

THE PAPERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON



To Alrichs & Dixon

MESS^{RS} ALRICHS & DIXON

Monticello Mar. 11. 13.

I was much concerned to learn by a letter from Mess^{rs} Gibson & Jefferson of Richmond that they found difficulty in procuring a bill for the remittance I desired to be made to you. I immediately wrote to them to inclose you a hundred dollar bank bill of Richmond, which I doubted not you could have exchanged. the difference between this & the amount of your bill would be no more than a just compensation for the delay.

I am in expectation of receiving instructions from you as to the carding machine. I am the more encouraged to hope they will enable me to use it, by receiving information from mr Burwell that with that which you furnished him with he received from you such minute directions that he was able to set his to work himself without any difficulty. we are much retarded in our spinning for want of it. Accept my best wishes & respects.

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (DLC); endorsed by TJ.

ter, Alrichs & Dixon wrote him from Delaware acknowledging receipt of the

The day before TJ composed this let-

BILL FOR THE REMITTANCE.

To Lewis Brown

SIR

Monticello Mar. 11. 13.

Your letter of Feb. 25. never got to my hands till last night. the purchase of the horse from you by mr Darnell was on my account, and the debt as much acknowledged as if a bond had been given. I had desired my merchant in Richmond, as soon as he could sell my flour from the Poplar Forest (which got down but lately) to remit a sum of money to mr Goodman, sufficient to pay your's and other debts there. but finding that the blockade of the Chesapeake has prevented the sale of my flour, I have this day authorised mr Goodman to receive

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the money from a fund in Lynchburg which will become due on the 7th of the next month. you may count therefore on receiving what is due as¹ soon after that day, as mr Goodman can go to Lynchburg.

Accept my best wishes & respects.

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (MHi); at foot of text: "M^r Lewis Brown"; endorsed by TJ.

¹ Word interlined in place of "very."

To Patrick Gibson

DEAR SIR

Monticello Mar. 11. 13.

In my answer of the 7th to yours of the 3^d of Mar. I omitted to note what you had stated as to the bargain for Mazzei's lot, to wit that the payments were to be made within so many days after a sufficient title shall be made. I now expect daily an answer from mr Randolph after which there will be no delay in making what I deem a good title. but if mr Taylor should deem it otherwise, I take for granted, the bargain is relinquished on his part, & that we shall be free to sell to others. I have thought it necessary to say this much, until I receive mr Randolph's answer that there may be no misunderstanding or disappointment on either side.

The objects of the remittance of 250.D. to Bedford, not admitting the delay of the sale of my flour, I have desired mr Harrison to pay that sum out of the fund in his hands, which supercedes the necessity of your remitting it out of the sales of the flour when that shall take place. Accept my friendly salutations.

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (MHi); at foot of text: "M^r Gibson"; endorsed by TJ as a letter to Gibson & Jefferson and so recorded in SJL.

To Jeremiah A. Goodman

D^R SIR

Monticello Mar. 11. 13.

The blockade of the Chesapeak having sunk the price of flour to 7. Dollars,¹ for which I am not disposed to sacrifice mine, and being desirous that my debts in your neighborhood therefore should not be put off for that sale, I have this day written to mr Harrison of Lynchburg to pay you 250.D. on the 7th of April, and I have countermanded the directions to mr Gibson which I had formerly given. Accept my best wishes.

TH: JEFFERSON

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RC (PPRF); addressed: "M^r Jeremiah A. Goodman Poplar Forest near Lynchburg"; franked; postmarked Milton, 12

Mar. PoC (DeHi: Morse Autograph Collection); endorsed by TJ.

¹ Reworked from "Bar."

To Samuel J. Harrison

DEAR SIR

Mar. 11. 13

I wrote you on the 7th a request that the money for my tob^o might be paid in Richmond. it now occurs that I have about 250.D. of debts to pay in the neighborhood of Poplar Forest which would be more conveniently done by what is in your hands, than by drawing it back again from Richm^d. you will oblige me therefore by paying that sum, when due, to Jeremiah A. Goodman, and having paiment made of the balance only at the counting house of Gibson & Jefferson in Richmond. Accept the assurance of my esteem & respect.

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (MHi); at foot of text: "M^r Sam^l J. Harrison"; endorsed by TJ.

To John L. Thomas

SIR

Monticello Mar. 11. 13.

Your favor of the 1st has been recieved, and altho' it was incomprehensible to me what certificate the clerk of Henrico could want as to the deed to which you were a witness, yet I sent it to the clerk of Albemarle, who might know better. I reinclose you the deed with his answer. it is certain that the clerk of Henrico has taken a mistaken view of the subject, which I hope he will correct, and that you will be so good as to prove it at the next court day & return it to me by the post. the clerk may have been misled by observing that there are three instruments for the same land on the same paper. you are a witness to only one of them, and it is only your proof of that one, we ask to be recieved & certified by the court of Henrico. Accept the assurance of my esteem & respect.

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (MHi); at foot of text: "M^r J. L. Thomas"; endorsed by TJ.

the 10 Mar. 1813 answer from Alexander Garrett, the deputy CLERK OF ALBEMARLE, not found, but recorded in SJL as received 10 Mar. 1813 from Charlottesville.

For the enclosed DEED, see TJ to Thomas, 23 Feb. 1813. TJ also enclosed

To William Caruthers

SIR

Monticello Mar. 12. 13.

Your letter of Feb. 3. has been recieved, and in answer to your enquiries respecting sheep, I will state that I have three distinct races which I keep at different places. 1. Merinos; of these I have but 2. ewes, and of course none to spare. President Madison has been more succesful, and sells some ram lambs, but not ewes. the Merino is a diminutive tender sheep, yielding very little wool, but that of extraordinary fineness, fit only for the finest broadcloths, but not at all for country use. I do not know mr Madison's prices, but in general the price of these rams is fallen to from 50. to 100.D. a piece. the wool sells high to the Northward to the hatters, but our hatters do not know how to use it. 2. I have the bigtail, or Barbary sheep. I raise it chiefly for the table, the meat being higher flavored than that of any other sheep, and easily kept fat. the tail is large, I have seen one 12.I. square & weighing 14. lb. they encumber the animal in getting out of the way of dogs, and are an obstacle to propagation without attentions which we do not pay to them. they are well sized, & well fleeced but the wool is apt to be coarse & hairy. 3. I have a Spanish race, the ram of which I recieved from Spain in 1794. I bred from him 7. years in and in, suffering no other ram on the place, and after his death I still selected the finest of his race to succeed him, so that the race may now be considered as pure as the original. they are above common size, finely formed, the hardest race we have ever known, scarcely ever losing a lamb fully fleeced, the belly & legs down to the hoof covered with wool, & the wool of fine quality, some of it as fine as the half blood Merino. we consider it the finest race of¹ sheep ever known in this country. having never cut or killed a ram lamb of them, but given them out to those who wished them this part of the country is well stocked with them, and they sell at the public sales 50. per cent higher than the country sheep. I sent my flock of them to a place I have in Bedford, where they are beginning to be known & in great demand. if you should wish to get into this breed, and will accept of a pair of lambs the ensuing summer, you shall be welcome to them. my place is 3. miles from New London, on the road to Lynchburg. on your signifying your wish on this subject I will give directions to my manager there to deliver a pair to your order, and from my knolege of the country over the mountain I have no hesitation in pronouncing them the fittest sheep in the world for that country. if it should be more convenient to you to take them from here, mr Randolp, my son in law,

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who has raised them for a dozen years past, can furnish them. Accept the assurance of my esteem & respect. TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (DLC); at foot of first page: "M^r Caruthers"; endorsed by TJ.

to William Thornton, 27 [June] 1810. IN AND IN: to breed always with near relatives (*OED*).

On the ram TJ RECIEVED FROM SPAIN, see *PTJ*, 28:267–8, 375–6, and TJ

¹ Manuscript: "of of."

From John H. Cocke

SIR,

Bremo—March 12th 1813

I have taken the liberty to order my Servant to call at Monticello and get (by your permission) a few plants of the scotch broom.— Yours respectfully JN^o H. COCKE

RC (CSmH: JF); at foot of text: "M^r Jefferson"; endorsed by TJ as received 12 Mar. 1813 and so recorded in SJJ.

To John H. Cocke

Monticello Mar. 12. 13.

Th: Jefferson presents his compliments to mr Cocke, whose servant is desired to take as many Broom plants as he pleases, but having never found them to succeed by transplantation, he sends him some seed, which generally succeeds, altho sometimes it does not come up till the second spring.—he sends him also a little seed of the Sprout Kale, a plant he recieved from The National garden of France about 3. years ago, never before in this country. it is to be sown & managed as the Cabbage, but to stand in it's place thro' the winter uncovered. it's only use is to furnish sprouts, of which it will yield 2. or 3. crops of 6. or 8 I. long, in a winter, beginning in December & continuing thro' the whole winter, till the plant goes to seed in the spring. it is a tender & delicious winter vegetable. he salutes mr Cocke with esteem & respect.

RC (ViU: TJP); dateline at foot of text; addressed: "John H. Cocke esq."; endorsed by Cocke. Not recorded in SJJ.

On 20 Mar. 1812 TJ recorded planting Scotch BROOM that had been sent to him from Edinburgh by James Ronaldson (Betts, *Garden Book*, 475).

From Margaret B. Bonneville

SIR

New York March 13. 1813 Barclay St^t N^o 8

From the time I inherited of T. Paine's manuscripts, papers &c. &c. my intention was to have the honor to write to you concerning your most valuable letters to him. The troublesome and disagreeable affairs which have been suscited to me since his death: If not an excuse to negligence was the cause of my delay.

Family affairs require my presance in France I am waiting only¹ for a good opportunity.

Though the honor of M^r Paine has² heirs & executor is near to me, your letters are incontestably yours, and at your disposal; and as soon [as]³ you will be pleased to let me know your intention, I will punctually execute cheerfully your orders.

Permit me Sir to renew here my thanks for your favourable lettre to my friend Mercier concerning me, and my regret of not having had personally the advantage of presenting my respect to you

I am with high consideration & respect

Sir Your obd^{nt} Sv^{nt}

B. BONNEVILLE

RC (DLC); dateline at foot of text; at head of text: "To the Honorable Thomas Jefferson"; endorsed by TJ as received 20 Mar. 1813 and so recorded in SJL.

Margaret B. Bonneville (ca. 1767–1846) was the wife of the French printer and revolutionary Nicolas de Bonneville. From 1797 until 1802 Thomas Paine lived with the Bonneville family in Paris. Shortly after Paine's return to the United States, Bonneville and her three sons joined him on his farm at New Rochelle, New York. Her husband having run afoul of Napoleon and being prevented from leaving France, Paine helped to support Bonneville and provided educational opportunities for her sons. She periodically resided with him, cared for him late in his life, inherited much of his estate, saw that his wishes for burial on his farm were carried out, and arranged for the posthumous publication of his work *On the Origin of Free-Masonry* [New York, 1810]. After Paine's death in 1809, New York journalist James Cheatham asserted in a biography that Paine had had an illicit relationship with Bonneville and fathered one of her sons. She promptly sued

Cheatham and won a \$150 libel judgment. Bonneville settled in Saint Louis about 1830 and lived there for the rest of her life (Bonneville to TJ, 12 Jan. 1809 [DLC]; Madison, *Papers, Sec. of State Ser.*, 4:151–2; David Freeman Hawke, *Paine* [1974], esp. 395–7, 399–401; Jack Fruchtman Jr., *Thomas Paine Apostle of Freedom* [1994], esp. 36, 275, 395, 411, 420; James Cheatham, *The Life of Thomas Paine* [New York, 1809]; New York *Public Advertiser*, 21 June 1810; John F. Darby, *Personal Recollections of Many Prominent People Whom I Have Known, and of Events—Especially of Those Relating to the History of St. Louis—During the First Half of the Present Century* [1880], 233–7).

SUSCITED: "raised from the dead" or "resuscitated," from a similar French term (*OED*). TJ included expressions FAVOURABLE to Bonneville in a 6 Feb. 1803 letter to Louis Sébastien Mercier (DLC).

¹ Word interlined.

² Thus in manuscript.

³ Omitted word editorially supplied.

From William A. Burwell

D^R SIR,

march 13. 1813.

the only difficulty I can imagine with the aid of these directions is the want of correspondent marks or letters on the different parts of your machine, you may however without them soon discover them when the machine is put in motion; I have added directions for the Drawing & Roving head, because it adds so much to the value of the Carding Engine, that you should lose no time in procuring one; the Roves are made as fast as you can Card the cotton, they [are]¹ of uniform Size, and will spin incomparably better than Roves made with hand Cards, they are also made without any additional labor to that employd in Carding—I find new reason to be pleased with my machine, with its aid all my people large & small have been clothed this winter by one² woman, & 2 Girls—they have moreover made considerable progress in the summer clothing—this is effected without trouble, & if you find one Intelligent [&?] faithful Industrious woman, among your people every thing [can be?] accomplishd in the spinning Department—If you had such a one in reach of me, I would take great pleasure to instruct her—I should be very glad to get a spinning machine like the one you shewd me at your house, more for the benefit of my neighbours than myself—there are men here who could make them; could you have one made for me and sent to Bedford the first [time]³ a boat passes with articles for you? I found my wife a little indisposed, but she is mending⁴ & I hope will soon recover, please to remember us kindly to M^{RS} R. & the family, & believe me dr sir most truly your friend

W. A BURWELL

RC (DLC); torn at seal; addressed: "M^r Thomas Jefferson Milton Virginia via Lynchburg"; stamped; postmarked Brown's Store, Franklin County, 12 Mar. 1813, and Lynchburg, 21 Mar. 1813; endorsed by TJ as received 24 Mar. 1813 and so recorded in SJL.

M^{RS} R.: Martha Jefferson Randolph.

¹ Omitted word editorially supplied.

² Manuscript: "1 one."

³ Omitted word editorially supplied.

⁴ Manuscript: "minding."

E N C L O S U R E

Instructions for the Use of a Carding Machine

Directions for using the Carding Engine

Make the feeding frame fast in front of the Engine, by means of the \angle irons and screw rod, and so placed that the cards on the main Cylinder will just pass the fluted Rollers without touching them.—The upper fluted Roller

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is kept down on the under one by two wires () hooked over the pivots of it at the ends, & under two small iron levers () one end of which is put into a small wire staple in the frame of the Engine, and a weight hung on the other end. The small roller that has cards on it, and attached to the feeding, frame, is for keeping the fluted rollers clean, and must be so placed that it will pass as near as possible to the upper one, and to the cards on the main Cylinder without touching either. move the feeding rollers by a \times band from pulley **B** on the doffer to pulley **A** on¹ the under one. move the cleaning roller by an open band from pulley **K** on the other end of the² doffer to pulley **I** on it. Take out the funnel and board and the callender roller. **G** and the Engine ready for work. (all the other parts and bands being left in order by the maker) Begin by weighing $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz of clean cotton and spreading a part of it on³ the feeding cloth as even as possible and within about two inches of the sides, (if the cotton is spread too wide on the feeding cloth it will cause the fleece to be so wide, that it will not go in between the sides of the frame, when it is to be carded again.) Set the Engine in motion And as soon as the comb begins to take any cotton off the Doffer, guide it between the callender roller & the Drum, & it adhere to the Drum and wrap round it; continue to feed on the $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz in about the time the Drum will turn round 10 times, when it is all fed on, leave a space of about 8 inches without cotton, then go on with the other $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and when that space is nearly out of sight tear the fleece on the drum straight across from one end of the drum to the other, roll it up carefully as the drum turns on, like a piece of cloth, untill it is all off, and lay to one side, for finishing; by this time the other $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz will begin to come through, guide it on the drum as before & guide it on thus till there is as much broke as convenient, Unhook the band that turns the board and put it on without crossing; replace the funnel and the board and callender roller **G** Turn down the arms **HH** and put the conveying⁴ roller **F** into them, turn by an open band from a groove near the end of the callender roller **E** to the groove near the end of it; clean all the cotton out of the cards, both off the flats and main Cylinder. Open and Spread one end of fleece, carefully on the feeding cloth, & set the Engine in motion, take away the first cotton that the comb begins to take off the Doffer. till the sliver: begins to⁵ come off the full thickness, then convey it through the funnel, between callender rollers, over the conveying roller **F** & into a large tin can. As the work goes on unroll the fleeces, carefully joining one to another on the cloth so that the place where⁶ they are joined will be of the same thickness as other parts When the cards get loaded with dirty cotton & seeds, they must be cleaned, the flats must be cleaned often and may be done as the Engine turns round by taking off⁷ one at a time. When the card teeth get dull they must be ground up sharp again, by the Emery boards, as follows, take off all the bands & flats & slip the doffer back, put the Emery board **R** in place of the flat marked **II** & **III** & regulate by means of the screw nuts so that the points of the teeth will just touch the emery from one end of the boards to the other, turn the Cylinder the contrary way from carding; screwing the emery board closer as the teeth are ground, off till they are all sharp again. The doffer may be ground by holding the emery board **S** carefully on it with the hands (but is better to fix it between the screw nuts on the goose-necks) turning the same way as when carding, but much faster, by an open band from pulley **M** on the main cylinder to pulley **K** on the doffer.

The flats are ground by the large Emery Roller fixed in the place of the Drum and turned by a band from pully **M**, out of the main cylinder to agree near the end of it (or if convenient in a turning leath) Hold them on lightly and carefully till sharp in fixing the Engine for carding again place the flat nearest the feeding rollers so that a cent would pass between it and the cards on the main cylinder, the next one⁸ a little closer & so on & so on so that the last one will be just so close as not to touch; The doffer as close as possible not to touch, the Comb just so as to touch the doffer See that all the screws are tight and band not so tight as to cause engine to work hard, nor so slack as to slip.—When the Emery is worn off⁹ the boards and roller it may be renewed by putting on a good coat of glue, and while wet, as much coarse Emery as will cover it completely, let it dry and brush off all the loose Emery & will be fit for use—

For the drawing and roving.¹⁰

See that all the weights, Levers, and Saddles, press fairly on the upper rollers, so as to keep them well down on the fluted ones (in the same manner that the spinning machine is fixed) Take two cans full of slivers from the carding Engine, put an end of each between the guide tins behind¹¹ the back roller, & between the fluted & covered rollers (one sliver to each boss nearest the end where the pullys are) turn the rollers so as to bring the ends through unite them and put them through the tin funnel, between the small callender roller & so into one of the smaller tin cans; drawing goes on, be carefull not to let one sliver go on without another and see that the cotton does not break or wrap round the rollers, instead of running through into the can, if it is intended for very coarse¹² yarn this one drawing may do, but if for fine it must be draawn 2 3 or 4¹³ in proportion to the quality wanted, uniting 2 3 or 4 of the first into one as convenient, taking it now to the roving boss, proceed as with the drawing, only running it into the twisting lanthorn instead of the can uniting 2 3 or 4 into one at pleasure, so as in some measure proportion the size of the rove to the size of the yarn wanted, being carefull to put the band that turns the lanthorn into proper groove so that the twist in the rove may suit its size, If the cotton,¹⁴ is apt to wrap round the rollers (as it will sometimes in damp weather) a little very fine powderd Chalk may be used on them to advantage.

when the leather covering on the upper rollers gets loose or dirty it must be coverd anew with the same kind of leather or good Buckskin; the Drawing and Roving is drove by a Band from Pully **O** at the main Cylinder shaft of the Carding Engine to Pully **P**. on it—

MS (DLC: TJ Papers, 197:35161–3); in an unidentified hand; undated. The related drawing has not been found.

DOFFER: a comb or revolving cylinder in a carding machine that strips cotton or wool from cards. LEATH (lathe): a stand or supporting framework (*OED*).

¹ Manuscript: “one.”

² Manuscript: “of the of the.”

³ Manuscript: “or.”

⁴ Manuscript: “coveying.”

⁵ Manuscript: “to to.”

⁶ Manuscript: “wher.”

⁷ Manuscript: “of,” here and in the next sentence.

⁸ Manuscript: “nex on.”

⁹ Manuscript: “of,” here and further on in this sentence.

¹⁰ Manuscript: “and roving and roving.”

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¹¹ Manuscript: "behing."¹² Manuscript: "coare."¹³ Here "times" is canceled.¹⁴ Manuscript: "If the cotton, If the cotton."

From Dabney Carr

DEAR SIR.

Winchester. March 14th 1813

your letter of Feb. 27 was received by the last mail. Mr Randolph, was in this place, when I came to it last fall, & had resided here for some time previous; but soon after that, he left it, & has been since, as I am to be, with his son in law, Mr B. Taylor in Jefferson County, not far from the little village of Charleston: Being informed this morning, that Doctr Grayson, of this Town, was going immediately to Charleston, I have confided the letter to him; telling him, that it was on business of importance; & requesting that he would give it the speediest conveyance to Mr Randolph. I have no doubt he will attend to it—I enclosed the letter, in one from myself to Mr R. in which, without intimating that I was acquainted with the contents of your's I mentioned to him, your anxiety to hear from him, & my confidence, that he would not delay a reply.

I have heard that his mind is considerably strengthened of late; & I have very little doubt, that he will be quite well enough, to attend to your request.

Be pleased Sir, to mention me affectionately to your daughter & her family; & believe me truly & sincerely

yours &C

D CARR

RC (ViU: TJP-CC); endorsed by TJ as received 31 Mar. 1813 and so recorded in SJL.

From Sarah Grotjan

HONOURED SIR!

Philadelphia March 15th 1813.

Convinced that You will pardon an entire Stranger for intruding on Your time for a few minutes, when You become acquainted with the motives by which she is actuated, I solicit the favour of a few Lines in answer to the following Inquiry.

Accident has thrown in my way an unfortunate person by the name of Julia Bradley, whose maiden name as she informed me was Julia Webb, of Richmond Virginia. The distress in which she is at present,

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and her engaging manners have interested me powerfully in her behalf. During a Conversation which I lately held with her she accidentally informed me, that she had the honour to be known to You and Your family.

Should this be really so, and her relations, perhaps from a false pride on her part be unacquainted with her present distress, I should feel the greatest Comfort of having been instrumental to promote her relief.

I take this Step without her knowledge, or that of her husbands, who lives with her in this place, in a miserable abode, allmost deprived of the absolute necessaries of Life.

An Answer addressed to M^r Peter A. Grotjan in Philadelphia, will reach

Your Obedient humble Servant

SARAH GRO TJAN

RC (DLC); at head of text: "Thomas Jefferson Esq:"; endorsed by TJ as received 20 Mar. 1813 and so recorded in SJL.

Sarah Fenimore Grotjan (ca. 1788–1830) married Peter A. Grotjan, a Philadelphia newspaper publisher, in 1809. She later named one of her children after TJ and obtained a letter of advice from

him to the young boy (Peter A. Grotjan, "Memoirs of an Early American," *Harper's Monthly Magazine* 172 [1936]: 168–9; Brigham, *American Newspapers*, 2:917; Grotjan to TJ, 1 Jan. 1824; TJ to Grotjan and to Thomas Jefferson Grotjan, both 10 Jan. 1824; Philadelphia *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, 29 July 1830).

From Benjamin Rush

MY DEAR SIR

Philadelphia march 15th 1813

soon After I became the Advocate of domestic Animals as far as related to thier diseases, in the lecture of which I sent you a copy, mr Carver applied to me to become his advocate with our Citizens for the purpose he has mentioned in his letter to you. His proposition at first struck me as humane & praise worthy, but in a short time Afterwards it appeared to me in the same light that it does to you. I gave him a trifle to assist in paying¹ for his passage, & obtained for him a passport from m^r monroe. Here my Services to him ended.—After this information your line of Conduct will be an obvious One.—He is an Englishman & has parents in England whom he has not seen for many years. All this is inter nos.—

Alas! for the divided state of our citizens, and the distracted state of the Councils of our country!—while I have uniformly considered the War we are engaged in as just, I have lamented the manner

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in which it has been conducted. The Attack upon Canada appears to involve in it too much of the conquering Spirit of the old world, and is contrary to the professions and interests of Republicans. Admit that we have conquered it,—shall We hold it as a province? or give it a representation in our national legislature?—If the latter,—by what means shall we eliminate British principles and habits from the representatives that will be sent by that British state to our Congress? Have we not evils eno^r to contend with already from those principles and habits?—why then should we encrease them? But further,—is not the perpetuity of our Union and of our republican institutions intimately connected with our being constantly under the pressure of circumambient monarchical states?

In favor of defending our rights of Sovereignty upon the Ocean² exclusively, I have thought that as the outrages committed upon our national interests were upon the ocean, they ought to be vindicated there only,—that on the Ocean the resentments of our Citizens had arisen to the war point, but no where else; that our citizens, from the number of our bays, rivers & Creeks, and thier habits of living by Arts that render them familiar with the means of managing the waters, and by thier general knowledge of swimming, and Climbing, were better³ prepared for a Sea, than a land war—that our ships could be manned by Volunteers only, and never by drafts from the farmers & mechanics of our Country, nor by Soldiers enlisted in a fit of intoxication,—that our inability to meet the force of Britain upon the Ocean would lessen every year, & that every Ship we built would require two or three ships of equal force to watch her, and that in this manner we might weaken the naval strength of Britain in the European and East India seas, without giving her an opportunity to lessen ours;—that in the winter months we could convoy our trade to and from our shores in spite of the whole navy of Britain, and that even this transient protection to our imports would supply our treasury with the means of defraying the expenses of our navy—and lastly that a navy would never be dangerous to liberty, & that it would transfer the Vices of war from our farmers and prevent women and Children from sharing directly in its calamities.

Our naval Victories are presages of what may be done by a free and incensed nation contending for the gift of god to all the inhabitants of the globe. The year 1812 will be memorable in the history of the world for having witnessed the first checks that have been given to the overgrown pride and power of France on land, & of Britain on the Ocean. many of the Crimes of Great Britain that remain yet “unwhipt by justice” to use the words of Shakespear, were perpetrated in

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America. Our Country was settled by them. The jails and prison ships of new york, which were the theatres of⁴ others of her Crimes,⁵ during the revolutionary war have cried, for more than thirty years, to Heaven for retribution.⁶ Those Cries have been echoed over & over by the Sailors who have been dragged from our merchantmen and compelled to shed thier blood in fighting against nations against whom they felt no hostility,⁷ & in some instances against thier own Countrymen. Perhaps the time for punishing all those Crimes is now come, and as the Navy of Britain⁸ has been the principal instrument of those Crimes, perhaps the long and much injured United states may be the means employed by a just Providence⁹ setting bounds to the power of that navy, and the[re]by of rendering the ocean the safe & common high way of all nations.—Such an event would create a jubilee in all the maritime nations in the world.—Humanity & justice would for ever triumph in it.—

But whither has an attempt to reply to the latter part of your letter carried me? as an apology for it, I shall only add, that I am now in my 69th year,—that I seldom read any thing in a news paper but Articles of intelligence & that I loath political controversies above all things. From these declarations you have a right to infer that I have filled my paper with Nothing but the “babblings of a second Childhood.”

I have lately published a volume of inquiries upon the diseases of the mind. They have been well received by the public. If you wish to look into them, I shall do myself the pleasure of sending you a copy of them.

The few Sands that remain [in]¹⁰ my glass urge me constantly to quicken my labors. my next work will be entitled “Hygiene, or Rules for the preservation of health accommodated to the climate, diet, manners & habits of the people of the United states.”—all the imperfections of both these publications must be ascribed to a Conviction that my time in this world must necessarily be short. Had they been kept to the “novum annum,” they would have had fewer faults.—

I enclosed in my last letter to you, a small book written by Bishop Porteus, as a present to m^{rs} Randolph’s Children. As you have not acknowledged the receipt of it in your letter, I fear it has not been received by you.

M^r Adams still does me the honor of favouring me now and then with a letter. In his last, he mentions your name with kindness, and speaks with surprise of the correctness of your Stile—of the Steadiness of your hand evidenced in your writing, and of your exploits on horseback, at your advanced stage of life.

From Dear Sir your sincere old friend of 1775. BENJ^N RUSH