1000. hauling 40. new rails at a load, & at a mile or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile a day 5 loads would be 200. rails costing 4.D. or 20.D. the thousand, [bu]t say 20.D. for cutting, mauling, & hauling, is 133.22 D for the whole

taxes. th[ey] appear by Peyton's acc<sup>t</sup> to have been from 1804. to 1809 at 10.58 D the year. about 1813.14 as well as I remember they were somewhat raised, but I do not know how much. set them then @ 10.58 for 7. years (to 1814.) 74.06

in 1815 the state taxes of my whole land were 113.11 D what part of this was for Henderson's land I never knew, but suppose  $\frac{1}{5} = 22.62$

but the Congress taxes were immensely higher. the whole assessed to me here was 301.D. how much of this was for land, I know not; but certainly not less than half, say 150.D. of which  $\frac{1}{5}$  for Henderson's land 30. D

Rent of Upper field @ 23. Dollars	5. years		115
Lower d <sup>o</sup>	34.	3. years = 102	}
	40.	5            200	
whole rents			302
			417
		D	
Cr.	expençe of inclosing	133.22	
	taxes for 7. years @ 10.58	74.06	
	state d <sup>o</sup> for 1815.	22.62	
	Congress d <sup>o</sup> for d <sup>o</sup>	30.	
		259.90	259.90
	Balance of rents after deducting		
	taxes & inclosure		157.10
		$\frac{1}{5}$ is	31.42

James L. Henderson's deed for the lands of t[he] 4. younger children was dated 1802. Sep. 18. but John Henderson the legal guardian was in possession of their lands, and refused to deliver possession until 1807. Nov. 17. when he did it.<sup>5</sup> but the upper & lower fields alone &



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the dower were occupied by me or by any body.<sup>6</sup> the river lots & back lots laid open and unoccupied. I gave written leases to cut wood on my<sup>7</sup> part of the back lots. if the lessees cut any where else it was not by authority from me. they were trespassers and answerable to the owners. I rec<sup>d</sup> rent from them for my own part only, and consequently am answerable for none.

James L. Henderson died June 9. 1813.

	Frances	Lucy.	Nancy
Upper field	N <sup>o</sup> 5	N <sup>o</sup> 6	N <sup>o</sup> 7.
Lower d <sup>o</sup>	N <sup>o</sup> 8.	N <sup>o</sup> 4	N <sup>o</sup> 3.

the lower field has been constantly occupied by Johnson, & consequently no intermission<sup>8</sup> of rents.

the upper field was occupied as follows

- 1808. } by T. E. Randolph
- 1809 }
- 1810 } uninclosed and unoccupied
- 1811 }
- 1812 }
- 1813 } occupied by Th:J.
- 1814 }
- 1815. the fresh having carr<sup>d</sup> away the river fence it was unoccupied
- 1816. occupied by Th:J.

MS (ViU: TJP); on reused address cover to TJ; entirely in TJ's hand; undated; mutilated at seal and top edge chipped; endorsed by TJ: "Arbitration." Possibly enclosed in TJ to Dabney Minor and Peter Minor, 24 Jan. [1817].

<sup>2</sup>Text from "to wit" to this point interlined.

<sup>3</sup>Preceding two words interlined.

<sup>4</sup>Correct figure is 8,880.

<sup>5</sup>TJ here canceled "by deed."

<sup>6</sup>Preceding four words interlined.

<sup>7</sup>TJ here canceled "lands."

<sup>8</sup>Manuscript: "intemission."

<sup>1</sup>Manuscript: "27."

## To Jerman Baker

DEAR SIR

Monticello Jan. 25. 17.

Your favor of the 13<sup>th</sup> was recieved by our last mail. Francis is now here engaged in learning Spanish. I thought he could not employ the winter better. but he has lost much of it at home. I think in a couple of months he may make such progress as that he will be able afterwards to pursue it by himself. I would then rather have him with mr Wood than any other teacher I know, but would much rather it should

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have been at Lynchburg [th]an<sup>1</sup> Richmond in point of climate. mr Eppes seems also to approve of his going to mr Wood, so that in the spring we shall ask a place for him in his school, and that he and Wayles may join again according to their mutual wishes.

I am sorry to see the report of a committee unfavorable [to] Barziza.<sup>2</sup> I was in hopes that making himself a citizen might have capacitated him to receive the inheritance. I salu[te] you now & always with affectionate friendship and respect.

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (MHi); on verso of reused address cover of Thomas Appleton to TJ, 27 Sept. 1816; torn at seal, with some text rewritten by TJ; at foot of text: "German Baker esq."; endorsed by TJ.

Philip I. Barziza's petition claiming his grandmother's estate, see note to Joseph C. Cabell to TJ, 12 Jan. 1817.

<sup>1</sup>Word faint.

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

For the REPORT OF A COMMITTEE of the Virginia House of Delegates against

## Rent Settlement with Henderson Heirs

The undersigned to whom was refered a matter in controversy between the minor Legatees of Bennett Henderson dec<sup>d</sup> & Th<sup>s</sup> Jefferson, after hearing the case & the testimony offered on both sides have come to the following decision—

It appears from the testimony of sundry witnesses, that Thomas Jefferson has been in possession of the lands of Frances, Lucy, & Nancy C. Henderson since the year 1802—Of course he is Responsible to them for the rent of their part from that time untill the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan<sup>y</sup> 1817. when he gave up the possession—

As to the question made by the said Thomas, 'Have not these rents been paid?'

It appears that he became possessed of these Lands by a deed from James L Henderson to Craven Peyton bearing date the 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 1802 & by a further deed from John Henderson, 17<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1807 who signs as Guardian for the three above named Legatees—But it is manifest that neither of these persons had a right to convey the lands in question;—which also seems to have been the opinion of the Purchaser; for an obligation is taken from each to make the title good, as the legatees shall respectively marry or come of age. The money therefore paid by M<sup>r</sup> Jefferson for these lands cannot be claimed by him as an offset against the Rents. His Redress is against those of whom he purchased. It appears to us that the Sum of Seven Hundred & sixty six dollars & eighty cents is due from M<sup>r</sup> Jefferson to the three above

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named Frances, Lucy & Nancy C. Henderson, as will appear by the following statement.—<sup>1</sup>

Th. Jefferson. D<sup>r</sup> To. Frances. Lucy, & Nancy C Henderson.

To rent of the field below Milton from the year—  
1802. to 1816 (both inclusive) at 40\$ <sup>3</sup>/<sub>10</sub> year say

15 years	\$600
Int. on do to Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> 1817 14 y <sup>rs</sup>	<u>252</u>
	$\frac{3}{10} \overline{) 852} = \$255.60$

To rent of the field above Milton for the same  
time settled at the same sum <sup>3</sup>/<sub>10</sub> annum

Int on do—for 14 years	600
	<u>252</u>
	$\frac{3}{10} \overline{) 852} = 255.60$

To rent of forest land for fire wood, (which  
seemed to be variable in its yearly value, we have  
however taken the lowest estimate) say 40\$ <sup>3</sup>/<sub>10</sub>

year for 15 years	600
Int on do. 14 years	<u>252</u>
	$\frac{3}{10} \overline{) 852} = \underline{255.60}$

Ball. due Hendersons Legatees \$766 80.

We have estimated the value of these three parcels of Land from the year 1802 to 1816 both inclusive with the interest to be \$2556. three tenths of which sums due to the above named Frances. Lucy & Nancy C. Henderson which amounts to \$766.80 & this estimate is made under the idea that the Taxes &c. has been, & should be paid by M<sup>r</sup> Jefferson

Given under our hands this 25<sup>th</sup> of Jan 1817

P. MINOR.  
DABNEY MINOR

Received in full for the above award of \$766 <sup>80</sup>/<sub>100</sub> a draft on Bernard Peyton for this amount when paid

W D MERIWETHER  
Attorney in fact for the three younge[r]  
legatees of Bennet Henderson Dec

MS (ViU: TJP); in Peter Minor's hand, signed by Peter Minor and Dabney Minor, with subjoined receipt in William D. Meriwether's hand; edge trimmed; addressed: "Th: J. Randolph Esq<sup>r</sup>"; endorsed by TJ: "Hendersons. Frances, Lucy & Nancy C. Award."

HAVE NOT THESE RENTS BEEN PAID was a question TJ posed in his Notes on the Rent Claims of the Heirs of Bennett Henderson, [by 30 Dec. 1816].

<sup>1</sup>Recto ends here.