

# THE PAPERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON



## Announcement of Election Results

[17 Feb. 1801]

*By Express from the City of Washington ! !*

To the EDITORS of the TIMES.

THIS moment the election is decided. Morris, from Vermont, absented himself, so that Vermont was for Jefferson. The four members from Maryland, who had voted for Burr, put in blank tickets. The result was then ten for Jefferson.

I hope you will have the cannon out to announce the news.

Yours,

N.B. This was the second ballot to-day. Bayard is appointed ambassador to France.

Tuesday, two o'clock.

Printed (ICN).

THE TIMES: *The Times; and District of Columbia Daily Advertiser*, which was published in Alexandria, Virginia. TJ perhaps did not see the handbill above, which was made up in the newspaper's office on 17 Feb. and provided many Virginians with their first confirmation of his election. In Fredericksburg on the evening of the 19th, Fontaine Maury saw a copy that was on its way by express messenger to Governor James Monroe in Richmond. The editors of the *Times* reprinted the announcement in their columns on 18 Feb., omitting the sentence about the CANNON salute. By then cannonades had already taken place in Alexandria, where celebrants fired 16 rounds from an artillery piece brought to the courthouse square on the 17th, and they repeated the tribute from a wharf on the Potomac that evening. Cannon shots also announced the news in Fredericksburg

(*Alexandria Times*, 18 Feb. 1801; Madison, *Papers*, 17:471).

BAYARD IS APPOINTED AMBASSADOR: in a letter dated 13 Feb., but presented to the Senate on Tuesday, the 17th, John Adams nominated James A. Bayard as minister plenipotentiary to France. The Senate debated the appointment on 18 Feb. and consented to it the next day. On 2 Mch., Adams notified the Senate that the Delaware congressman had declined the appointment "for reasons equally applicable to every other person suitable for the service." The president concluded that he would leave the appointment of a minister and the conveyance of the Convention of 1800 to France to his successor, that he "may proceed with them according to his wisdom" (JEP, 1:380, 382-3, 388).

As the single Delaware vote, Bayard had played a pivotal role in breaking the tie between TJ and Burr in the House. On 17 Feb., after the decisive ballot, Bayard wrote Allen McLane, the avowedly

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Federalist collector at Wilmington: “Mr Jefferson is our President. Our opposition was continued till it was demonstrated that Burr could not be brought in, and even if he could he meant to come in as a Democrat. In such case to evidence his sincerity he must have swept every officer in the U. States. I have direct information that Mr Jefferson will not pursue that plan.” Bayard noted that the New England congressmen had been ready “to go without a constitution and take the risk of a Civil War.” In the end, “Mr J. did not get a Foederal vote. Vermont gave a vote by means of Morris withdrawing—the same thing happened with Maryland. The Votes of S. Carolina and Delaware were blank.” Bayard concluded: “I have taken good care of you, and think if prudent, you are safe.” At some point, TJ received a copy of this letter from Thomas Mann Randolph and noted: “Bayard James A. of Delaware, a copy of a letter from him to Colo. Mc.lane of Delaware, written pending the election between Th:J and A. Burr the original was put by Colo Mc.lane in to the hands of TMR, who made this copy from it” (Tr in DLC, in Randolph’s

hand, with TJ’s notation on verso; RC in ViU, addressed: “Allen MClane Esqr Wilmington Delaware,” franked and post-marked; Tr in same, reportedly in the hand of Judge Allen McLane—a descendant—summarized and incomplete, lacks final sentence that concludes “if prudent you are safe”; for the second Tr, see Elizabeth Donnan, ed., *Papers of James A. Bayard, 1796-1815* [Washington, D.C., 1915; repr. New York, 1971], 127-8).

TJ may have received the transcript of this letter from his son-in-law in 1806, when depositions were taken regarding the charge that TJ had bargained with Bayard for the presidency, through the offices of Samuel Smith. Randolph was serving as a Virginia congressman at the time. For a discussion of the controversy, see Malone, *Jefferson*, 4:487-93; Joanne B. Freeman, *Affairs of Honor: National Politics in the New Republic* (New Haven, 2001), 250-3; and Kline, *Burr*, 2:962-8. TJ was accused of agreeing not to dismiss certain government officers on political grounds alone, specifically McLane and George Latimer, collector at Philadelphia (Malone, *Jefferson*, 4:489).

## From Hugh Henry Brackenridge

SIR,

Pittsburg February 17th: 1801.

Just about to leave this place to which I will not return until the first of June next. In the mean time shall be in Philadelphia and on the circuit.

The event of your Presidency has most probably by this time taken place, at least designation of taking place on the fourth of March next. I think it morally impossible that the vote of Congress could ultimately be contrary to the voice of the nation known in fact, though not organically expressed; or that the terrific consequences of a suspension, or usurpation of the federal government would be dared. Thinking of you then as the President designate, and on the fourth of March next about to assume the extensive trust, I wish to intrude upon you for a moment with an observation on the removal of quondam officers which may be necessary, and to a certain extent take place. This, the more, because an answer to a question of yours made to me in Philadelphia, and what was said by me in a letter addressed to you some time ago may mislead as to my opinion correctly stated on this subject.

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The question was, what the effect of the decision and proscription as it was called, of Governor McKean's Administration in the removal of officers. My answer was that having not acted with that rigor he would not have been Governor a second time, and that in a memoir to him I had strongly enforced that rigor with regard to the Western Country.

In my letter to you I have said to this effect if my memory serves me that in the change of our elections in favor of the republican interest, experience has shewn that the advice was salutary. But meaning now to explain, I have to say that the removal of officers by Governor McKean was not indiscriminate, but guided by nice discernment judgment and discretion. Policy was consulted, and where the officer was not bad, and had not been an outrageous adversary he was not<sup>1</sup> removed unless indeed in some instance where the office was absolutely wanted to compensate an active friend, perhaps more in need of it than the officer who had possessed it. General hostility and war must be moderated by a skillful man in order to support himself for the use of his friends. Hitting the exact medium in this most delicate part of administration must depend on the most intimate knowledge of characters and standing. Your removals will doubtless be confined chiefly to the higher state officers for some time but will extend ultimately and gradually through the whole organization of the system. It may be of use to you therefore to have the information of the most inconsiderable. It will be of the less consequence for me because there will be representatives in Congress from the districts can inform. Our officers in the Western Country in the Revenue have chiefly been under the appointment of Ross or Addison, I mean Assessors &ca.

It strikes me to say something on the official arrangement of the War Office which occurs to me from the attention I have paid to it from my residence in this Country which has been with short intervals the scene of war for a long time. The errors of military men, or of arrangements in the Army department have been obvious. The present administration appears to be at a loss for a War officer the succeeding will be at a loss for some time also. The War department has long labored under disorders which menaced its destruction—founded on false principles, it has grown in errors and increased in deformities; and now having reached a state of utter chaos, it is to be consigned with all its odium to a new administrator, without records to instruct, guide, guard or govern Him. In this state of things it occurs, that the Senior military officer may be usefully employed in removing the embarrassments and perplexities which encompass this department—Because he has had the chief command of the

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established troops for more than four years, and has preserved his official correspondence since the year ninety.

It is presumable that he possesses a perfect knowledge of the troops in being, as well their moral energies as their physical capacities.

He understands perfectly the disposition of these troops, & the motives which directed it; and commanding an intimate knowledge of the geography of his country, of the Indian occupancies and force within its limits, and of the fortifications of foreign Powers which border thereon, their strength and objects; he can best determine the expediency of maintaining our present posts, of demolishing them or of erecting new ones.

The obligations of duty which have pointed his attentions to the several departments of the Army, their provisions and expenditures enable him to explain the total destitution of responsibility, of order, discrimination and œconomy throughout, and will assist him to suggest the necessary remedies, to correct the follies and abuses which pervade every branch of service.

At the same time his knowledge of individual merits and pretensions, and of the proper functions of the host of dependents attached to the Military, will enable him to select and to recommend the honest, the able and the deserving.

Being in possession of the immediate projects as well as the ultimate views of the late administration (for the present is without plan principle or design) he may derive much utility from this source.

Give him then the charge of the department to retrench and systematize it—being a western man and popular in the most remote settlements, this avocation may flatter, oblige and give confidence to the people of that portion of the Union. While a minister, competent to the able discharge of the important duties of the station, may be sought for at leisure.

I am Sir With solicitude for your official honor and personal happiness, Your Most Obedient Humble Servant

H H BRACKENRIDGE

RC (DLC); in a clerk's hand, signed by Brackenridge; endorsed by TJ as received 28 Feb. and so recorded in SJL.

SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER: James Wilkinson.

The earlier LETTER from Brackenridge was that of 30 Jan.

<sup>1</sup> Preceding three words repeated in MS.

## From Thomas Leiper

DEAR SIR

Philada. Febry. 17th. 1801—

I have this day examined nine Hogsheads of your Tobacco and find none of them have been Wet & Dried again—It is true one of them is a little wet but when it received this damage none can tell it might have been in coming down your River or it might have received it on its way to Philadelphia but it is so extremely little that I think there is nothing due on the Score of Damage. Six of the Hhds of Tobo. were inspected at SPR Two at NNS and One at Lynch. Jackson & Wharton are extremely sorry for the information they give me the other day that one of your Hhds fell short in weight 234 lb. this Hhd they find on examination to be none of yours. J & Wharton shewed me an invoice of Tobacco purchased at the same time of yours which they say the quality was superiour to yours—Ten Hhds at 31/6 and Fourteen Hhds at 33/ pr Ct. V. Currency—J & Wharton informs their orders at Richmond was not to exceed for the very best Tobacco Five Dollars Fifty Cents—their friends from the character of your Tobacco give six and ship't it them informing them at the same time if they would give them the first Cost and Commission they might have it which they agreed to do. It was not convenient to see any more of the Tobacco to day but I give them to understand I should attend when the others were opened and if there was any damage I had full powers from you to make the Allowence They informed me I ought to make an allowence of half a Dollar pr Ct. as the quality was not so good as formerly I was obliged to acknowledge it was the worst crop of yours I ever saw—I asked them their price for the whole Crop they said  $7\frac{1}{2}$  Dollars—I told them that was half a Dollar more than any sale that had been made in Town and I told them that about the time they made a Purchase of your Tobacco they had sold Twenty Hhds to be picked from 40 for six Dollars and a half at 60 and 90 days being in possission of these facts they had nothing to say but still I must inform you if the Crop of Tobacco I purchased of you last year and the Crop of yours in the hands of J & Wharton were both for sale. I certainly would give some  $\frac{75}{100}$  or One Dollar pr Ct. more for what I had than what J & Wharton have got for sale—The prices of Tobacco at Richmond on the 10th. New 30/ Old 34/ Cash—& 36/ at 90 days—and as the Virginians expect great things from their intercourse with France I still hope that J & W will get clear of their Tobo. without much loss—I was beged to take it at Cost and charges but as the Tobacco was sound I did not see any claim they had upon you unless your friends engaged it as good as what

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I purchased of you last year. in that case they would. I still see the appearance as if the Tobacco had been hung up from hands taken from the heart of the Hhds but nothing like as if they had been Wet—I observe you have said nothing to Clark or Gibson & Jefferson respectg. the Tobacco. to the later I think you should say nothing but Clark you may give my compliment to him and inform it is my opinion if he handles your Tobacco as bad as he has done it this last year you will soon lose your Character of raising fine Tobacco—I am Dear Sir

Your most Obedient St.

THOMAS LEIPER

RC (MHi); at foot of text: "Hon: Thomas Jefferson Vice President of the U States"; endorsed by TJ as received 20 Feb. and so recorded in SJL.

INFORMATION THEY GIVE ME THE OTHER DAY: See Leiper to TJ, 11 Feb. 1801, Vol. 32:572-4.  
THEIR FRIENDS: McMurdo & Fisher.

## From George Meade

MY DEAR SIR

Philadelphia 17th. February 1801

Interested as I am & every man in America must & ought to be, you must no doubt suppose I am exceedingly Concernd & very desirous of knowing the result of the Election for President of the United States. you may remember that I informd You, how much I was hurt by Mr Adams behaviour respecting the Oration deliverd at our Chappel, nevertheless I am free to declare I wishd him from his long Services (tho' many of them, not approved of by me, as well as others) that he might have been the Successful Candidate at the present Election; but when I came to know he would not be so, & certain, that neither Mr Burr or his friends, could ever entertain an Idea, that he would be the Man, I confess I have felt exceedingly hurt & Mortifyd, that my worthy Mr Jefferson, has not had an unanimous Vote, to make him President. it is a disgrace to the Proceedings of Congress, & will hurt us exceedingly, in the Eyes of all Europe. I have been almost led to curse Party Proceedings, to which only this measure, can be attributed. I yet hope that those unthinking & deluded States, will recover their Senses, & do what is right, by Electing you, & which I am pleased to find, many of the other Side of the Question, wish may be the Case. may you I most sincerely wish be the man, & may you so Conduct Yourself as to put an end to Party Spirit, & gain Immortal honor & be revered as much as our late father of his Country Washington was, by America at large. it is Impossible to Please all Parties, let a man only act, what he deems most beneficial for the good of his Country, & merit must & will have its reward. I wait most anxiously for the decision, & hope in the Course of the week at furthest, to have

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Confirmed what I wish for that my friend Mr Jefferson may be announced to his Country, as our President. I would sooner have addressd you, but that I have been very unwell & am but just recovering from my Indisposition. with every good wish, & with Sincere Esteem, & regard, believe me to be My Dr. Sir

Your afft. friend, obliged, & most Obedt. hble Servant

GEO: MEADE

I am apprehensive I shall be too late for to days Post

RC (DLC); addressed: "Honble Thomas Jefferson Esqr President of the Senate, & Vice President of the United States Washington City Mail"; franked and postmarked; endorsed by TJ as received 20 Feb. and so recorded in SJL.

## From Nicholas J. Roosevelt

SIR!

New York Feby. 17th. 1801—

I understand sir! that the bill to incorporate a company to work mines and manufacture Metals in the United States is now before your house

I hope you will pardon the liberty I have taken of addressing you on the subject of the Bill when I inform you that I have for several years past been struggling with all the means I could command to make this business successful and find after committing my all, to the event of its success, that few, if any, individual fortunes are equal to the necessary expence of the establishments I have commenced. I must therefore sir! entreat you as the friend of useful manufactures to afford your kind aid and influence with the members of the Senate.—I would have written to you on this subject before had I not expected Chancellor Livingston at my house every day, from whom I intended getting a letter to you on the subject—This Gentleman has regularly visited the works (I have erected) every few months since their commencement and you will see by his subscription to the Mine & Metal Company that he has no doubt of the success of this business provided the Act passes—The Genn. (G Morris) who so warmly opposed the bill the last session is I am informed still opposed, and I fear many others of his party, who would I am convinced rather see me derive that aid from Great Britain which I now solícite from the goverment of the United States. I cannot otherwise see on what grounds Mr. M can oppose the Bill—he cannot possibly oppose it on the grounds of it being unconstitutional when he reflects that the US Bank dailey does business under the Charter granted by Congress:—nor can he oppose it on the principle

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of monopoly, when he sees that the capital is limited to a sum, barely sufficient for the objects contemplated, and confined solely to those objects.—

To intrude any longer on your patience would be taking a liberty which I am not entitled to till I obtain a proper introduction—I will therefore close by assuring you that I am sir!

with the greatest respect Your Obedient & Humble St.

NICHOLS. J. ROOSEVELT

RC (MH); at head of text: “The Honl. Thos. Jefferson Esqr.”; endorsed by TJ as received 23 Feb. and so recorded in SJL.

Nicholas J. Roosevelt (1767-1854) established the Soho metal works in New Jersey, operated a rolling mill near Philadelphia, and had a contract to supply the U.S. Navy with copper. He also designed and built steam engines, including one for Robert R. Livingston’s experimental steam-powered boat, the *Polacca*. Roosevelt later joined Livingston and Robert Fulton in developing steam navigation on western rivers. In 1808 he mar-

ried Benjamin Latrobe’s daughter Lydia (ANB; Vol. 31:548).

A BILL for the incorporation of Roosevelt’s copper mining enterprise had passed the House of Representatives on 30 Jan. and was, when Roosevelt wrote the letter above, in the hands of a Senate committee. On 2 Mch. the Senate declined to advance the bill to a third reading (JHR, 3:740, 766, 778-9; JS, 3:120, 136, 138). A similar measure had failed in the previous session of Congress. For Livingston’s involvement in the company and TJ’s comments on the incorporation attempt, see Vol. 31:547-50.

## Notes on a Letter of William Pinkney

[after 17 Feb. 1801]

a letter from mr Pinckney to mr Thompson the brother in law of mr Mercer, communicated to mr Rodney,<sup>1</sup> by mr Duval who had seen it, and to Colo. Mercer by Thompson.

‘that nothing had raised the credit of America in the eyes of Europe, & even of England itself, as the late election; & that had he been here himself he would have supported it with all his might.’

MS (DLC: TJ Papers, 232:42032); undated; entirely in TJ’s hand.

William Pinkney was serving as one of the U.S. commissioners in London appointed to settle claims under Article 7 of the Jay Treaty when the letter described above was written. Upon learning how the letter was being interpreted, he wrote his brother Ninian on 21 July 1801: “Report has certainly taken great liberties with my letter to Mr. Thompson. Undoubtedly I have never written to any person sentiments that go the length you state.”

Pinkney noted that when the contest was reduced to TJ and Burr, he decidedly preferred TJ and, when the result of the election in the House of Representatives was known, he may have noted to some of his friends that he was “highly pleased” with the outcome. He also admitted that he had earlier observed that, unlike some Federalists, he was not alarmed at the prospect of a change in administration. Pinkney concluded: “I never could persuade myself to tremble, lest the United States should find, in the presidency of Mr. Jefferson, the evils which might be

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expected to flow from a weak or a wicked government. I am, on the contrary, satisfied that he has talents, knowledge, integrity, and stake in the country sufficient to give us well-founded confidence, that our affairs will be well administered so far as shall depend on him." But in the summer of 1800, Pinkney had also expressed confidence in Adams's administration and noted to his brother Ninian that he had "done nothing to deserve to be discarded." He continued: "Slight errors should be overlooked in a man who means well, and who has acted essentially right in situations peculiarly arduous and embarrassing" (ANB; Henry Wheaton, *Some*

*Account of the Life, Writings, and Speeches of William Pinkney* [Philadelphia, 1826], 36-7; William Pinkney, *The Life of William Pinkney* [New York, 1853], 369-73).

Hugh THOMPSON was married to Elizabeth Sprigg and John F. MERCER to Sophia Sprigg, daughters of Richard and Margaret Caile Sprigg (Papenfuse, *Maryland Legislature*, 2:594).

<sup>1</sup> TJ first wrote "the brother in law of mr Duval who communicated it to mr Rodney" before altering the passage to read as above and adding the remainder of the sentence.

## Notes on New York Patronage

[after 17 Feb. 1801]

David Gelston of N.Y. Collector of revenue vice Sands. recomdd. by Genl. John Smith.

estimable, popular, a merchant formerly.—but Armstrong says not estimated

devoted to Burr. at any rate this is to lie for further information.<sup>1</sup>

Willett is not popular, not esteemd

liv'd. in ad—y &c—a tool &c—

not approvd. by Clinton. devotd to B.

—  
Rogers the naval officer is an Englishman, come over not long since.

—  
Harrison & Giles ought to go out.

H. a revolutry. tory

G. was an officer. most violent party man.

packs grand juries<sup>2</sup>

—  
Willett was a sheriff many years and a very good one. he might do for that. still not popular.

MS (DNA: RG 59, LAR, 4:0549); undated; entirely in TJ's hand, written on a scrap of paper, probably at several sittings as indicated by interlineations and horizontal rules.

On 9 July TJ appointed David GELSTON to replace Joshua Sands as collector

of New York. JOHN SMITH and Senator John ARMSTRONG were in Washington serving as members of the Sixth Congress from New York and thus were available to offer their opinions on Gelston's candidacy immediately following TJ's election in the House. Noting that he did not know TJ personally, Gelston, on 13 Mch., requested

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that Madison intervene with the president in his favor. Madison forwarded Gelston's letter to TJ; the president endorsed it and kept it with his papers on appointments (RC in DNA: RG 59, LAR; *Biog. Dir. Cong.*; JEP, 1:403; Madison, *Papers, Sec. of State Ser.*, 1:16-17; Appendix 1, List 3).

LIV'D. IN AD—Y: lived in adultery. In 1799 Marinus Willett divorced Susannah Vardle, whom he had married in 1793 immediately after the death of his first wife. Shortly after the divorce he married Margaret Bancker, a much younger woman than he. Willett also had an illegitimate son who was born in 1783 while he was married to his first wife (ANB; Kline, *Burr*, 1:524n). See also Willett to TJ, 24 Feb. 1801.

Although a Federalist with a Loyalist background, Richard ROGERS retained his lucrative position as naval officer at the customs office until 1803 because the

Republicans could not agree upon an acceptable replacement for him (Kline, *Burr*, 1:537-8; JEP, 1:453).

In late March, TJ removed Richard Harison, the U.S. district attorney for New York nominated by Washington in 1789, and Aquila GILES, the U.S. marshal in New York since 1792. In one of his lists, TJ noted that Giles was "delinquent in money largely." TJ appointed Edward Livingston and John Swartwout to serve, respectively, in those positions (JEP, 1:32-3, 121-2, 217, 362-3; Appendix 1, Lists 3 and 4). That TJ does not list the candidates for these offices indicates that he wrote this note early in his consideration of New York appointments.

<sup>1</sup> Preceding passage, beginning at "but Armstrong," interlined.

<sup>2</sup> Preceding three words interlined above "party man."

## To John Adams

SIR,

In Senate, February the 18th. 1801.

I do myself the honor to enclose to you a Resolution of the Senate of this day.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient and very humble servant

TH: JEFFERSON

RC (DNA: RG 59, MLR); at foot of text: "The President of the United States"; in hand of Samuel A. Otis, signed by TJ. Not recorded in SJL. Enclosure: Senate resolution of 18 Feb. (same, in Otis's hand; see below).

The Senate on 18 Feb., after receiving official notification from the House of Representatives that the presidential election had been completed, passed a RESOLUTION requesting the president of the U.S. to send Aaron Burr notification of his election to the vice presidency. In ac-

cordance with the resolution, TJ as president of the Senate signed a certificate that confirmed the opening and counting of the electoral votes on the second Wednesday in February and the subsequent breaking of the electoral tie by the House, "by all of which it appears, that Aaron Burr Esquire, of New York, is duly elected, agreeably to the Constitution, Vice President of the United States of America." The resolution called for TJ to transmit the certificate to Adams (MS in PHI, certificate dated 18 Feb., in a clerk's hand, signed by TJ, sealed; JS, 3:127-8).

## To Henry Dearborn

DEAR SIR

Washington Feb. 18. 1801.

The House of Representatives having yesterday concluded their choice of a person for the chair of the US. and called me to that office, it now becomes necessary to provide an administration composed of persons whose qualifications and standing have possessed them of the public confidence, and whose wisdom may ensure to our fellow citizens the advantages they sanguinely expect. on a review of the characters in the different states proper for the different departments, I have had no hesitation in considering you as the person to whom it would be most advantageous to the public to confide the Department of war. may I therefore hope, Sir, that you will give your country the aid of your talents as Secretary of war? the delay which has attended the election has very much abridged our time and rendered the call more sudden & pressing than I could have wished. I am in hopes our administration may be assembled during the first week of March, except yourself, and that you can be with us a few days after. indeed it is probable we shall be but a few days together (perhaps to the middle of the month) to make some general & pressing arrangements & then go home for a short time to make our final removal hither. I mention these circumstances that you may see the urgency of setting out for this place with the shortest delay possible, which may be the shorter as you can return again to your family, as we shall, to make your final arrangements for removal. I hope I shall not be disappointed in counting on your aid, and that you will favor me with an answer by return of post. accept assurances of sincere esteem & high respect from Dear Sir Your most obedt. & most humble servt

TH: JEFFERSON

RC (NNFoM); at foot of text: "Genl. Dearborn"; at head of text, probably in Levi Lincoln's hand: "No. 4"; addressed by Lincoln: "Honble. Henry Dearborn Esq Pittston District of Maine—Mass"; franked by Lincoln; endorsed by Dearborn. PrC (DLC).

Henry Dearborn (1751-1829) had served two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1793-97, where he favored reductions in the military establishment and drew Madison's notice as an opponent of the Jay Treaty. He was also on TJ's list, drawn up probably in the spring of 1800, of people who were to receive copies of the new appendix to the *Notes on the State of Virginia*. With a common-school education and some

practical medical training, Dearborn had set out to be a physician in his native state of New Hampshire, but at the commencement of the war with Britain in 1775 he began military service as a captain. He remained in the army until 1783, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel and also serving briefly as deputy quartermaster general. After the war he lived in Maine, which was still part of Massachusetts. Prior to his election to Congress he held local office, was a shipowner and government contractor, and served as U.S. marshal. He held the militia rank of major general (ANB; Richard Alton Erney, *The Public Life of Henry Dearborn* [New York, 1979; orig. Ph.D. diss., Columbia University, 1957], 22-5, 29-31; *Biog. Dir. Cong.*, 888; Vol. 29:94-5; Vol. 31:551).

## To William Jackson

DEAR SIR

Washington Feb. 18. 1801.

Your favor of the 3d. inst. has been duly recieved. I percieve in it that friendship which I ever found in your character, & which honors every character in which it is found. I feel myself indebted also for the justice you do me as to opinions which others, with less candour, have imputed to me. I have recieved many letters stating to me, in the spirit of prophecy, caricatures which the writers, it seems, know are to be the principles of my administration. to these no answer has been given, because the prejudiced spirit in which they have been written proved the writers not in a state of mind to yield to truth or reason. to the friendly stile of your letter I would gladly answer in detail, were it in my power. but I have thought that I ought not to permit myself to form opinions in detail until I can have the counsel of those, of whose services I wish to avail the public in the administration of their affairs. till this can be done, you have justly resorted to the only proper ground, that of estimating my future, by my past conduct. upwards of [30.] years passed on the stage of public life & under the public eye, may surely enable them to judge whether my future course is likely to be marked with those departures from reason & moderation, which the passions of [some] have been willing to foresee. one imputation in particular has been repeated till it seems as if some at least believed it: that I am an enemy to commerce. they admit me a friend to agriculture, and suppose me an enemy to the only means of disposing of it's produce. I might appeal too to evidences of my attention to the commerce & navigation of our country in different stations connected with them. but this would lead to details not to be expected.

I have deferred answering your letter till this day lest the motives for these explanations should be mistaken you will be so good as to consider the communication so far confidential as not to put it in the power of any person [to commit] it to the press.

I am with great esteem Dear Sir Your most obedt. servt

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (DLC); faint; at foot of text: "Majr. William Jackson."

## List of John Adams's Judicial Appointments

[18 Feb. 1801]

- qu. Lowell (now district judge) to be Chief judge  
+ Benj. Bourne (R.I.) } judges of 1st. circuit  
+ Jer. Smith. (N.H.) }  
qu John Davis. (now district atty) judge vice Lowell  
— H. G. Otis distr. atty vice Davis.  
qu. Ray Greene distr. judge vice Bourne  
— E. St. L. Livermore. N.H. distr. atty vice Smith.

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### 2d. circuit

- + Benson. chief judge  
+ Ol. Wolcott } judges circuit  
+ Saml. Hitchcock Verm. }

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### 3d. Circuit

- Ingersoll. Ch. judge<sup>1</sup>  
+ Basset } judges circ.  
+ Wm. Griffith. N.J }  
— Kittera distr. atty vice Ingersol

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### 4th. circ.

- Chas. Lee Ch. judge<sup>2</sup>  
⊕ Phil. B. Key. Maryld. } judges.  
+ G. Keith Taylor Va. }  
— Theoph. Parsons Atty Gen. vice Lee

MS (DNA: RG 59, MCL); undated; entirely in TJ's hand, with symbols and "qu." added in margin and cancellations (see notes below) made at a later date; endorsed by TJ on verso: "appointmts. by mr Adams."

On 18 Feb. John Adams sent the above judicial nominations to the Senate. TJ probably made this list as he presided and heard the names read. The appointments were approved two days later. The Senate learned shortly afterwards that Jared Ingersoll and Charles Lee had declined appointment, and TJ accordingly canceled their names. Adams's nomination of Philip B. Key in the place of Lee accounts for the special symbol by Key's name (JEP, 1:381, 383, 385-6).

On a separate scrap of paper dated 24 Feb., TJ noted the name of "Elijah Paine. judge," Adams's nominee for the Vermont district judgeship vacated by Samuel Hitchcock's appointment as circuit judge. On the same paper, with a date of 25 Feb., TJ wrote "Philip B. Key. chief judge vice Lee" and "Magill judge of W. distr. Virga." He added plus signs, probably in pencil, in front of the three names, which were approved by the Senate on the 25th and 26th (MS in DNA: RG 59, MCL, entirely in TJ's hand; JEP, 1:384-6).

<sup>1</sup> Entry canceled.

<sup>2</sup> Entry canceled.

## To James Madison

Washington Feb. 18. 1801.

Notwithstanding the suspected infidelity of the post, I must hazard this communication. The Minority in the H. of R. after seeing the impossibility of electing B. the certainty that a legislative usurpation would be resisted by arms, and a recourse to a Convention to reorganise & amend the government, held a consultation on this dilemma. Whether it would be better for them to come over in a body, and go with the tide of the times, or by a negative conduct suffer the election to be made by a bare majority, keeping their body entire & unbroken, to act in phalanx on such ground of opposition as circumstances shall offer? we knew their determination on this question only by their vote of yesterday. Morris of V. withdrew, which made Lyon's vote that of his state. the 4 Maryland Federalists put in 4. blanks which made the positive tickets of the colleagues the vote of the state. S. Carolina & Delaware put in blanks. so there were 10. states for one candidate. 4. for another & 2. blanks. we consider this therefore as a declaration of war, on the part of this band. but their conduct appears to have brought over to us the whole body of Federalists, who being alarmed with the danger of a dissolution of the government, had been made most anxiously to wish the very administration they had opposed, & to view it when obtained as a child of their own. they see too their quondam leaders separated fairly from them & themselves aggregated under other banners. even Hamilton & Higginson have been zealous partisans for us. this circumstance, with the unbounded confidence which will attach to the new ministry as soon as known, will start us on high ground. mr A. embarrasses us. He keeps the offices of State & War vacant, has named Bayard M.P. to France, and has called an unorganized Senate on the 4th. of March. as you do not like to be here on that day, I wish you could come within a day or two after. I think that between that & the middle of the month we can so far put things under way, as that we may go home to make arrangements for our final removal. come to Conrad's where I will bespeak lodgings for you.—yesterday mr A. nominated Bayard to be M.P. of the US. to the French republic: today Theophilus Parsons Atty Genl of the US. in the room of C. Lee, who with Keith Taylor cum multis aliis are appointed judges under the new system. H. G. Otis is nominated a district attorney. a vessel has been waiting for some time in readiness to carry the new minister to France. my affectionate salutations to mrs Madison & yourself. Adieu.

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RC (DLC: Madison Papers, Rives Collection); addressed: "James Madison junr. near Orange court house"; franked; postmarked 19 Feb. PrC (DLC).

The votes of Lewis R. MORRIS and Matthew Lyon canceled each other out until the last ballot on 17 Feb., in which Morris withdrew from the chamber giving Lyon control of Vermont's vote in favor of T.J. John C. Thomas, William Craik, John Dennis, and George Baer as

the four MARYLAND FEDERALISTS cast blank votes, thereby allowing the vote of colleagues Samuel Smith, George Dent, Joseph H. Nicholson, and Gabriel Christie to become THE VOTE OF THE STATE (*Annals*, 10:1032-3).

HAMILTON & HIGGINSON: Alexander Hamilton and Stephen Higginson, Sr., a Federalist and Boston merchant.

COME TO CONRAD'S: Conrad & McMunn's boarding house.

CUM MULTIS ALIIS: with many others.

## From Benjamin Perkins

SIR

Washington City February 18th 1801

Inclosed you will find a Plan for a Capitol for a Column or Pilaster upon a new Principle

the Stripes is an Emblem of the United States Supported by two Cornucopia's Emblems of Plenty the Oak Leafes & acorns are an Emblem of Freedom an Extinguished Torch an Emblem of Death the Drooping willow Emblem of Mourning—

I have Made Some Progress in Drawing a Mausoleum Connected with a Seminary of Education the Room Designed for Commencment & Publick Speaking to have a Concave Ceiling Supported with Dime Pilasters upon this Plan which Should be Called the Washington Order

If it is not too much Trouble Pleas to give me your Opinion of this Idea—if it is not Proper for me to Expects it of you Give yourself no Trouble

I am with Respect your Hbl Svt

BENJN. PERKINS

a Post

NB I am a Scholar of Mr Daniel Trump of Philadelphia

RC (ViW); addressed: "Thomas Jefferson Vice President of the United States Washington City"; postmarked 19 Feb.; endorsed by TJ as received 20 Feb. and so recorded in SJL. Enclosure: drawing of the capital of a column as described in the letter above (MS in same; signed by Perkins and dated by him 15 Dec. 1801).

loded in Washington on New York Avenue near the Octagon, John Tayloe's town house designed by William Thornton. Perkins was still in Washington in 1805, when he joined a subscription to establish a school (RCHS, 33-4 [1932], 289; C. M. Harris, ed., *Papers of William Thornton: Volume One, 1781-1802* [Charlottesville, 1995], 584-6; Thomas Perkins to TJ, 24 Mch. 1801, and Benjamin Perkins's letter of 15 May noted there).

Perkins was apparently the brother of Thomas Perkins and may have come originally from Delaware. Benjamin Perkins

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## To Craven Peyton

DEAR SIR

Washington Feb. 18. 1801.

I find myself very much indebted for your kind agency in the purchase of the lands for me from the Henderson's, and shall be still more so if you will take for me also Tucker Woodson's part at the price of 500. D. proposed by him, putting off payment till the month of June, within the course of which all the shares shall be paid for. you mention having bought mr Kerr's part. I do not know whether I am to conclude from your letter that you would be willing to let that go with the others. I should willingly give you the same price as to Tucker Woodson, as it is interesting to me to get as much of the tract as I can. I still think it would be better that it should be kept quite out of sight that I am concerned in this: if the division could be put off till immediately after our April court I may attend to it, or at least be in the way to advise concerning it. should you procure Woodson's or propose to part with your own share, I will thank you for a line.

Yesterday the election was concluded, which fixes me here. I shall nevertheless pay a visit to Monticello somewhere between the middle of March & our April court. accept assurances of the esteem of  
Dear Sir

Your friend & servt

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (ViU); at foot of text: "Craven Peyton esq."; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso.

For TJ's PURCHASE OF THE LANDS from the Henderson estate, see Craven Peyton to TJ, 6 Feb., and Vol. 31:199n.

## From Benjamin Stoddert

SIR

February 18. 1801.

My health & my private affairs have for sometime required more of my attention than the duties of my office would permit me to give to them; and I have therefore been anxious to relinquish my official situation, which would have been done before this time, had Mr Adams been re-elected, for in that event he could have found no difficulty in supplying my vacancy.

Thus circumstanced, I hope you will attribute to the true motives, this early expression of my wish, that it may be consistent with your arrangements to provide a successor for me, in the Department of the Navy, so that I may be relieved from its duties in the course of the next month—the sooner in the month, the more convenient it will be to me.

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Permit me to add, that though I am not among the number of those who desired your elevation to the important station you are about to fill; none will more sincerely pray that your administration may realize the most sanguine expectations which have been formed of it—nor, in the Walks of private life, more zealously support the Just measures of the Government.

I have the honor to be with due Respect sir Yr. most Obed. Servt.  
BEN STODDERT

RC (DLC); endorsed by TJ as received 20 Feb. and so recorded in SJL.

Benjamin Stoddert (1751-1813) had been secretary of the navy since the spring of 1798. TJ had also had some contact

with him in the early 1790s, when Stoddert, a Georgetown tobacco merchant and business partner of Uriah Forrest, was involved in land transactions in the Federal District (ANB; Vol. 20:78-9; Vol. 22:41n; Vol. 23:323).

## From Caspar Wistar

DR SIR

Philada Feby. 18th 1801.

I should have replied sooner to your favour of Feby. 3d. but I did not wish to intrude upon you at a period so awfully important to our Country—the accounts we have received this day (from Washington on Sunday) are such as give us great reason to hope that some of the Gentlemen to whom accident has given the power to decide will have obeyed the dictates of reason & finished the dispute before this reaches you—Upon this subject I think it right to state to you the strong conviction of my mind, that the great bulk of the people here who are of the federal party, as it is improperly called, do not approve of the late proceedings of that party in Congress, but consider them as contrary to the spirit & principles of our Constitution. The spirit of party is much stronger among some Gentlemen in public life, than it is among the people at large who if left to themselves would reciprocally tolerate with good humour the diversity of political sentiment which seems inevitable in our present situation—

It seems very reasonable to hope that under the approaching Administration many angry passions will subside, & social intercourse will be greatly improved, as the people cannot but see that the late proceedings have originated in the wish to retain power & influence—with this pleasing hope I leave the subject for the present—

Your extracts from Chancellor Livingston's letter do not afford as strong reasons for hoping that we shall soon complete our Skeleton at Philada & I feel the propriety of the suggestion to fix upon a few of the most important parts & confine the request to them, but I find

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myself in the situation of a country man who was asked what he would be helped to at a large entertainment, &, after surveying the table with great attention, replied I should like a little of all—as all cannot be had, I will beg to be helped to the head & feet & shoulder blade if they are to spare. From the description which I have the pleasure to inclose, you will see that the Specimens are remarkably large, it is therefore to be wished that the curious People of<sup>1</sup> may take good care of them, especially of the head—You probably have been informed ere this of the election of Chancellor Livingsto[n,] it is remarkable that it should be left to so late a Period—Mr Ellicott who was engaged in writing to you at the time of the election charged himself with the care of the Diploma—Having made this letter too long I will only add that

with sentiments of most sincere esteem I am your obliged friend  
C. WISTAR JUNR.

RC (DLC); margin frayed; at foot of text: “Honble T. Jefferson”; endorsed by TJ as received 21 Feb. and so recorded in SJL. Enclosure: very likely Sylvanus Miller’s letter of 20 Sep. 1800 to Samuel L. Mitchill on the recently discovered fossil bones; a clipping of the first two pages of Miller’s letter, as printed in Mitchill’s *Medical Repository*, 4 [1801], 211-12, and with what appears to be Wistar’s note at the foot summarizing the remainder of the account, is in TJ’s papers (DLC: TJ Papers, 107:18373).

TJ’s letter to Wistar on 3 Feb. contained EXTRACTS of Robert R. Livingston’s

communication of 7 Jan. about the prospects of acquiring some portion of the SKELETON of the “mammoth” (mastodon) that had been discovered west of Newburgh, New York (see also Wistar to TJ, 19 Oct., 8 Dec. 1800; TJ to Livingston, 14 Dec.). For Livingston’s ELECTION to the American Philosophical Society, see TJ’s letter to him of 16 Feb. 1801. Andrew ELLICOTT wrote TJ on 18 Jan., two days after Livingston’s election to membership.

<sup>1</sup> Wistar omitted a word at the turn of a page in MS.

## To Thomas Mann Randolph

TH: J. TO TMR.

Washington Feb. 19. 1801.

After exactly a week’s balloting there at length appeared 10. states for me, 4. for Burr & 2. voted blanks. this was done without a single vote coming over. Morris of Vermont withdrew, so that Lyon’s vote became that of the state. the 4. Maryland federalists put in blanks, so that the vote of the 4. Republicans became that of their state. mr Huger of S. Carolina (who had constantly voted for me) withdrew by agreement, his colleagues agreeing in that case to put in blanks. Bayard the sole member of Delaware voted blank. they had before deliberated whether they would come over in a body, when they saw they could not force

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Burr on the republicans, or keep their body entire & unbroken to act in phalanx on such ground of opposition as they shall hereafter be able to conjure up. their vote shewed what they had decided on, and is considered as a declaration of perpetual war. but their conduct has completely left them without support. our information from all quarters is that the whole body of federalists concurred with the Republicans in the last election, & with equal anxiety. they had been made to interest themselves so warmly for the very choice, which while before the people they opposed, that when obtained it came as a thing of their own wishes, and they find themselves embodied with the republicans, & their quondam leaders separated from them. and I verily believe they will remain embodied with us: so that this conduct of the minority has done in one week what very probably could hardly have been effected by years of mild and impartial administration. a letter from mr Eppes informs me that Maria is in a situation which induces them not to risk a journey to Monticello, so we shall not have the pleasure of meeting them there. I begin to hope I may be able to leave this place by the Middle of March. my tenderest love to my ever dear Martha & kisses to the little ones. accept yourself sincere & affectionate salutations. Adieu.

RC (DLC); endorsed by Randolph as received on the 26th. PrC (same).

For the LETTER FROM John Wayles EPPES, see TJ to Eppes, 22 Feb.

## From Stephen Thorn

HONOURED SIR

George Town Feby 19th: 1801

Some time in December last, I had the honour of sending you by post, a large packet of Letters from Mr Paine at Paris, particularly entrusted to my care by the writer, which with the books<sup>1</sup> accompanying the same, I hope you have received.—Permit me to congratulate you on your late appointment to the Office of President of the United States—It will greatly add to the triumph of Republican principles in Europe as well as in the Country where fair freedom rose

Having been several years in Europe, nay throughout the greatest part thereof, and during a long residence in paris, have followed up the history of the French Revolution, being assisted by several literary characters there of great respectability in some observations thereon; to complete which, as well as to arange some private concerns in that Country, where I have a landed property, makes me desirous to return there—therefore as the treaty is adopted and we have no consular agent at Havre, I could wish for that appointment, and to return by the first public occasion—The enclosed papers are

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submitted for your consideration, besides my friend Col Lyon, and who has known me from a boy, will give you any information respecting me—

Salut et respect

STEPN. THORN

RC (DNA: RG 59, LAR); at foot of text: “Mr. Jefferson”; endorsed by TJ as received 20 Feb. and so recorded in SJL; also endorsed by TJ: “to be consul at Havre.” Enclosures not found.

THE TREATY IS ADOPTED: on 3 Feb. the Senate agreed to the Convention of 1800 with France, but only if Article 2 were excised and an eight-year limit imposed on the duration of the pact. The convention’s second article would have postponed the settlement of indemnities for private shipping that had been captured at sea during the period of hostility between the two nations, and it made the treaties of 1778 and the consular convention of 1788 inoperative until the indemnities were resolved. During the negotiations in 1800, indemnification was a paramount issue for the American envoys (Oliver Ellsworth, William Vans Murray, and William R. Davie). However, the United States had abrogated the treaties of 1778, which contained articles that conflicted with privileges granted to Britain by the Jay Treaty. The French, who hoped to avoid responsibility for payment of indemnities, would

not discuss the settlement of spoliation claims without receiving in return either an affirmation of the terms of the earlier alliance or a new treaty that would give France status equal, at least, to that enjoyed by Great Britain. In order to break the impasse and allow the two nations to come to terms on other matters, the Americans suggested a deferment of the problem issues. Article 2—and the designation of the pact as a convention rather than a treaty—was the result of that compromise. The Senate, by refusing to approve the article, indicated that restoration of the treaty of amity and commerce of 1778 was not a possibility, although the excision of Article 2 also meant that the convention would contain no provision for the settlement of spoliation claims (JEP, 1:377; Miller, *Treaties*, 2:458-9; E. Wilson Lyon, “The Franco-American Convention of 1800,” *Journal of Modern History*, 12 [1940], 305-33; TJ to Oliver Ellsworth and William Vans Murray, [18] Mch. 1801; Vol. 32:159n, 504, 539-40n).

<sup>1</sup> MS: “books books.”

## To Thomas Whitlaw

SIR

Washington Feb 19. 1801.

As it is now settled that I am to [remain here] I can no longer [. . .] to build myself the nailshop at Monticello which I proposed to you to undertake. I must therefore engage you to do it yourself out & out, and will give you the price you then stated to be the lowest you could take. what that was I do not now recollect with certainty, but I have a note of it at home, made at the time as I [suppose] you have also.<sup>1</sup> I shall be at home about the 19th. or 20th. of March, at which time I should be glad [if] you could make it convenient to be ready to begin [the shop]. the [. . .] ought to be got into place by that time. my reason for wishing to be at home when it is begun is in order to [. . .] on the plan & some other particulars. it is probable my waggon could

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be hired to you by the day [for] a part of the [loading]. I know not what sort of work [. . .] do [. . .] team of mules; but I should expect only a proportion [. . .]. I will thank you to drop me a line directed to this place immediately, that I may know whether I may consider the matter as [set]. I am Sir

Your very humble servt

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (MoSHi: Jefferson Papers); faint and blurred; frayed at margin; at foot of text: "Mr. Thomas Whately"; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso.

Thomas Whitlaw, whom TJ addressed and recorded in SJL as "Whately," is probably the brickmason recorded by Nicholas Lewis as "Thomas Whitlough," who earlier had built a kitchen oven at Monticello. Whitlaw hired TJ's slave Jupiter while TJ was in France. In June 1801, Whitlaw was preparing to build the walls of the public tobacco warehouse in Richmond. He was described as "a stone mason celebrated for faithful execution of his work" (Jack McLaughlin, *Jefferson and Monticello: The Biography of a Builder* [New York, 1988], 247, 425; CVSP, 9:234, 258).

On 28 Feb., the day after receiving the letter above, Whitlaw responded from "Albemarle" that he was "exceedingly sorry" but previous engagements prevented him from being at Monticello on the date TJ requested. He closed by noting that as soon as the "business on hand" was completed he would be happy to come if TJ still wanted him (RC in MoSHi: Jefferson Papers; endorsed by TJ as received 6 Mch. and so recorded in SJL). TJ paid Whitlaw for stone in 1799 but he does not appear again in TJ's financial records (MB, 2:1009).

A letter from Whitlaw to TJ of 13 Feb. 1794, recorded in SJL as received the following day, has not been found.

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

## From John Adams

SIR

Washington Feb. 20. 1801

In order to save you the trouble and Expence of purchasing Horses and Carriages, which will not be necessary, I have to inform you that I shall leave in the stables of the United States seven Horses and two Carriages with Harness the Property of the United States. These may not be suitable for you: but they will certainly save you a considerable Expence as they belong to the studd of the Presidents Household.

I have the Honor to be with great respect, Sir your most obedient and humble Servant

JOHN ADAMS

RC (Amor Hollingsworth, Boston, 1951); at foot of text: "Thomas Jefferson Esqr Vice President of the United States and President Elect for four years from the 4 of March next"; endorsed by TJ as received 21 Feb. and so recorded in SJL. FC (Lb in MHi: Adams Papers).

When the House of Representatives discussed appropriations for the president's household on 2 Mch., Joseph Varnum and Samuel Smith expressed dismay that Adams had bought the HORSES and vehicles with funds approved for furnishings. Congress, by an act approved the

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next day, determined that all items in the president's household other than furniture should be sold, along with any furniture not fit for use, and the proceeds combined with appropriations to purchase additional furniture (*Annals*, 10:1070-1; U.S. Statutes at Large, 2:121-2; Malone, *Jefferson*, 4:41).

## To Samuel Dexter

DEAR SIR

Washington Feb. 20. 1801.

The liberality of the conversation you honored me with yesterday evening has given me great satisfaction, & demands my sincere thanks. it is certain that those of the cabinet council of the President should be of his bosom-confidence. our geographical position has been an impediment to that, while I can with candor declare that the imperfect opportunities I have had of acquaintance with you have inspired an entire esteem for your character, and that you will carry with you that esteem and sincere wish to be useful to you. the accommodation you have been so kind as to offer as to the particular date of retiring from<sup>1</sup> office is thankfully accepted, and shall be the subject of a particular letter to you as soon as circumstances shall enable me to speak with certainty. in the mean time accept assurances of my high respect & consideration.

TH: JEFFERSON

RC (DLC); at foot of text: "The honble Samuel Dexter Secretary of the Treasury." DATE OF RETIRING: Dexter continued in office until 6 May (*Biog. Dir. Cong.*).

<sup>1</sup> TJ here canceled "your."

## From Pierre Samuel Du Pont de Nemours

MONSIEUR,

New York 20 Fevrier 1801.

Vous n'avez jamais eu qu' *un Vice*. Je fais mon compliment à votre Patrie et aux deux Mondes de ce qu'enfin vous l'avez perdu.

Salut et respect.

DU PONT (DE NEMOURS)

E D I T O R S ' T R A N S L A T I O N

SIR,

New York, 20 February 1801

You have never had but *one vice*. I compliment your fatherland and both worlds on the fact that you have finally lost it.

Greetings and respect.

DU PONT (DE NEMOURS)

RC (MHi); at head of text in English: "To greatest Man in greatest Place of the United States"; endorsed by TJ as received 25 Feb. and so recorded in SJL.

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## To the House of Representatives

Feb. 20. 1801.

I recieve Gentlemen<sup>1</sup> with profound thankfulness, this testimony of confidence from the great representative council of our nation. it fills up the measure of that grateful satisfaction which had already been derived from the suffrages of my fellow citizens themselves, designating me as one of those to whom they were willing to commit this charge, the most important of all others to them. In deciding between the candidates, whom their equal vote presented to your choice,<sup>2</sup> I am sensible that age has been respected, rather than more active & useful qualifications. I know the difficulties of the station to which I am called, and feel and acknolege<sup>3</sup> my incompetence to them. but whatsoever of understanding, whatsoever of diligence, whatsoever of justice, or of affectionate concern for the happiness of man, it has pleased providence to place within the compass of my faculties, shall be called forth for the discharge of the duties confided to me, & for procuring to my fellow citizens all the benefits which our constitution has placed under the guardianship of the general government. Guided by the wisdom and patriotism of those to whom it belongs to express the legislative will of the nation, I will give to that will a faithful execution. I pray you, Gent. to convey to the honorable body from which you are deputed the homage of my humble acknowledgements, & the sentiments of zeal & fidelity, by which I shall endeavor to merit these proofs of confidence from the nation and it's representatives.<sup>4</sup>

Accept yourselves, gentlemen,<sup>5</sup> my particular thanks for the obliging terms in which you have been pleased to communicate their will.

TH: JEFFERSON

Dft (DLC); at foot of text: "Messrs. Pinckney, Tazewell & Bayard"; general appearance and use of erasure for several changes suggest that TJ may have initially intended this manuscript to be the RC or a fair copy. Printed in JHR, 3:815, with variations in punctuation, spelling, capitalization, and paragraphing. Not recorded in SJL.

THE GREAT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF OUR NATION: the House of Representatives. Immediately after completing the balloting for president on 17 Feb. the House appointed Thomas Pinckney, Littleton W. Tazewell, and James A. Bayard to wait on

Adams and inform him of TJ's election. Two days later the House ordered the same committee to notify the president-elect. TJ received a copy of the House's order, extracted from the journal and signed by the clerk, John H. Oswald (MS in DLC). Pinckney informed the House that the committee also made a brief address to TJ: "The committee beg leave to express their wishes for the prosperity of your administration; and their sincere desire that it may promote your own happiness and the welfare of our country." The House received TJ's reply on the 21st (JHR, 3:803, 808, 815).

<sup>1</sup> Word interlined.

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<sup>2</sup> TJ here interlined, then erased, “of the H. of R.”

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

<sup>4</sup> JHR continues here with a semicolon, the word “and,” and no paragraph break.

<sup>5</sup> Word lacking in JHR.

## From Josef Ignacio de Viar

SIR

Philadelphia 20th. Febry. 1801

The agreeable News, which Reached us yesterday Morning of your Election to the Presidential Chair, have afforded me singular satisfaction, and Now beg, you will accept of my most sincere congratulation on the Occassion.

I have the honor to be with great esteem, and Respect Sir Your most obt and humble Servt

JOSEPH IGNAT VIAR

RC (DLC); at foot of text: “Thoms. Jefferson Esqr. Vice-President of the United States. &c”; endorsed by TJ as received 23 Feb. and so recorded in SJL.

## From George Logan

RESPECTED CITIZEN

Lancaster Feby: 20: 1801

I congratulate you & our Country on the determination of the important question in which every real friend to his Country found himself deeply interested. I received a Letter last evening from our friend John Dickinson of Wilmington, no man is more anxious for the republican cause. The Legislature of this State have continued in Session to this time, in order to take measures in case of an usurpation. We shall now adjourn in two or three days—

I am with sentiments of respect Your friend

GEO LOGAN

RC (DLC); endorsed by TJ as received 23 Feb. and so recorded in SJL.

MEASURES IN CASE OF AN USURPATION: see Thomas McKean to TJ, 20 Feb. and 21 Mch.

## From James Lyon

SIR

GeoTown. Feb. 20th. 1801

The important contest in which the friends of Liberty have been so long and so arduously engaged, having been so happily decided, I cannot refrain from congratulating you, and through you, Mankind, not one of whom but must, more or less, sooner or later, participate in the benefits immediately or remotely resulting from the present triumph of republican Principles.—

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As the period will very shortly arrive when you are to take the management of the executive business of the nation, and when important affairs must so crowd your attention, that you cannot be expected to have leisure to attend to the individual concerns of your friends, without being in some way informed of their wishes; and being convinced that no change in your situation can subvert that urbanity and frankness of manners ever characteristic of honest republicans, I prefer addressing you without formality, in a manner altogether in my power, to the more ceremonious and troublesome channel of friends.

Wishing not to be too early in my application and fearing lest the object of it might be secured to some other person, I have been halting between two opinions, but have chose to make my application direct, relying upon your liberality to pardon any impropriety in point time, manner, &c. The favor which I am about to ask from you, I am sensible does not derive immediately from yourself, but I am confident it will be none the less at your command.

I understand that the Secretary of State is authorised to contract for printing the necessary quantity of the Laws of Congress, which, together with other printing attached to his office, would be a very valuable acquisition to my business. If the printing of the laws of the present session of Congress will fall under the direction of the new Secretary of State, it will, perhaps, be easy for you to assist me to that business.

What pretensions it is necessary to prefer, to command success in this application, I know not, neither do I know what competitors I have or whether any—but since the patriotic Bache, Greenleaf, and Adams are no more, there can be *none*, of my profession, *older* in the service of the republican cause, than myself. Altho' I disclaim the idea of asking, or considering a preference of this kind as a compensation for extraordinary exertions and sufferings in that cause, yet if those things have any weight in the scale of preferment, it is but fair for me to claim the merit of those exertions, and even to boast of having been for eight years past a victim of opposition, to a system of policy, and measures, which in the cradle of their infancy, few were discerning enough to foresee the gigantic stature to which they have since arrived. Yes, I claim the honor of having established the first republican press in Vermont; of having for six years, at the expence of my time and patrimony, combatted those destructive measures; and of having by my exertions contributed to keep *one district*, even in the verge of the N. England vortex, correct in their politicks from the first until oppression, and persecution for those principles, which are now triumphant, drove me out. My pursuits for the last two years you have a sufficient knowledge of, to Judge of the advantages, if any, derived

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therefrom. I have often regretted my want of capital, and in some instances, want of support, to enable me to proceed in that pride of pursuits, the establishment of Republican presses: there are yet many circles where the noxious vapours of aristocracy, require to be dispelled by the rays of republican presses, and should any future situation enable me to do it, I should, with pride, renew that goodly work.

If you feel at liberty to communicate with me upon the subject of this letter, I shall be happy to receive a line from you.

Sir with perfect Esteem, your obedient Servt.

J LYON

RC (DNA: RG 59, LAR); addressed: "Thomas Jefferson, Esquire, President elect, of the U.S."; endorsed by TJ as received 20 Feb. and so recorded in SJL.

Lyon's deceased fellow republican printers were Benjamin Franklin BACHE of the Philadelphia *Aurora*, Thomas GREENLEAF of the New York *Argus*, and Thomas ADAMS of the Boston *Independent Chronicle*.

## From Thomas McKean

DEAR SIR,

Lancaster Feby. 20th. 1801.

Your favor of the 2d. instant did not come to hand until last Saturday night; I had written a long answer, and detailed my intended operations in case of a certain unfortunate event in the decision of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Engaged in this work a little before eleven this forenoon our Express arrived from Washington with letters from my friends, announcing the glorious intelligence of your election as President; on which permit me to congratulate you and my country. In consequence of this news my long letter has been committed to the flames. The Bells in this Borough have been ringing ever since until Sundown—The two Houses of our Legislature were electrified, and in a few minutes adjourned 'till tomorrow: my Republican friends had agreed to continue in Session till after the 4th. of March, to aid my projected Plan, which the Federalists would call, "a bold stroke."

I have had a daily communication of what has passed in your city since the 9th. and must charge the days that have passed since to the account of anxiety & distress. However every thing is now as it should be, a new æra has commenced, and I fear not for the future, tho' from experience, I know, you will have for a time to wade thro' a sea of troubles.

On Wednesday General Muhlenberg was elected by a *joint vote* of the two Houses of this State a Senator in the Senate of the U.S.; he had 46 votes, Doctor Geo. Logan 45—the choice was a surprize on

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the Republicans, for all the federalists to a man (34) voted for the former: both of the candidates are good Republicans & worthy men, but the Republicans knew that General Mulenberg was not only elected for the next two years in the House of Representatives, but would be so in future as long as he chose, and that the vacating his seat would put his place to hazard, and therefore they preferred the latter. An Express has been just sent to General Muhlenberg to acquaint him with these particulars; if he declines serving as a Senator, which I hope, I shall receive his resignation after our Legislature shall have adjourned, and will forthwith appoint Doctor Logan until their next meeting in December; so that at all or any event you may depend on having a Republican Senator in the Senate of the U.S. on the 4th. of March. I have had a summons for a Senator for this State to attend on that day at ten o'clock A.M. &c signed by President Adams, which I shall detain until I learn General Muhlenberg's determination.

I can add no more, as the mail will presently close for tonight, but that I am, with great sincerity & truth anxious for your health and happiness,  
Your

THOS M:KEAN

P.S. excuse haste &c.

RC (DLC); at head of text: "Private"; endorsed by TJ as received 25 Feb. and so recorded in SJJL.

PROJECTED PLAN: see McKean to TJ, 21 Mch. 1801.

John Peter Gabriel MUHLENBERG, elected to the U.S. Senate on 18 Feb., accepted the appointment and attended the special session of Congress on 4-5 Mch. He resigned the seat on 30 June and McKean appointed George LOGAN, who served the remainder of the term (*Biog. Dir. Cong.*; JS, 3:147).

In Washington on 20 Feb. the Republican congressmen from Pennsylvania, Michael Leib, Robert Brown, Joseph Hiester, John Smilie, John A. Hanna, and Andrew Gregg, addressed and signed a communication to "the President of the

United States" recommending Muhlenberg for the position of supervisor of the revenue for the state. They explained: "the merits of General Muhlenberg fully entitle him to this office, he having served his Country with fidelity & success as a General officer during the Revolutionary war, & having, since the establishment of the present government been an uniform & able supporter of the Republican cause" (MS in DNA: RG 59, LAR; endorsed by TJ: "Muhlenburg Genl."). TJ did not record this document in SJJL but he entered Muhlenberg's name on his list of candidates and noted he was recommended by "delegates of Pensva." on 20 Feb. On 27 June, TJ appointed Muhlenberg to the position as recommended by his congressional colleagues (See Appendix I, Lists 1 and 3).

## From Stephen Sayre

SIR

Philaa. 20th. Feb: 1801—

I am honor'd with your answer, so far as it was, then in your power to reply—and I am truly sensible of your kindness.

We have now the grateful sound of bells & cannon, on the happy event, of your election.—to us, who have risque'd our future hopes, on the issue, who deem'd our country lost, or saved, by the result, you must suppose it was music to the soul—to others, the news was like the pangs of death. May you long enjoy those delicious feelings, which must fill your mind, & delate your heart, to be, thus, the object of your native country's confidence, & love. You have enemies, but they are the enemies of the state.

Don't suppose this flattery—I have never yet practised the means by which I might have found my advantage, & where it was necessary—and I shall not begin with Mr Jefferson, who must hold the language of adulation in contempt—on the contrary, I now take the liberty, to remark—that the conflict has not been personal—you are the depository of our confidence to secure the blessings, which we expect under the forms & principles of a republican government—we trust you will not only act upon those principles, yourself, but employ none of those who have, dared to oppose them. to say this, I am, impel'd by duty—because I hear my fellow citizens, every hour, express their fears, that you will forgive their political sins

If you will take the trouble of looking over my letter again—you will find no Idea, express'd, or imply'd, as to our getting entangled in the affairs of Europe—I most cordially detest our policy, respecting our foreign relations, for many years past—but when an opportunity presents itself, such as at this moment, in which we should act as mediators, on the great scale of universal peace, & happiness, surely; some benefit may be secured—no injury provok'd—

We must have a Minister in France, to settle the accounts of our seven years delerium, hypocrisy, & folly—and why not lend his aid, in perfecting a system, to unite the world, in brotherly love—one of the great blessings of commerce is that of creating & preserving a friendly intercourse.

Who can read the letter book of a merchant, trading to various ports, without sensibly feeling the force of its influence—they write in the language of love, & are interested in all their family disasters, or happiness—You allow, that commerce is desirable—but is it not desirable to place it upon the basis of security, & universal protection—can

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this be expected while the British, are the pirates of Europe, & the Algerines, of Asia—

I need not inform Mr Jefferson, that if the powers of all Europe were now represented at Paris, for the express purpose of emancipating commerce, from depredation, & piracy—that the assembly would be like many others, composed of men, ignorant, selfish, & deceitful, with a few, very few, honest, & well inform'd. The councils of your Minister, his information, his honest policy, and perseverance, might finally prevail.

You will, of necessity send an agent to France—If you can find any other citizen, in the union, better qualified to conciliate, or to act, in this station, I shall forever be silent. I will not trouble you farther at this moment, when you must take upon you the great & solemn charge of your high appointment

I am most respectfully your obt

STEPHEN SAYRE

RC (DNA: RG 59, LAR); addressed: “Thomas Jefferson Esqr Vice President of the United States Washington”; franked

and postmarked; endorsed by TJ as received 25 Feb. and so recorded in SJL.

YOUR ANSWER: TJ to Sayre, 14 Feb.

## From John Wright

SIR

Philadelphia Feby 20 1801

Having lately arrived in this City with the view of erecting sundry patent Machines to facilitate the business of agriculture, I take the liberty of addressing you for the purpose of knowing, whether you will be pleased to accept of one, to cut straw upon a principle different from Any now in use—. If this offer should be accepted, I will with pleasure forward the machine to any place you direct—

I am Sir with great respect Your humble Servt

JOHN WRIGHT

RC (MHi); at foot of text: “Thos. Jefferson Washington”; endorsed by TJ as received 25 Feb. and so recorded in SJL.

## From John Dickinson

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Wilmington the 21st of the 2d. Month 1801

Amidst the many and important Affairs that must engage thy Attention at this Time, my Heart impells Me to congratulate our Country and of Course thyself, on thy Promotion to the high Office of presiding over her Wellfare.

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What I have felt for several Years, and what I now hope, it is needless and would be difficult to express.

As to the past, as far as I am enabled to form a Judgment, I believe, that our Minds have been in perfect Unison.

As to the future, thou art to be the principal Actor, and among Millions of deeply interested Free men willing ready and expecting to give merited Applauses, I, if I live, am to be a Spectator.

Nor, probably, is the Influence of our Transactions to be confined within the Limits of our own Land.

Perhaps, We are the selected People upon Earth, from whom large Portions of Mankind are to learn, that Liberty is really a transcendent Blessing, as capable by its enlightened Energies of calmly dissipating its internal Enemies, as of triumphantly repelling its foreign Foes.

May Events be propitious; and I trust, they will be.

The adorable Creator of the world is infinitely benevolent, tho it is impossible for our finite Capacities to comprehend all his Dispensations. However, We know enough to excite our warmest Gratitude and firmest Confidence.

My Belief is unhesitating, that by his superintending Providence a Period greatly favorable is commencing in the Destinies of the Human Race.

That he may be pleased to honour thee, as an Instrument for advancing his gracious Purposes, and that he may be thy Guide and Protector, is the ardent Wish, the fervent Prayer of thy truly affectionate Friend

JOHN DICKINSON

RC (DLC); endorsed by TJ as received 26 Feb. and so recorded in SJL. Dft (PHi). FC (same); in Dickinson's hand.

## From Joseph Fay

SIR

New York 21t. Feby. 1801

I can not let so fair an opportunity pass for renewing my former acquaintance with you, and of offering my Warmest Congratulations upon your being placed at the Head of our Government, an event which fills the hearts of all true Republicans with joy! the more so (if possible) from the unwarrantable opposition which has been made. This last act of Fœderalism went far towards filling up the measures of a corrupt administration, & to shew the desperate resort to which Wicked men were driven, in support of measures which have proved so destructive to this Country, and which had nearly annihilated our

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Government!—Heaven be praised that our prospects once more brighten!—I hope your Administration will afford a new & lasting evidence of the support of a Republican System.—Your task will no doubt be an arduous one, but be assured my Dear Sir, that you possess the Love and affection, & may rely on the constant support of the Great body of the People, and of all honest men!

Since I had the honor & the happiness of your acquaintance, I have removed my Family from Vermont to this city, where I have resided for the last seven years in private life; it will always afford me pleasure to serve you should occasion offer. My best regards also await Mr Maddison who I presume will be near you, as a friend & Counsellor in the many important Scenes before you.

The late *degrading* conduct, will at least have the Good effect of uniting the parties, in avoiding so Hazardous an expedient on any future occasion. The alarm had become General, and altho' the Fœderals felt great mortifications on yielding their favorite object, yet they universally express their satisfaction that our Government was relieved from the imminent danger to which it had been exposed.—That Heaven may continue to bless you with Wisdom, & fortitude, and incline the hearts of Good men to aid your administration, and may the Good effects go far to relieve the Wretchedness of Mankind universally, is the sincere wish of your friend & Very Humble Servant

JOSEPH FAY

RC (DLC); at head of text: “Honl. Thomas Jefferson Esq.”; at foot of text: “No 57 Pearl St. N. York”; endorsed by TJ as received 26 Feb. and so recorded in S.JL.

FORMER ACQUAINTANCE: TJ and Fay had corresponded about maple seeds, politics, and other subjects since 1791, when

TJ and Madison visited Bennington, Vermont, Fay’s residence at the time. The last previous correspondence between them consisted of unanswered letters from Fay in May 1793 and November 1795 (Vol. 20:440-4; Vol. 22:18, 102-3, 150-1, 351-2; Vol. 25:672-3).

## To George Jefferson

DEAR SIR

Washington Feb. 21. 1801.

I inclose you another letter from mr Lieper, written after a further examination of the tobo. you will find it turns out that the tobacco has [never] been wet, nor otherwise injured, except one hhd, & whether that was [wet] between Richmd & Philadelphia is uncertain; that the [pretended?]<sup>1</sup> great deficiencies in weight are entirely retracted: that the tobacco is not as good in quality by about  $\frac{3}{4}$  Doll. pr. Cwt. as that of the preceding year, which you [knew was] the finest tobacco [yet

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ever known] in Virginia; and when I sold that [crop] to mr Lieper I told him he would probably never get such another from me. he says that Clarke's tobo. has been badly handled. on this subject I [shall] write to Clarke. it seems that messrs. J. & W. had happened to recieve [some] good crops of some other persons, which *they say* (but Lieper has not [seen proof]) are superior to mine, at  $5\frac{1}{4}$  &  $5\frac{1}{2}$  Dollars. on this ground they have thought proper to hazard the insinuation of fraud in myself personally.—be so good as to return me this & the former letter, and take no trouble [about] further enquiry as to the duckings of the tobacco which never happened. I am Dear Sir

Your's affectionately

TH: JEFFERSON

P.S. I wrote the above under the impression that I had already inclosed you mr Leiper's first letter of Feb. 11. I find I had not done it, & therefore now do it

PrC (MHi); faint and blurred; at foot of text: "Mr G Jefferson"; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso. Enclosures: Thomas Leiper to TJ, 11 and 17 Feb. 1801.

I INCLOSE YOU ANOTHER LETTER: on 19 Feb. TJ wrote George Jefferson with the intention of enclosing the 11 Feb. letter he had received from Thomas Leiper. In his letter of the 19th, TJ requested that George Jefferson question the watermen to find out how many hogsheads of tobacco had accidentally gotten wet in transit. TJ also noted that he would write Bowling Clark about the matter. TJ feared that his

tobacco had been purchased by "very illiberal men in Philadelphia," as indicated by the letter from Jackson & Wharton to McMurdo & Fisher, which George Jefferson had transmitted to TJ on 29 Jan. Leiper's letter of 11 Feb. confirmed this (PrC in MHi; faint and blurred; at foot of text in ink: "Mr. George Jefferson"; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso).

According to SJL, TJ wrote Bowling Clark (CLARKE) on 24 Feb. but the letter has not been found.

J. & w.: Jackson & Wharton.

<sup>1</sup> Word interlined.

## To Charles Willson Peale

DEAR SIR

Washington Feb. 21. 1801.

I have to thank you for a copy of your introductory lecture recieved some time since, & not before acknoleged for want of time. I have read it with great pleasure, and lament that while I have been so near to your valuable collection, occupations much less pleasing to me have always put it out of my power to avail myself of it. may I ask the favor of you to present my request to your son that he would be so good as to<sup>1</sup> make a copy of the portrait he took of me, and of the same size? it is intended for a friend who has expressed a wish for it; and when ready I will give directions to whom it shall be delivered if he

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will be so good as to drop me a line mentioning it & the price. I am with great and affectionate esteem Dear Sir

Your friend & servt.

TH: JEFFERSON

P.S. only the inner frame will be necessary.

RC (TxU); at foot of text: "C. W. Peale." PrC (DLC); endorsed by TJ in ink on verso.

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE: Peale's *Discourse Introductory to a Course of Lectures on the Science of Nature; with Original Music, Composed For, and Sung On, the*

*Occasion* (Philadelphia, 1800), presented at the University of Pennsylvania on 8 Nov. 1800; Evans, No. 38203. For Rembrandt Peale's PORTRAIT of TJ, probably painted in the winter or spring of 1800, see Vol. 31:xli, 368 (illus.).

<sup>1</sup>Preceding 14 words interlined.

## To Benjamin Stoddert

SIR

Washington Feb. 21. 1801.

Your favor of the 18th. did not get to my hand till yesterday. I thank you for the accomodation in point of time therein offered; circumstances may render it a convenience, in which case I will avail myself of it, without too far encroaching on your wishes. at this [moment] it is not in my power to say any thing certain on the subject of time. the declarations of support to the administration of our government are such as were to be expected from your character and attachment to our constitution. I wish support from no quarter longer than my actions candidly scanned, shall merit it, & especially not longer than I shall rigorously adhere to the constitution. I am with respect Sir

Your most obedt. humble servt

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (DLC); faint; at foot of text: "The honble Benj. Stoddart Secretary of the navy."

## To Daniel Trump

DEAR SIR

Washington Feb. 21. 1801.

You have no doubt heard of the unfortunate fate of poor mr Holmes. he happened to be alone on his scaffold at the time; so no one knows what occasioned his fall. he was a valuable young man, and his loss has given great concern to me, as it must doubtless his friends. the object of the present is to see if you can procure one to supply his place. good humor & sobriety are the two indispensable qualities. skill in his business is now become more important, as I shall be little at home myself. still I shall give the principal directions & make

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myself the most important drawings. whoever goes will find a valuable friend & companion in James Dinsmore whom mr Carstairs procured for me in Philadelphia about 3. or 4. years ago. I had agreed to give Holmes either 180. or 200. D. a year, I do not remember which, tho' I have a note of it at home. I will give the person you shall engage the same, with board & lodging. he will have a black man under him to rough out his work. it would be well he should carry his tools, as they are not to be had there. he should go by water to Richmond, and thence take his passage in a boat or by a waggon, both of which conveyances are always to be had. it is 70. miles from Richmond to my house. if he could arrive there the first week in April he would be sure to find me there, and it would be considerably for his advantage as well as my own.

I wrote you last year for a pair of glass doors. I imagine they have not been made; & if not, they need not be made till further orders. but I shall be obliged to you to make & send me immediately 6. circular, & 2. semicircular mahogany sashes, radius 26. I. clear, consequently 4. f. 4. I. diameter. the latter are to be exact semicircles, including the bottom rail. the circulars had better be in the form in the margin, because should a pane get broke we can cut one of the center panes from one of 12. I. square, and one of the outer ones from a pane of 12. by 18. I. these being the two sizes of which I must always keep a stock. the circulars will open on pivots horizontally as at a.b. the semicirculars will be fixed. they must come ready glazed, and securely packed, addressed to messrs. Gibson & Jefferson. Richmond. I wish they could be at my house by the first week of April as I shall then be at home. I shall be glad to hear from you on both the subjects of this letter.—a friend of mine has desired me to have such sashes as mine made for a house he has built. he is to send me the particulars soon, or perhaps will give them to me when I go home. I shall forward you the order, which will be considerable. I am Dear Sir

Your most obedt. servt

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (MHi); at foot of first page: "Mr Trump"; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso.

I WROTE YOU LAST YEAR: for the missing correspondence, see TJ to John Barnes, 19 July 1800. For TJ's previous order, see Trump to TJ, 4 Aug. 1800.