

THE PAPERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON



From Thomas Newton

DR SIR

Norfolk. March 11—1804

I duly received your liberal donation of two Hundred dollars & have placed it in the hands of a Committee, appointed by our corporation for distribution to the sufferers, by the fire, they only shall know from me, that you was the good donor; with a request that no private donations should be published in the news papers. the Conflagration was tremendous & awful, beyond description, the great quantities of spirits & other combustable matters, in the stores made the flames rage to a great degree; the vessels on fire floating on the river, rendered it more distressing, but it pleased God to interpose in our favor & drove them across the river, where but little damage was done; but Portsmouth was in great danger, not only from them but lighted shingles, from the houses lodged on the houses there; & was prevented from burning by the exertions of the inhabitants. God Grant, no place may ever suffer, such a calamity. tho our loss is great, yet it might have been much increased, if the wind had not set the flames into the river; all that are able are preparing to build better houses, & I hope from industry & our situation, we shall soon reinstate our trade & commerce, the many liberal public & private donations, to the sufferers, will no doubt make a lasting impression on our minds; accept my thanks for your attention, in behalf of our fellow citizens & beleive we shall ever retain a greatful remembrance of it. with every wish for your health & happiness, & a hope that you will command my services, for whatever you may want from this place I am

respectfully yr obt Servt

THOS. NEWTON

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

YOUR LIBERAL DONATION: see TJ to
Newton, 5 Mch.

From James Ogilvie

SIR,

Richmond March 11th. 1804

You will not I hope think me chargeable with impertinence or presumption when I take the liberty to request your attention to a subject, which altho' in a great measure of a personal nature, may not in its consequences be altogether unconnected with social happiness.—You have probably heard of an academical institution, which is about to be organised in S. Carolina.—I have announced myself to the Trustees as a candidate for the presidency.—Could I obtain the station to which I aspire & be permitted to pursue the course of instruction I have adopted, I could scarcely desire a more auspicious or extensive theatre of professional utility than this situation seems to present. Having some reason to indulge a hope that you will not regard me as altogether unqualified to discharge the duties of the Office for which I am a candidate, I take the liberty to request, that you will have the goodness to converse on this subject with Colnl. W. Hampton, who is I am informed a member of the Board of Trustees.—I have the honour to be Sir,

with profound respect Your very humble servt

JAMES OGILVIE

RC (MHi); endorsed by TJ as received 16 Mch.; recorded in SJL as a letter of 13 Mch. received 16 Mch.

Ogilvie had written Madison on 9 Mch. with a similar request for assistance in securing an appointment as president of the institution. His application was unsuccessful (Madison, *Papers, Sec. of State Ser.*, 6:575).

ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION: South Carolina College, which had been chartered by the state's legislature in 1801.

From John Wayles Eppes

DEAR SIR,

Monticello March. 12. 1804.

Maria continues in the same situation as when I wrote last—If she mends at all it is so little that it cannot be discerned by me—

On Thursday her month expires—I shall endeavour to prevail on her to leave her room immediately, to lay aside her phials, & depend on gentle exercise and fresh air for her recovery—

The child continues well—It has been I am told uncommonly healthy from its birth—It begins to suffer for the want of a nurse—The post rider has promised to bring my oats if you should send any to Fredericksburg—

accept for your health my warm wishes Yours sincerely

JNO: W: EPPES

12 MARCH 1804

RC (ViU: Edgehill-Randolph Papers); endorsed by TJ as received 15 Mch. and so recorded in SJL.

WHEN I WROTE LAST: Eppes to TJ, 9 Mch.

HER MONTH EXPIRES: Mary had given birth to her daughter and namesake one month prior, on 15 Feb. (Vol. 42:548n).

From Albert Gallatin

DEAR SIR

12 March 1804

I sincerely wish something might be done for Mr Hanson. But he is not himself aware of the nature of the duties of the proposed auditor. He is not merely to settle the accounts, but to superintend the collection of the revenue. This, which has heretofore engrossed more than one half of the Comptroller's personal attention to the detriment of his other duties, requires daily decisions on the revenue laws, upon applications either from the Collectors or from merchants. A single glance at the nature of the business would show that to that office Mr Hanson is not competent. Either a man of very correct mind or of great practical knowledge of the course heretofore pursued should be obtained. I think that it was that part of his duties which Mr Steele understood & performed best. During his absence the whole fell on me; & I am of course well acquainted with the details of the business & the qualifications it requires. Except myself & Mr Duval, there is but one man in the departmt., who understands thoroughly the general system of decisions by which our revenue is governed. It is David Rawn the Comptroller's principal clerk; but he is so eminently useful in that office that Mr Duval could hardly spare him to the new auditor. Upon the whole, the only difficulty in the proposed arrangt. is to find a proper man for that office—

Respectfully Your obt. Servt.

ALBERT GALLATIN

RC (DLC); at foot of text: "The President of the U. States"; endorsed by TJ as received from the Treasury Department on 12 Mch. and "Hanson" and so recorded in SJL.

DURING HIS ABSENCE: with TJ's permission, Comptroller John Steele left

Washington to visit his family in North Carolina on 6 Aug. 1802. He submitted his resignation on 30 Sep. and did not return to the seat of government (Vol. 37:680-1; Vol. 38:434-5). For the role of DAVID RAWN in the comptroller's office, see Vol. 38:435n, 542n, 614; Vol. 39:53n.

From George Jefferson

DEAR SIR

Richmond 12th. Mar: 1804.

I was duly favor'd with yours of the 7th. inclosing 40\$, and directing me to pay Colo. Harvie on account of John Rogers \$41.¹⁰/₁₀₀, which I have done.

Very little alteration has taken place in our Tobacco market for some time past; the current price is now, & has been for several weeks, 37/6. for good crops which are seen when inspected, 40/. may generally be obtained—and some few of very prime quality, have sold I am told even so high as 48/.—it is of some such sale as this I imagine, that you have heard. when such take place, it is generally with some particular view; either with that of raising the price by the purchase of a few hhds. in order to sell a large quantity, or with some other, which ought to be equally well understood—for it is thought that a large crop equal in quality might be offered to one of these persons, & they would refuse to give any thing like as much as they had but just given for a single hhd. 'tho crops by shippers are pref

The groceries for which you some time since forwarded a bill of loading, were not received until to day.

I observe that you propose sending Mr. Craven 1.¹/₂ instead of 2.¹/₂ bushels of clover-seed. this had escaped my attention until to day.

There is no syrup of punch in this place.

I am Dear Sir Yr. Very humble servt.

GEO. JEFFERSON

RC (MHi); at foot of text: "Thos. Jefferson esqr."; endorsed by TJ as received 15 Mch. and so recorded in SJL.

'THO CROPS BY SHIPPERS ARE PREF: Jefferson appears to have added this phrase after starting the subsequent paragraph but ran out of space before completing the thought. He may have been distinguishing between tobacco sold to merchants in the export trade from that sold to local manufacturers, who by this

time absorbed a small but growing percentage of the crop (William Tatham, *An Historical and Practical Essay on the Culture and Commerce of Tobacco* [London, 1800], 41; Joseph Clarke Robert, *The Tobacco Kingdom: Plantation, Market, and Factory in Virginia and North Carolina, 1800-1860* [Durham, N.C., 1938], 161-3).

For TJ's error in the order for CLOVER seed, see George Jefferson to TJ, 23 Feb., and TJ's response of 28 Feb.

Statement of Account with John March

Georgetown

The President,
1804

To John March

Jany:	10 To Blank Book, 100 Leaves 8vo: red Leather	\$1.25
25	Domestic Encyclopædia, vol: 4th boards	2.50

12 MARCH 1804

	"	Binding Grose's Glossary, 8vo: Calf, gilt	1.00
	"	Binding Politique Economie, 2 vols: 8vo: gilt	2.00
	"	Binding Ideologie de Tracey, 8vo: gilt	1.00
	"	Binding Aristotelis, Logica, &c: 2 vols: thick 12mo	1.50
Feb'y:	3	Temple of Nature, 8vo	2.75
	10	Pasting Map of the United States	0.50
	16	Barlow's Psalms	0.50
	24	Small English Bible	6.50
March	10	Binding 2 8vos: Calf gilt;—Philosophy of Jesus—Bacon's Rebellion	2.00
	"	Binding Chipman's Principles of Govern- ment, Crown 8vo: elegt. Morocco	3.00
	12	Binding 22 vols: Encyclopædia Methodique, Calf, gilt,—at \$2.25	49.50
	"	Binding Fixarum Catalogus, 4o. Calf, gilt	<u>2.25</u>
			\$76.25

MS (MHi); in March's hand; endorsed by TJ.

GROSE'S GLOSSARY: Francis Grose, *A Provincial Glossary; with a Collection of Local Proverbs, and Popular Superstitions* (London, 1787). TJ ordered a copy of this work in 1789 from London bookseller Thomas Payne (Sowerby, No. 4871; Vol. 14:512).

POLITIQUE ECONOMIE: Jean Baptiste Say, *Traité d'économie politique* (TJ to Say, 1 Feb. 1804).

IDEOLOGIE DE TRACEY: Antoine Louis Claude Destutt de Tracy, *Projet d'éléments*

d'idéologie à l'usage des écoles centrales de la République Française (Destutt de Tracy to TJ, 21 Feb. 1804).

BARLOW'S PSALMS: Joel Barlow, *Doctor Watts's Imitation of the Psalms of David, Corrected and Enlarged*, a work first published in 1785 and subsequently reprinted many times (James Woodress, *A Yankee's Odyssey: The Life of Joel Barlow* [Philadelphia, 1958], 79-80).

FIXARUM CATALOGUS: Franz Xaver von Zach, *Fixarum Praecipuarum Catalogus Novus* (Sowerby, No. 3799).

To Christopher Smith

SIR

Washington Mar. 12. 04.

I have been tardy in remitting the hire of your slaves for the last year, and am not able to do it now fully. I have this day remitted to Messrs. Gibson & Jefferson of Richmond for yourself and mr Charles Smith, one half the sum due you both, to wit 433 $\frac{1}{3}$ dollars for which I inclose you an order, & I will during the next month place the other half in their hands subject to your order. inability to avoid this delay must be my apology, and I pray you to permit this letter to serve for information through your channel to your brother also, & to accept my salutations

TH: JEFFERSON

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12 MARCH 1804

PoC (MHi); at foot of text: "Mr. Christopher Smith"; endorsed by TJ.

THIS DAY REMITTED: writing to George Jefferson on the 12th, TJ acknowledged Jefferson's letter of 6 Mch. and enclosed \$435 "to cover a draught

this day made in favor of Christopher Smith of Louisa" (PoC in MHi; at foot of text: "Mr. George Jefferson"; endorsed by TJ; notation in SJL: "435. D."). TJ completed his payment to the Smiths in August (MB, 2:1134).

From John Breckinridge

Senate Chamber 13. March 1804.

J. Breckinridge now incloses to the president, the within for his Inspection.—There are two Characters there, perhaps both well known to the president; who I believe have no expectation of the office, and against either of whom, there cannot be a good exception: George Gilpin a man of fair character, a revolutionary officer, & above 60 years of age: & Colo. F. Payton, of good Character, & well qualified to fill the office

RC (DNA: RG 59, LAR); endorsed by TJ as received 13 Mch. and "Sims Charles. to be removd." and so recorded in SJL with notation "Alexa." Enclosure not identified.

TJ received an undated and unsigned memorandum on the OFFICE of customs collector at Alexandria, Virginia, held by Charles Simms. The report described Simms's position, which drew a salary of "at least" \$4,000, as "a perfect *Sinecure*, the duties being performed by a Deputy, while he attends his profession as a lawyer in the Courts of Washington, Alexandria and the adjacent counties in Virginia." Salaries of the deputy, weigher and measurer, gauger, and four inspectors totaled somewhere between \$3,100 and \$5,100. The collector also appointed "persons to keep a look out boat &ca." The memorandum concluded: "It is im-

possible to estimate the influence which may be exercised in the collection of the large sums of money payable for duties in a commercial town" (MS in DNA: RG 59, LAR, 10:0287; in an unidentified hand). Congressmen John Smith, Matthew Clay, and Thomas Mann Randolph of Virginia and John Fowler of Kentucky wrote Gallatin on 13 Mch., recommending Dr. Alexander Rose to replace Simms (RC in DNA: RG 59, LAR; in Smith's hand, signed by all; endorsed by TJ: "Rose Alexr. to be Collectr. Alexa. Smith & others to mr Gallatin").

As TJ's appointees, George GILPIN and Francis Peyton (PAYTON) both served as justices of the peace and bankruptcy commissioners at Alexandria (Vol. 37:154-5, 618, 699, 705). Peyton was one of 15 Alexandria Republicans who addressed TJ on the subject of the collectorship on 3 Mch.