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# THE PAPERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON



## From “Nicholas Geffroy”

New-Port August 1st 1801.

Encouraged, great & good Sir, by the character you sustain of being accesible to all of your fellow Citizens, I take the liberty of obtruding myself upon your precious time, to offer you my homage, & to assure you of the sentiments of veneration & respect with which I have been inspired by your wise, virtuous, & popular administration. The People of America would have gained but little by placing you in the presidential chair if the abuses of the past administrations had been continued, & you having commenced the correction of them (with the hope of your making a complete reform) have filled with contentment & delight all good men in this State.<sup>1</sup> Under the administration of John Adams very extensive fortifications were commenced & nearly completed in this harbour, merely I believe for the purpose of benefiting Genl Knox. How, you will ask, was Genl Knox to be advantaged by the building of forts at New-Port? The fact is, Sir, the engineer had it in charge from the President to obtain all the materials from Genl Knox—Colo Toussard went, at the public expence, to St. Georges river to make contracts which were paid for in advance, & the forts here were built of timber Bricks &c &c sent here in vessels by Knox all the way from the province of maine & at an enormous expence—the very lime was brought here in barrels from Knox’s estate, & when the engineer was once asked at our Coffee-House why he did not refuse it on account of its badness, he answer’d “because my orders are to take all my materials from Knox’s estate.” This as you can easily imagine greatly scandalized the honest part of our community. After fort Adams was built eight acres of land were bought in that neighbourhood for the accommodation of the Garrison, *as ’was said*, at the price of two hundred dollars the acre—this was an unheard of price for land here, and the purchase was made of an old lady of Massachusetts who is Sister to Mrs. Adams.<sup>2</sup> All the offices here have been filled by persons who were recommended only

1 AUGUST 1801

by their violence of character—the rule of appointing violent & hot headed men has governed from the office of Collector downwards. The system of which these things were parts have greatly disgusted a great majority of the People of this State—particularly the Quakers who make a large portion of 'em—Your beginning to correct the abuses of your Predecessor gives us infinite joy. Stopping the building of forts here is highly satisfactory.<sup>3</sup> The appointing Mr Howell attorney receives general approbation, tho' the appointment of Mr Barnes does not—Barnes is feeble in point of talents, & in politics is any thing every thing & nothing—with Tories a tory & with Wigs he is a wig. This State is at present decidedly in the wig interest (in the Genl Assembly we have a majority of more than one third) & there is a prospect of its being permanently so. In Connecticut New-Hampshire & Massachusetts political heresies are so rooted, & priestcraft is so fully in operation, that you cannot conciliate those States—but some attentions from you may do much here; & in Vermont may be useful tho' in a less degree. Gov Fenner, Mr Christopher Ellery (a Senator in Congress) Gen Joseph Staunton, Mr Paul Mumford & Wm Vernon senr are vastly influential characters in Rhode Island. The union of their interests in the parts of the State they respectively reside makes a majority of our People. I don't know if there be any reason for it but 'tis confidently said here that either Christopher Ellery or Paul Mumford will be the successor of the present Collector old Mr Ellery—they are both of them excellent men & the promotion of either would give equal pleasure. The answer you condescended to give to the remonstrance of the Satellites of old Hillhouse at new Haven, has afforded us much pleasure; & even some of our most high toned Tories acknowledge the correctness of the principle which requires that the subordinates should be of the same politics with the chief. Some young englishmen who scribble for the Papers at Providence will censure this as they will every measure of yours, but the great bulk of the People in this State think 'tis your duty to take care of yourself—that you should give fair play to your own administration—that wig principles ought to go freely into operation—that the measures of administration ought not to be fettered by being entrusted to those who disapprove 'em. These sentiments are universal among the wigs of New England. They are anathematized by Tories, but depend upon it Sir *you* cannot please *them*! Every thing from *you they* will censure (I mean the leaders of the party) Some time past they said you did not *dare* to turn men out of office, for that your nerves were too weak, now they begin to shake in their shoes & suppose you will turn 'em all out. Unless Sir the Tories are dismissed

1 AUGUST 1801

from Office (& all offices in New England are occupied by tories) you will be betrayed. Your meeting the wishes of the People (as expressed at the late election) and putting the government into the hands of Wigs is deemed essential here to our well doing. A purification is necessary, & we cannot be purified unless you cleanse the Augean Stable *completely*. The People of new-Haven (set on by old-Hillhouse) bluster about the appointment of Mr Bishop, because (as they *say*) he is old, & yet these very People abuse you, *in advance*, for the dismissal of old Ellery here & Genl. Lincoln in Boston (taking it for granted they will be dismissed) & both of these gentlemen are as old, and much more infirm than Bishop. I had the honor of being presented to you Sir, when you accompanied Genl Washington in his visit to this town, & I wish you may think that circumstance & my wish to give you some local information an excuse for troubling you with this letter & of assuring you of my respect & veneration. Should your Excellency visit this country it will give me unspeakable delight to tender my respect & services in person. Your time is so fully & usefully employed that I can hardly expect the honor of an answer from you, but should you deign in some moment of leisure to favor me with a line 'twill gladden the heart of an old man now sixty nine years of age, whose heart is sound with affection for you, & who seeing the affairs of this Country deposited in your Hands, says, sincerely, *now* good Lord let thy Servant depart in Peace for the first object of his wishes is complete. With unfeigned respect & esteem, great & good Sir, I am your humble Servant

NICHOLAS GEFFROY—

Printed in the Newport *Rhode-Island Republican*, 18 Sep. 1802; at head of text: "Rutledge's Letters To the President of the United States." RC recorded in SJL as received 13 Aug., but not found. PrC (Charles M. Storey, Boston, 1958), being an extract consisting of several sentences (see notes below); entirely in TJ's hand; faint and frayed; at head of text: "Extract of a letter from Newport dated Aug. 1. 1801." Extract enclosed in TJ to Dearborn and TJ to Madison, 14 Aug.

The *Rhode-Island Republican* described Nicholas Geffroy as a native of France, about 40 years of age, and a jeweler and watchmaker of Newport. Although he possessed some mastery of spoken English, it was doubted that Geffroy could write, "with any degree of correctness, a single sentence of the language" (*Rhode-Island Republican*, 18 Sep. 1802).

TJ appointed David HOWELL U.S. attorney for Rhode Island in May 1801. He appointed David Leonard BARNES U.S. district judge for the state in April (Vol. 33:675).

A brigadier general of the Rhode Island militia, JOSEPH Stanton (STAUNTON), Jr., represented his state in the U.S. Senate from 1790 to 1793 and in the House of Representatives from 1801 to 1807 (Heitman, *Register*, 514; *Biog. Dir. Cong.*). Newport lawyer PAUL MUMFORD was a former chief justice of Rhode Island and a member of the state senate (*National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, 63 vols. [New York; Clifton, N.J., 1898-1984], 9:393; Dexter, *Yale*, 2:346). William VERNON, Sr., was a prominent Newport merchant, who chaired the Eastern Navy Board during the American Revolution. In 1790 he sought TJ's assistance in securing the return of his

son from France (DAB; Vol. 17:483-4; Vol. 19:247).

A signer of the Declaration of Independence, William Ellery, the PRESENT COLLECTOR at Newport, was appointed in 1790 and remained in office until his death in 1820 (ANB; JEP, 1:51).

TJ accompanied George WASHINGTON on a brief VISIT to Newport on 17-18 Aug. 1790 (Washington, *Papers, Pres. Ser.*, 6:281-2; Vol. 17:390, 402).

REMONSTRANCE OF THE SATELLITES: see the Remonstrance of the New Haven Merchants, printed at 18 June 1801, and TJ's reply to them of 12 July.

On 20 Aug., TJ received another letter from Newport, dated 7 Aug. and signed "Nics Jeffroy." The second letter informed TJ that Henry Dearborn had just visited Newport and declared that additional forts would be completed there. The news gave "much uneasiness" to residents, the author stated, who feared that the project would inflate local wages and inundate the town with "Bands of licentious Soldiers." The letter also claimed that TJ's reply to the New Haven merchants was well received in Boston, although the "Essex Junto write against it." Republicans were a solid majority in the Rhode Island legislature, but Federalists still held the federal offices in the state. The author recommended that the collector at Providence, Jeremiah Olney, be replaced by Arthur Fenner, and he again recommended Christopher Ellery, Mumford, and Vernon to TJ's attention. He also claimed to share TJ's interest in botany, and offered to send "some bushes of the *Daily Rose*" if TJ wished. The letter concluded by reporting that David Leonard Barnes spoke "unhandsomely" of TJ at a recent public dinner and

claimed that he owed his appointment to the federal bench to his friend Levi Lincoln (printed in the Newport *Rhode-Island Republican*, 18 Sep. 1802; at head of text: "Rutledge's Letters To the President of the United States"; RC recorded in SJL as received 20 Aug., but not found).

On 28 Aug., Christopher Ellery wrote TJ to inform him that the letters of 1 and 7 Aug. were not written by Nicholas Geffroy, but were in fact forgeries. He hinted that the actual author was John Rutledge, Jr. TJ apparently gave the original Geffroy letters to Ellery sometime in 1802. The letters were printed on 18 Sep. 1802 in the *Rhode-Island Republican*, whose editor invited the public to examine the original copies for themselves. The publication of the Geffroy letters touched off a brief but rancorous public contest over their authorship, which culminated in a physical assault on Ellery by Rutledge in January 1803. Although Rutledge vehemently maintained his innocence in the affair, including sending a written appeal to TJ on 20 Oct. 1802, the negative publicity resulted in his decision not to seek reelection in 1803 (Elizabeth Cometti, "John Rutledge, Jr., Federalist," *Journal of Southern History*, 13 [1947], 201-11; Robert Kent Ratzlaff, "John Rutledge, Jr., South Carolina Federalist, 1766-1819" [Ph.D. diss., University of Kansas, 1975], 212-20; Ellery to TJ, 28 Aug. 1801, 29 Apr. 1802; TJ to Ellery, 17 Sep. 1801; Rutledge to TJ, 20 Oct. 1802).

<sup>1</sup> PrC extract begins here.

<sup>2</sup> PrC extract breaks off here.

<sup>3</sup> Sentence included in PrC, ending extract.

## From Philippe de Létombe

MONSIEUR LE PRÉSIDENT, Philadelphie, 1er aoust 1801. (v. St.)

J'ai reçu la lettre dont Vous avez bien voulu m'honorer le 15 du mois dernier, en réponse à la mienne du 11 précédent.

Monsieur Bingham devant partir incessamment, Le Maire est venu me dire, avant hier, à mon arrivée de New york, qu'il accepte l'honneur

1 AUGUST 1801

de Vous servir à *trente* dollars par mois, son voyage d'ici à Washington à vos frais. il pourra se rendre, dans quinze Jours ou trois Semaines, auprès de Rapin qui lui a promis de le mettre, en peu de tems, au fait des fonctions de maître d'hotel. Monsieur de Ternant (qui l'a amené ici) m'a dit que Vous ne pouvez avoir un Officier plus fidèle, plus actif et plus habile. Je serai très flatté, Monsieur le Président, que Vous vouliez bien m'adresser vos ordres pour les lui transmettre.

Monsieur Livingston se trouvant à Clermont, à mon arrivée à New York, je lui ai écrit. Mais je n'en ai reçu encore aucune réponse. J'aurai l'honneur de Vous informer de l'époque de mon départ et d'attendre, avec confiance, la dépêche dont Vous daignerez m'honorer à ce Sujet.

Je Vous supplie, Monsieur le Président, de vouloir bien agréer l'hommage de mon profond respect. LÉTOMBE

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

MISTER PRESIDENT, Philadelphia, 1st Aug. 1801 (old style)

I received the letter with which you kindly honored me the 15th of last month in reply to mine of the 11th of the preceding one.

Mr. Bingham being about to leave very shortly, Lemaire came to tell me, the day before yesterday, upon my arrival from New York, that he accepts the honor of serving you at *thirty* dollars per month, with his travel from here to Washington at your expense. He will be able to arrive within two or three weeks at Rapin's, who has promised to acquaint him in a short time with his functions as maître d'hôtel. Monsieur de Ternant (who brought him here) told me that you could not have an officer in your service more faithful, more active and more skillful. I shall be most flattered, Mister President, should you be willing to address to me your orders to transmit to him.

Mr. Livingston, being at Clermont upon my arrival in New York, I wrote to him, but I have not yet received any answer. I shall be honored to advise you of the time of my departure and to await confidently the dispatch with which you will deign to honor me on that subject.

I beg you, Mister President, kindly to accept the homage of my deep respect. LÉTOMBE

RC (DLC); endorsed by TJ as received 13 Aug. and so recorded in SJL.

## From Peyton Short

DEAR SIR, Cincin[nati]—1st. Augst. 1801

I beg leave to return my thanks for the Letter you were so good as to forward me from my Brother, some short time ago—

I am sorry you shd. have thought it necessary to give me any explanation respecting the Seal— Even had I not conceived of you far more highly than of the best of Characters, I shd., not have thought

1 AUGUST 1801

of ascribing the Circumstance to any other than the Cause assigned by you—and divested of that Consideration, I could not have had the Vanity to suppose any thing in an epistolary intercourse in which I was a party, worthy of your Observation—

I again take the Liberty of enclosing you another Letter to my Brother, as he still assures me that I may continue to use that freedom on Acct. of the Friendship that subsists between yourself & him—

Accept, Dr Sir, Assurances of the highest Respect & Esteem of Yr. Obt. Sert.

PEYTON SHORT

RC (MiU-C); torn at seal; addressed: “Thomas Jefferson Esquire President of the U. States City of Washington”; franked; postmarked 4 Aug.; endorsed by TJ as received 21 Aug., but recorded in SJL as received 27 Aug. Enclosure: Peyton Short to William Short, 30 July 1801, acknowledged in summary of William

Short to Peyton Short, 19 Dec. 1801, in William’s epistolary record in DLC: Short Papers; see also TJ to William Short, 3 Oct. 1801.

SO GOOD AS TO FORWARD ME: see note to TJ to William Short, 17 Mch. 1801.

## From Benjamin Waterhouse

Cambridge August 1st. 1801.

Vaccine matter on the tooth-pick taken July 31.st. in the evening. The thread taken at the same time.—The two plates of glass, which he<sup>1</sup> have covered with lead is just come to hand from Dr. Jenner being taken May 19th. in London. Two other plates containing some of the virus taken at the same time has been proved to be perfectly active. It adheres to the glass like gum. water, warm steam, or a little hot water is necessary to dilute it for use.—Dr Waterhouse is anxious to hear from Washington respecting the success of his endeavours—

RC (DLC); endorsed by TJ as received 13 Aug. from Waterhouse, and so recorded in SJL.

supplies of smallpox vaccine, or cowpox, that Waterhouse sent to TJ, see Waterhouse to TJ, 24 July.

VACCINE MATTER: for two previous

<sup>1</sup> Word interlined in place of “I.”

## From George Douglas

SIR,

Petersburg, 2d. Aug. 1801

Some time ago I took the liberty of sending you a copy of our last year’s *Register*—It was put under the care of a young Gentleman, who promised to have it delivered at the Presidential house as he passed thro’ Washington—

2 AUGUST 1801

Two reasons made me hesitate in writing to you along with the Book—I was apprehensive lest you should think that I wished to force myself upon your notice—and, I was fearful of intruding in the important avocations of your present high & very arduous office—

Finding at length, by the News-papers, that you had left the Federal City & gone to Monticello, I have seized the opportunity of acknowledging my grateful obligations for the honor you did me in writing your letter of the 21st. of Decr. last—

Agreeable to my plan, I had a drawing, or front elevation of the Capitol taken by a person in Richmond, & I got it engraved by one of the most eminent Artists in Philadelphia—The work was completed in the month of Decr. & I had every reason to expect the copies, or impressions, here in January—After waiting two months for them, in March they sent me the plate itself, but the copies, by some unlucky accident or other, were lost or mislaid, & have not yet been found—

I need scarcely say, that this very unpleasant affair has given me much uneasiness—And it has shewn me that I am placed in too remote & too inconsequential a situation, to execute such a plan with any sort of propriety, and or with any rational prospect of success—

I hope you will not think this letter an intrusion on your great or necessary employments, but that you will believe I thought it an incumbent duty on me for your goodness in writing on this subject.—

I most sincerely pray, that your Presidency may not only be a source of inward satisfaction & public honor to yourself, but that it may tend to illustrate the *theory* & establish the *practice* of Republicanism in the United States of America to the remotest posterity.

G: DOUGLAS.

RC (DLC); endorsed by TJ as received 13 Aug. and so recorded in SJL.

Douglas had earlier sent TJ a COPY of his *Annual Register, and Virginian Repository*, and a BOOK, *Washingtoniana: A Collection of Papers Relative to the Death and Character of General George Washington*; see Vol. 32:220-1.

TJ left Washington for MONTICELLO on 30 July (Vol. 34:684-5).

The DRAWING of the Virginia Capitol

was done by the Richmond miniaturist Lawrence Sully, older brother of Thomas Sully, and was ENGRAVED by Alexander Lawson. The engraved plate did not arrive from Philadelphia in time for Douglas to use in his 1801 almanac, but it was used for his *Virginia and North Carolina Almanack for the Year 1802*, published by Douglas and Ross in 1801 (Fiske Kimball, *The Capitol of Virginia: A Landmark of American Architecture*, rev. ed. [Richmond, 2002], 31-32, 78).



## From Lyon Lehman

WORTHY SIR

Philadelphia 2d. August 1801

I take the liberty to adress a few lines to you, to inform you my unhappy situation, and my suffrings, and no doubt my worthy President can not help to feel for me. I am a Native of Amsterdam emigrated to France, till we marched to Holland again were I received several wounds when we Batavians entered into Holland, as I had a little property of my own as merchant made severel voyages to America and brought to this country on duties above \$9000 I was taken then by the English 350 miles from the land and have put us in a long boat where I was in situation for 18 hours till we were saved at last by a pilot-boat this loss of mine amounted to \$14000 even every Steatch of Cloth took those pirates of us, of my unhappy situation I have every bit of paper to Produce. Esqr. Edward Livingston presented a petition in Congress for a remission on duties last cession which amounted to \$1684. our Vice President Aaron Bur knows me well as I am now in Such a melancholly situation to ask any small situation which would suport me in any degree as my correctories known in the United States. Not troubling you any longer with this writing therefore will conclude with every sincerly good wishes, health, long live, and Happiness, is the intimate wish of your friend  
& Humble Servant

LYON LEHMAN

N.B. Edward Livingston has seen all my papers likewise Mr Kelteus & knows my Situation

The President will therefore Honour his faithfull Servant by dressing an answer to Lyon Lehman Philadelphia

RC (DNA: RG 59, LAR); in an unidentified hand, signed by Lehman; at head of text: "Thomas Jefferson Esqr. President of the United States of America"; endorsed by TJ as received 13 Aug. and so recorded in SJL with notation "Off."

On 5 Feb. 1800, EDWARD LIVINGSTON presented Lehman's PETITION, requesting a remission of duties on firearms imported from Hamburg, to the House of Representatives, where it was referred to the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures. The committee reported on 10 Feb., but no further action was taken. On 7 Feb., New York Senator James Watson presented the same petition to the Senate.

As president of the Senate, TJ endorsed it "Feb. 7 recd. & commd." In the memorial Lehman explained that he had imported firearms in October 1799 with the intention of selling them to the War Department, but James McHenry refused to purchase them. The government then prevented Lehman from exporting the firearms to the West Indies. In the end he was forced to sell the rifles for less than cost. Because he was prohibited from exporting the arms, Lehman petitioned for a refund of the \$1,684 he had paid in duties at New York (MS in DNA: RG 233, 7th Cong., 1st sess., undated, in an unidentified hand, at head of text: "To the Honourable the Senate, and House of Representatives, of the United States of

America, in Congress assembled: The Memorial of Lyon Lehman a Citizen of the united States"; JHR, 3:786, 792; JS, 3:27). A committee reported on the petition on 21 Feb. and brought in a bill for the relief of Lehman on 5 Mch. TJ endorsed the bill on that date, but no further action was taken in the Senate. On 19 Jan.

1802, the House of Representatives again considered Lehman's petition. This time the House and Senate acted on it favorably. TJ signed the "Act for the relief of Lyon Lehman," authorizing the refund of \$1,684 in duties, on 6 Mch. 1802 (JS, 3:33, 42, 189; JHR, 4:54, 123; U.S. Statutes at Large, 6:45; Vol. 31:604).

## From John Barnes

SIR

Geo: Town 3d Augst. 1801—

—free from the pressing Cares of Government I hope you may enjoy at last sir [. . .] [the sweets] of Domestic happiness—without [allay].

—The master of the sloop with whom I intrusted your packages of groceries, and 5 lbs. plaister of Paris—from hence to Alexandria intended for the Sloop Abigal & Rebecca from there to Richmond as the latter had left Alexandria the Evening before—was so obliging as to pursue and with some difficulty overhauled and delivered them safe on Board the A & R—with promise of delivering them as expressed in Bills Lading—tho unsigned, nor had Capt. L[. . .] time or opportunity to return me one as desired—. he suspects however from Contrary winds, & weather the A & R must have had a tedious passage. Still I hope she is ere this arrived at Richmond and that I may Venture, to send on the plaisterers, in the Course of a day or two, without risque.

—Mr Richards at Philada. in his late advices says "I have paid Doct Jackson \$112.—as well as Mr. Mercer the Amt. of his Acct. for 6 Boxes sirup of punch [a] \$10 [is] \$60 (at request of Mr Rapin) on the Presidents a/c—and further he says "I still hold your check on Bank US. for \$4000 of 16th June not hearing anything from Mr Dinsmore—to whom I sent your letter as  $\text{Ⓕ}$  address &c—in this Case you will be pleased to inform his Brother or Cousin with you—for his [. . .] [government therein?]

Mr Rapin sent me a Key—(I presume) for his Room & [. . .]—I purpose calling to see if any thing is needfull or wanting at Washington—and abt the 10th Inst. expect to Obtain another warrant from the Treasury for \$2000—if therefore, you should have, any [Occasional?] paymts. to make, I shall be fully prepared to answer them—

I am most Respectfully Sir, your Obed: & very hum Sev

JOHN BARNES

3 AUGUST 1801

P.S. Your wt each figs: prunes, Raisins & Almonds, with 2 Books, are still in my stores without a present Chance of conveyance—unless I can meet with one from Alexandria—

Mr Conrads pair of looking glasses shall be procured and Mr Carpenters Bill paid when Called upon

Mr Richards also advises I shall in a few day rendr Invoices of your last order shipped for Richmond, on a/c of the President, Glass &c. &c.

RC (ViU: Edgehill-Randolph Papers); words illegible from bleeding of ink; addressed: "Thomas Jefferson Esqr. President U States at, Monticello—Virga."; franked and postmarked; endorsed by TJ as received 6 Aug. and so recorded in SJL.

TJ had ordered Barnes on 22 July to pay David JACKSON on William Wardlaw's account (TJ to Wardlaw, 16 July). SIRUP OF PUNCH: in a statement of TJ's account for the president's household, Barnes recorded a payment to John Richards at Philadelphia on 29 July for six boxes of syrup of punch for \$60 (statement of household account from John Barnes, 30 Sep. 1801, in ViU).

The CHECK on the Bank of the U.S. for \$400 was intended for Andrew DINSMORE (TJ to James Dinsmore, 10 June).

The WARRANT of \$2,000 expected from the TREASURY was part of the president's annual compensation (Barnes to TJ, 5 May). On 7 Sep. Barnes received from the Treasury \$4,000 for the months of July and August (MB, 2:1040; Barnes to TJ, 7 Sep. 1801).

TJ received an invoice for \$24 from

Conrad & McMunn, dated 24 Oct., for one pair of LOOKING GLASSES. Two days later, on the same sheet, below the invoice TJ dated and signed an order on Barnes for payment of \$24 to Conrad & McMunn to discharge the bill (MS in ViU; acknowledgment of payment in full on verso, written and signed by David Dobbins for Conrad & McMunn, Georgetown, 26 Oct.; endorsed by TJ: "Conrad & McMunn"; endorsed by Barnes: "Private a/c"). TJ recorded the order on Barnes in his financial memoranda at 26 Oct. The next day, Barnes charged \$24 to TJ's account (MB, 2:1056; statement of private account from John Barnes, 5 Nov. 1801, in ViU).

MR CARPENTERS BILL: Thomas Carpenter's latest bill is printed at 1 July.

On 15 Aug., Barnes entered in the statement of TJ's private account, the payment of \$42.53 to John Richards per the invoices of sundries SHIPPED FOR RICHMOND from Philadelphia and another \$5.40 for extra charges and postage for a total payment of \$47.93 (statement of private account from John Barnes, 30 Sep. 1801, in ViU).

## From Albert Gallatin

DR SIR

City of Washington August 3d 1801

I enclose a letter this day received from St. Th. Mason in relation to South Carolina politics. My impression had been, on that subject, altogether different from yours, as I thought I had understood it from Mr Pinckney that immediate changes were necessary, whilst you conceived them improper for near two years. I concluded that I had been

3 AUGUST 1801

mistaken; but this letter again revives my suspicion that the true situation of that State is not perfectly understood. Would it not be well to enquire?

When I requested a commission for a collector at Michillimakinac, I neglected to mention that it was necessary that you should designate a port of entry in that district. There being no doubt that Michillimakinac itself is the proper place, I enclose an *order* for that purpose, which when signed will be wanted here as the foundation of instructions to the Collector.

The vessel chartered by Eben. Stevens sub-agent of the Depart. of State at New York, for the purpose of carrying the stipulated naval stores to Tunis, after being loaded & ready to sail under convoy of the George Washington, has been discovered to be a *foreign built* vessel. The Collector according to general instructions refused a Mediterranean pass. The vessel was chartered only *to* Tunis & to return at her own risk & for account of her owner. The owner wrote that Captain & seamen would probably refuse to sail, that his vessel was entitled to protection &c.— It was a blunder of Stevens; but there was no remedy & I sent a pass to the Collector with directions to give it on condition that it shall be returned after this voyage.

I enclose a correct amount of the Warrants issued from 1st July to Saturday last (1st. instt.) inclusive, & will hereafter send a weekly amount as you desired. I also enclose the amount of Warrants issued during the six first months of this year; (those for payt. of public debt & interest excepted) but it has not been corrected by myself, & I will substitute another one by next mail.

With sincere respect & attachment Your obt. Servt.

ALBERT GALLATIN

The new Danish minister came here one day too late to see you. He does not appear extremely bright & as he left Denmark in January, I suspect that he is too late in every point of view.

RC (DLC); addressed: "The President of the United States"; endorsed by TJ as received from the Treasury Department on 6 Aug. and "Michillim. S. Carola. Meditern. pass" and so recorded in SJL. Enclosures: (1) Stevens Thomson Mason to Gallatin, Raspberry Plain, 1 Aug. 1801, noting that considerable impatience prevailed in different parts of the United States on the subject of federal offices, with the continuance of several incumbents giving "great uneasiness," and lamenting "I believe you are all

rather too good naturedly disposed"; that he had lately received a letter from Daniel D'Oyley of Charleston, treasurer and a "man of some political weight in that State," who wrote: "I am persuaded that mr Jefferson is not correctly informed of our positions and though I know it is erroneous to expect important measures should be hurried, and I would be chagrined to see a single act concluded which might cause a moment of repentance, yet I would wish to know what is the situation of the Presdt respecting

the Federal officers in Charleston” and warning that if decisions were postponed until the next meeting of Congress, he knew it would be positively too late for South Carolina and that “mr Pinckney knows it and every Republican and every Federalist of the least political attainment knows full well the certainty” of the case, though, Mason observed, he gave no reasons for the opinion; that Mason had also received letters on behalf of candidates for marshal of Kentucky, and although the subject pertained to Madison’s department, since he was no longer in Washington, Mason gave Gallatin several names, including John Fowler and John Jouett (RC in DNA: RG 59, LAR, 3:378-9; endorsed by TJ: “Mason St. T. to mr Gallatin”). (2) Statement of amount of warrants drawn from 1 July to 1 Aug. 1801, with the sum of \$70,326.44 for the civil list; \$18,236.93 for foreign intercourse; \$290,061.47 for payments on the public debt, the largest being \$188,024.47 for the “Dutch debt, on account of both principal & interest falling due in 1802”; \$150,000 for the military department; \$160,000 for the Navy Department; and \$14,062.93 for miscellaneous, including \$1,500 for furniture for the president’s house, \$1,999.92 for repairs at the Treasury due to the fire, and \$2,000 for the purchase of paper for stamps; for a total of \$702,687.37 (MS in DLC: TJ Papers, 115:19763; entirely in Gallatin’s hand; at head of text: “Amount of Warrants drawn on the

Treasurer of the United States from the 1st July 1801 to 1st August 1801 both days inclusive being one month & 1 day”). (3) Statement of amount of warrants drawn from 1 Jan. to 30 June 1801, including \$108,809.03 for the civil list, \$963,339.83 for the War Department, \$1,656,907.08 for the Navy Department, and 18 other designations for a total sum of \$2,952,866.07 (MS in DLC: TJ Papers, 114:19573; in a clerk’s hand; at head of text in Gallatin’s hand: “Amount of Warrants from 1st Jany. to 30th June 1801”; below total in Gallatin’s hand: “not examined”). Other enclosure not found.

REQUESTED A COMMISSION: see Albert Gallatin’s Report on Collector for Michilimackinac, printed at 16 July, and TJ to Gallatin, 17 July.

In May 1801, Ebenezer STEVENS chartered *Peace and Plenty*, owned by Stephen Kingston of Philadelphia, to carry NAVAL STORES TO TUNIS. Captain Richard Wood served as master of the ship. On 3 Aug., Jacob Wagner wrote Madison that he was “much mortified” to learn that Stevens had chartered a foreign-built vessel that, according to precedent, was not entitled to a Mediterranean passport (Madison, *Papers, Sec. of State Ser.*, 1:221, 2:12-14; NDBW, 1:513-14).

DANISH MINISTER: Peder Blicher Olsen, the Danish consul general empowered to act as resident minister; see Vol. 34:451n.

## From Thomas Heyward, Jr.

Charleston, South Carolina  
3d. Augst. 1801

SIR

This Letter is intended to be handed to you by Mr. John Huger a friend of mine & a respectable Inhabitant of this State. he is gone from hence to Rhode-Island on Account of his Health & proposes returning by Land to Carolina, taking the City of Washington in his Way—He has requested that I would remind you of our Acquaintance in the years 1776, 77, & 78, when we attended Congress—I do it with Cheerfulness from a Conviction of his Claim on me for every Service that I can render & whatever Attentions you confer on him

3 AUGUST 1801

will be esteemed an Obligation conferred on me—With great Respect  
I am

your Excels Most obedt humble Servt. THOS. HEYWARD

RC (Facsimile in Anderson Galleries Catalogue, J. H. Manning Sale, No. 350, January 1926); according to catalogue, text is endorsed by TJ as received 22 Oct. Recorded in SJL as received 23 Oct.

Thomas Heyward, Jr. (1746-1809) represented South Carolina in the Continental Congress from 1776 to 1778 and was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. After many years of service as a

state legislator and jurist, he retired from public life in 1790 to concentrate on his agricultural interests, especially tidal rice cultivation. In 1791, TJ had recommended him for the office of comptroller of the Treasury (ANB; Vol. 20:146).

Heyward's friend, JOHN HUGER, was a wealthy South Carolina planter, former state legislator, and intendant of Charleston from 1793 to 1795 (*S.C. Biographical Directory, Senate*, 2:775-7).

## From Robert Leslie

SIR

Philadelphia August 3d 1801

On the 2d of June, I took the liberty of writeing you by Post, some account of the conversation that I had with Mr Boudinot, and others, at the mint, in consequence of the letter you favoured me with, among other things I informed you, that Mr Voight said, that each Dollar had to go through thirty two proceses before it was ready to receive the impression from the Die, and that it took thirty two Days, to prepair as maney, as<sup>1</sup> could be struck in one day, this was so different from what I had seen done in England, that I at once concluded they ware working to vast disadvantage, but haveing no Authority to investigate the business and they not being desposed to explain any part of it, I was unable to ascertain whare the fault lay. however the subject has frequently since, employed my thoughts, and revived an opinion I formerly had entertained, which is, that Silver could be cast in Metal moulds, and notwithstanding, I had been told by several Silversmiths both here and in England, that it had often been tryed and found impossible, I was determind to make an experiment, I therefore made a Brass mould, to cast the Blanks (as they are called) for Dollars, and haveing no furnice of my own, I went to a silversmiths shop to melt the metal, and made three casts with as much care as possible, without getting the mould half full at either, one of the workemen in the shop, who had been maney years in the constant practice of Casting silver, then requested I would let him try, which I did, he made five attempts without any better success, when I agane tryd three more, but without ever getting the mould half full, after which I give it up for the time, and went home, but the

3 AUGUST 1801

disappointment only made me more determined to persue the object, and after a veriety of reflections, it ocured to me, that the cause of failure must be, that the Metal moulds, being so much better a conductor of heat than sand, that as soon as the melted Silver came in contact with the moulds, they absorbed the heat, and the Silver became Chiled, I therefore resolved to try one more experriment, and heat the moulds, which I did, and got the moulds full the first cast, and herewith send you the piece, tho it is not perfect in every respect, it has convinced me, that I have discovered the art of Casting Silver in metal moulds, and am certain that the Blanks for Dollars, may be made that way, and I think with more expedition and less expence, than any other, as the moulds may be made like those for casting shot, long enough for to contain, from five to ten Dollars, with which one man may cast as fast as the Silver can be melted,

And in addition to the dispatch, I am of opinion this mode will have the folowing adventages over any other, Viz, after the moulds are properly adjusted, the blanks will to a certainty, be all of the proper weight, the letters, or figures, may be cast on the edge, and save the operation of what is called milling, the metal will be much more soft and malleable, than after hammering, or roaling, and by that means receive a better impression from the Die,

The imperfections of the piece I here send, arises from the following Causes, the moulds ware mad of Brass, and smoked to prevent the Silvers adhering to them, but which give a rough surface, the Brass will not bair with safety, so much heat as is necessary, which I found by my moulds cracking, when I went to open them, which prevented me making another casting, Iron moulds will remedy both those evils, as the Silver will not stick to it without Smoke, and the Iron will bair any heat required, without injury,

I have sent this piece in its most imperfect state, as thare has been no tuch of a file on it, only whare the metal run in at, it has only been boiled in alum water, to whitein it, but to show that it is not too rough to answer, I have struck it in two or three places and in the roughest part, very lightly with a smooth hammer, which has very much improved the appearence, and shows that the Dies, will effectually remove all the defects,

I am Sir with the greates respect your very Humble Servent  
ROBERT LESLIE

RC (DLC); addressed: "The President of the United States"; endorsed by TJ as received 13 Aug. and so recorded in SJL.

<sup>1</sup> MS: "a."