

THE PAPERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON



To Arthur S. Brockenbrough

DEAR SIR

Poplar Forest Sep. 1.

Your favor of the 28th came to hand yesterday. the engagements for work, as well as I can state them from imperfect memorandums which I have with me aided by recollection, have been as follows. in the Western range the Pavilion N^o 1. the brick work was engaged to Carter & Philips, the wooden work to Oldham; N^o 2. is done with. N^o 3. brick work and wooden work engaged to Dinsmore and Perry, N^o 4. done with; and N^o 5. not engaged. of the dormitories N^o 1. to 10. were not engaged, but were reserved for Carter & Philips. mr Dinsmore once mentioned to me in conversation that in assigning to him Pavilion N^o 3. he expected^l he should also have had the adjacent dormitories: but I told him I had had no such idea, and that the written paper I gave him would shew that the pavilion alone was allotted to him. he acknoleged the dormitories were not engaged, and did not pretend to claim them as such. it was our intention to have assigned the Hotels & line of dormitories on the back street to the Philadelphia workmen; but after Gen^l Cocke and myself concluded to build the Eastern range of Pavilions & dormitories in preference, this was destined for the Philadelphians, and I still wish that this whole range may be executed by them. by the time you say that Carter & Philips will have finished pavilion N^o 1. and dormitories N^o 1. 2. 3. 4. I shall be at home; but they may proceed to build the dormitories between Pavilions 2. & 3. that is to say dormitories N^o 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. these will take 60. or 70,000 bricks, and when I return we will decide according to circumstances whether to give them Pavilion N^o 5. of the Western range, or one on the Eastern side.

As I shall be at home so soon, we will defer deciding about the Corinthian capitels till then. but in the mean time the Corinthian bases should be pushed that we may get those columns up. then they should do of preference the Doric bases & capitels for N^o 4. to get them up.

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The two Raggis have requested me to remit 150.D. for each of them to their respective wives. as well as I recollect, exclusive of their passages and other travelling expences we had advanced for them 300.D. or a little over. if their wages commenced from the signature of the articles (as I believe they did) this new advance will be scarcely more than is now due to them. on a principle of justice therefore, as well as of a due attention to their feelings for their wives, and the expediency of keeping them in a state of satisfaction, this I think should be done. I will therefore pray you to have 300.D. immediately remitted from Richmond to John Vaughan of Philadelphia, on account of the university and subject to my orders; and I will write to him to whom he is to remit it in Leghorn. perhaps the Virginia bank will place it for you in Philadelphia.

I have taken off the rafter roof of the middle part of my house here, 22.f square, and covered it with ridge & guttur rooflets. a more compleat and satisfactory job I have never seen done. timber being plenty here, I had my ridge joists 10. by 4.I. & the guttur joists 10. by 8 I. but 10. by 3. & 10. by 6. would do, because 6.I. allows a 3.I. guttur and margins of $1\frac{1}{2}$ I. the joists are 15 I. horizontally apart, & a single course of shingles 18.I. long reach from the ridge into the guttur, and another course over these; breaking joints, and mitring at top, are more secure than plank. the shingles are of equal thickness at both ends, and in laying on the terras, a broad plank is first nailed over the mitre to prevent water from ever entering that, & the intervals then covered with other planks. sheet iron unquestionably endangers leaking, and will rust out sooner than the guttur, well pitched will rot. let all the dormitories be thus done, & without sheet iron. I salute you with friendship & respect.

RC (ViU: TJP-PP); partially dated; endorsed by Brockenbrough. PoC (DLC: TJ Papers, 216:38559); on verso of re-used address cover from Joseph Dougherty to TJ; edge trimmed; endorsed by TJ: "Brockenbrough Arthur S. Sep. 1. 19." Recorded in SJL as a letter of 1 Sept. 1819.

TJ later renumbered the WESTERN RANGE of the University of Virginia's pavilions, with numbers 2, 3, 4, and 5 becoming numbers III, V, VII, and IX, respectively. The WRITTEN PAPER that TJ gave to James Dinsmore has not been found.

¹Preceding two words interlined.

Arthur S. Brockenbrough's Memorandum on Expense of Dormitory Gutters

[ca. 1 Sept. 1819?]

Memorandum of the expence of one Range of dormitories
done with wood—99. feet long—

4972 feet heart pine Scantling @ 5\$ =	\$248=60
23-m. Shingles 22. In long @ 4\$ =	72
timber for Do—@ \$1. ²⁵ / ₁₀₀ pr. M.	28 75
hauling scantling 10. miles 18. days @ 5\$ =	90—
hauling shingles 11. days @ 5\$ =	55.
{ 38 Squares frameing Roof includeing { guttering Joist @ 5. ⁵⁰ / ₁₀₀ \$ =	} 209—
<u>1008 feet Runing Shingling Ridges @ ²⁰/₁₀₀</u>	<u>201—60</u> \$ 904. ⁹⁵ / ₁₀₀
<u>difference between Sheet Iron & wood</u>	<u>295.93</u>
	\$1200.88

done with Sheet Iron

2756 feet. heart pine scantling @ 5\$ =	137.80
hauling scantling 10 miles 10. days @ 5\$ =	50
38. Squares frameing Roof. @ 4\$ =	152
{ 38. Squars. of Sheet Iron will Cost 18\$ the { Squar—	} 684
{ bending and putting on 38 Squars. of { Sheet Iron at \$4. ⁶⁶ / ₁₀₀ pr Square =	} 177— 8 \$1200.88

MS (ViU: TJP-PP); in Brockenbrough's hand; undated; endorsed by TJ: "Estimate of gutturing with sheet iron."

This document can conjecturally be dated to around 1 Sept. 1819, when TJ stated a preference for wood rather than

sheet iron for the University of Virginia's dormitory gutters. The following year Brockenbrough urged TJ to consider using tin instead of wood (TJ to Brockenbrough, 1 Sept. [1819]; Brockenbrough to TJ, 7 June 1820).

From David Howell

MOST ESTEEMED FRIEND.

Providence Sept. 1, 1819.

The object of this Letter is to introduce to your notice and patronage Mr Nathaniel Helme—the young Gentleman who will deliver it. He has received the degree of A.B. in our College this day. The President informs me that his character in College has no blot—that

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he has taken no wrong Step—and that he believe him incapable of taking a false Step in future wilfully—that he is well qualified to teach Latin and Greek in particular, having a taste for the Study of Languages—and that his standing in his Class, with regard to other parts of classic learning, was very respectable—

His Father the Hon. James Helme was one of your Electers in this State. His private virtues, his Social and benevolent feelings and his political principles & conduct¹ makes him an ornament to Human nature. So fair is his character that I believe he has no personal enemy—and I am told that this Son inherits his fathers virtues.

I desire to present to you the assurance of the continuance of my most grateful recollection of the former notices with which you have honoured me: and pray² that Heaven may protract your life, usefulness and happiness here to a very late day and then give you a Serene and peaceful passage to the abodes of the blessed.

your real Friend

D. HOWELL

RC (MHi); at foot of text: “Th: Jefferson”; endorsed by TJ as a letter of 1 Sept. 1820 received 7 Nov. 1820 and so recorded (with additional notation: “by mr Helm”) in SJL.

Nathaniel Helme (1797–1822), teacher, was born in South Kingstown, Rhode Island. He graduated from Brown University in 1819 and began service shortly thereafter as a tutor in the family of Thomas Read, of Charlotte County, Virginia. In 1820 Helme traveled with Read’s son through Virginia, where the two saw

Natural Bridge and visited TJ and James Madison. At the time of his death Helme was teaching at an academy in his native town (*Brown University Catalogue*, 126; *Madison, Papers, Retirement Ser.*, 1:533–4, 2:139; Helme’s Account of a Visit to Monticello, [7 Nov. 1820]; *Providence Patriot*, 2 Nov. 1822).

Asa Messer was PRESIDENT of Brown University (*ANB*).

¹Preceding two words interlined.

²Word interlined.

Resolution by Board of Directors of Richmond Branch of Second Bank of the United States

Resolved that the Bond & security profered by M^r Jefferson will be considered satisfactory—The Bond being made payable on demand and bearing interest from date, payable semiannually—The parties to the Bond to be jointly & severally bound, The Note discounted this day & any other passed before the Bond is executed will require that the amount of Discount be paid by M^r Jefferson unless paid by Colonel Nicholas, as also the cost of Protest on the one Protested—
1st sept 1819—

3 SEPTEMBER 1819

MS (DLC); in the hand of Joseph Marx; on p. 3 of a sheet folded to form four pages, with covering letter and its address cover on pp. 1 and 4 and p. 2 blank. Enclosed in Marx to TJ, 2 Sept. 1819.

From Joseph Marx

SIR

Richmond 2^d sept 1819

I communicated the contents of Your letter under the 24th Aug, to the Board of Directors of the office of D & D, at this place, they very readily accepted the security proposed by Yourself, I annex a Copy of their resolution, for regard to the discount I take it for granted, that Colonel Nicholas will embrace that hereafter in his intended general settlement, in the mean while the Rules of the office require, that the discount be paid, untill the proposed general arrangement be complete,

I have applied one of the Notes enclosed in Your favor under 24th, to retire the Note upon which form required a Protest, the other will be used to meet the one due the 15th Instant

Whilst I lament the present occasion which has procured me the honor of a letter from You, permit me to add that I shall feel much gratification in being made usefull to You here, upon matters more agreeable to Yourself

With Sentiments of the highest Respect Sir Your most Obt servt

JOSEPH MARX

RC (DLC); on p. 1 of a sheet folded to form four pages, with p. 2 blank, enclosure on p. 3, and address cover on p. 4; addressed: "Thomas Jefferson Esqr Monticello"; franked; postmarked Richmond, 2 Sept.; endorsed by TJ as received 14

Sept. 1819 and so recorded in SJL. Enclosure: Resolution by Board of Directors of Richmond Branch of Second Bank of the United States, 1 Sept. 1819.

D & D: Discount and Deposit.

To Thomas Appleton

DEAR SIR

Poplar Forest near Lynchburg Sep. 3. 19.

I write to you from an occasional, but very distant residence from Monticello, which place I left the 13th of July. the two Raggis had arrived at the University about a week before that, which time I employed in getting them placed comfortably, and prepared to begin work. they have desired me to remit to you 300.D. to wit 150. each for his respective wife. I have accordingly directed the Proctor of the University to remit 300.D. immediately to mr John Vaughan of

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Philadelphia, whom I have requested to remit the same to you and to forward this letter with the remittance. it covers one to you from Michael Raggi.

On the 28th of May I wrote informing you that I had placed a sum of money in mr Vaughan's [. . .] which he was remitting to Lafite & co. at Paris by mr Girard's bill on them. of which sum I desired him to make 450.D. payable to your order, and I hope ere this it has been recieved and the yearly interest paid to M^r & M^{de} Pini. your commercial correspondents will have informed you of the catastrophe of most of our banks. the difficulties and doubtfulness of the remaining few, and the crush of all our merchants whose commerce leant on bank credit it was impossible that such a tumified, licentious & swindling system should not blow up. the period of it's bursting alone wa[s] unknown. affectionately and respectfully yours.

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (DLC); on verso of reused address cover of John Adams to TJ, 21 July 1819; mutilated and edge trimmed; at foot of text: "M^r Appleton"; endorsed by TJ. Enclosed in TJ to John Vaughan, 3 Sept. 1819. Enclosure not found.

The PROCTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF Virginia was Arthur S. Brockenbrough. Tumefied (TUMIFIED): "inflated or puffed up with pride" (*OED*).

John Hollins to Arthur S. Brockenbrough

SIR

Baltimore 3^d Sept^r 1819

In consequence of your respects of the 30th past, I have been at the Custom house where no difficulty was made, and the duties being paid, the articles remain at your command—

annexed is an account of what I have paid by order of my worthy friend M^r Jefferson for the Italians—leaving a balance of ten dollars due to me.—

The vouchers accompany this letter

I am very respectfully y^r obd^t S^t

JN^o HOLLINS

RC (ViU: PP); addressed: "M^r A: S: Brockenbrough Charlottesville V^a"; endorsed by Brockenbrough. Enclosures: (1) Receipt to Hollins from Michele Raggi and Giacomo Raggi, Baltimore, 26 June 1819, for "the Sum of Ninety Dollars advanced us on ac^t of Thomas Jefferson Esq^r for our Expences, & travelling Expences" (MS on verso of address leaf of

covering letter; in an unidentified hand, signed by both Raggis). (2) Receipt to Hollins from Jacob Adams, Baltimore, 30 June 1819, for \$280, payment "in full for the passage of two Italians, from Leghorn to Baltimore in the Brig Strong" (MS on verso of address leaf of covering letter; in Hollins's hand, signed by Adams). Other enclosure printed below.

E N C L O S U R E

Account of John Hollins with University of Virginia

[ca. 3 Sept. 1819]

D ^r			
26 June 1819	To cash—see above receipt		90
30 " "	To D ^o —passage money D ^o		280
" " "	" Boat hire & permit to Custom H ^o		1.20
" " "	" B Williamson—Tavern bill		18
15 July "	" M ^r Appleton's D ^f ^t		444:41
3 Sept ^r "	" Custom house—duties &c		16.06
			849:67
C ^r			
July 16	By remittance received from W. C. Nicholas }		840
			9:67
	Postage—say		33
	due John Hollins		\$10

MS (ViU: PP); on verso of address leaf of covering letter and subjoined to its other two enclosures; entirely in Hollins's hand; undated.

On 1 July 1819 the Baltimore innkeeper Basil WILLIAMSON sent Hollins a bill for lodging Giacomo Raggi and Mi-

chele Raggi. The charges, for 24–26 June 1819, totaled \$18 and included meals, lodging, and \$2 for a “Bottle claret” (MS in ViU: TJP; in an unidentified hand, with notice of payment having been received written and signed on Williamson's behalf by William Inskeep; endorsed in a second unidentified hand).

To John Vaughan

[DEA]R SIR

Pop[lar] Forest Sep. 3. 19.

We have in our employ at the University two Italian sculptors, whom we imported the last spring from Leghorn thro' the friendly agency of mr Appleton. they request that 300.D. may be remitted to him for their wives whom they have left there. I have accordingly instructed our Proctor (A. S. Brockenbrough) to place that sum in your hands, and I have to ask the favor of you to remit it to mr Appleton, and to forward him with the remittance the inclosed letter.

I shall leave this place for Monticello within a week, and shall hope during the month's stay I shall make there, to recieve mr Correa's visit. is it impossible for you to join him? it would double the joy of the day. ever affectionately and respectfully your fri[end]

TH: JEFFERSON

PoC (DLC); on verso of reused address cover to TJ; salutation and date-

line faint; torn at seal; at foot of text: “John Vaughan esq.”; endorsed by TJ.

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Enclosure: TJ to Thomas Appleton, 3
Sept. 1819.

The TWO ITALIAN SCULPTORS were
Giacomo Raggi and Michele Raggi.

From Thomas Appleton

Leghorn 4th September 1819—

My last respects, Sir, were under date of the 23^d of August, inclosing the receipt of m^r & mad: Pini for the year's interest paid to them, by the remittance made by you in may last, through m^r Vaughan.¹—A few days Since, I receiv'd letters from the two Raggis, expressing their great contentment at their reception at monticello: all their letters have been deliver'd at Carrara.—a vessel Sailing in the course of the day, affords me only a few moments, from other unavoidable avocations, especially as our Com^o Stewart is now here,² to recommend you, to oppose the plan of the younger Raggi to Send here for his brother, to proceed to the U. S—he is totally unfitting for your Service, from his general unbecoming and indecorous deportment in life;³ Should you have Occasion for other workmen, I can procure them, of talents & morality.⁴—I do not now remember, if on other occasions, I mention'd to you, that I have an interest in a fine marble quarry at Carrara; as likewise, that I have the first⁵ workmen at my disposal. In the college you are now erecting you will be in want of a great number of chimney pieces, & other works in marble; I am in the Situation to furnish any works of architecture or Sculpture, and the chimney-pieces at certainly a less price, than those made with you, even of the coarsest⁶ Stone.—there will be the greatest promptitude in the execution, & could be deliver'd you, before you are in readiness to erect them.—I offer what I am persuaded will be consistent with economy, at the Same time my Services in the faithful execution of the commission, however large.—

Accept Sir, the renewal of my invariable respect & esteem

TH: APPLETON

RC (DLC); endorsed by TJ as received 18 Nov. 1819 and so recorded in SJL; including an interlined, partial French translation in TJ's hand (edge trimmed): "depuis peu de jours j'ai reçu [d]es lettres des Mess^{rs} Raggi qui annoncent que leur reception à Monticello leur a été bien satisfaisant ces lettres ont été toutes rendue à Carrare. un bâtiment qui doit partir incessamment ne me permet q'un moment pour vous conseiller de n'agréer pas la

proposition de M. Raggi le jeun de faire venir son frere d'ici. c'est un homme qui ne conviendra du tout à votre service à cause de sa conduite dereglée et mauvaise. si vous avez encore besoin d'ouvriers, je pourrai bien vous en envoyer autant que vous voulez qui ont du talent et de la conduite." FC (DNA: RG 84, CRL); summary in Appleton's hand, which begins "not having had time to take a copy/ the following is the Substance"; at foot of

text: "Sent by Brig Spartan Capt Soule for Boston—& Sail'd 5 Sept^r."

³FC: "being totally unfit & wanting in decorum & good manners."

¹TJ's French translation begins here.

⁴TJ's French translation ends here.

²Preceding twelve words not included in French translation.

⁵FC: "best."

⁶FC: "the most ordinary."

From Edmund Bacon

DEARE SIR.

Monticello sep^r 4th 1819—

I drop you a few lines to inform you of our affairs here the mill is doing a good business it gets about 10 bushels in 24 hours we run both pair of stones nearly constantly we have nearly 300 bushels tole at present on hand the custom is about at a stand. the tightening that we done to the dam some weeks ago serves to give us a tollerable supply of water to both mills they are full of both wheat & flour in the large mill and no prospect of a tide to get any away the crop of corn in our neighborhood is better than I had supposed I think that M^r Th J Randolph will raise 5 or 600 bar^{ls} of corn upon all his farms & a very good crop of oats as well as the best wheat crop that I ever saw upon this estate so that there is no danger of any sufferance for want of grain the fattening of my hogs will require a smart potion of graine and I do imagin that we had better grind all the graine that we give them I have now in a field 127 hogs and at least 70 of them aught to be fattened

my gang in the canel has been very small only James billy and two small boys untill this week shepherd has got out we find the widening the canal tedeous the rock very hard Davy & Beverly¹ are with the cooper they have not failed to deliver 108 barls every week sence they began to make and they dress their timber as they go by ading the man to each shop compleatly enables them to deliver from the rough 9 bar^{ls} a day from each shop this would give us a fine profit during the season and if they are strictly attended to it can be done with ease and certainty I spend most of my time intirely at the Cooper shops & tole mill I intend to fix one of my sons to attend to the mill to marking of the bags & delivering them and the other to see to the coopers and other hands during my absence I have no feare but my two sons will carry on my business duing my absence as well as I can myself I have company waiting for me to set out on the 16th or 17th at furthest before that time I shall have the Pleasure of seeing You at home

In consequence of the ground being so very hard I am Obliged to Put three muls even in a colter I shall get my land for my crop of

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wheat and rye broke by the 15th or nearly so the grait benefit of grase-ing upon the rye a few years ago occations me to remember it in this hard time and I have sowed a field two weeks ago in rye it is up and agrowing the weather at this time is very hot & dry

Your horse is considerably wos he cannot scarcely put one of his hind legs to the ground I should mention some other matters but consider the time so close at hand when you will be here I conclude with subscribing my self your very Ob St and sincere frind

E: BACON

I have not been able to get above 38 dollers of our debts due us but have frequently seen those we owe who seems quite Passafied & contented as they say they no the money due them is in good hands I expect henry will set out in the morning for Bedford

I could not imploy Thomas Walker to take the mill without giving him 120\$ consequently I let him alone

Mrs Meeks requests that I would let Mr. Meeks Know that she is well

RC (MHi); adjacent to signature: "Mr Jefferson"; endorsed by TJ as received 9 Sept. 1819, but recorded in SJL as received three days earlier.

A missing letter from Bacon to TJ of 18 Sept. 1819 is recorded in SJL as received the day it was written.

¹Manuscript: "Bererly."

COLTER: "coulter."

From Arthur S. Brockenbrough

DEAR SIR,

Char: Sept 4^h 1819.

I have this moment rec^d your two favors of the 29^t & 1st as I was disappointed in getting a pump borer, I set our overseer & hands at and have actually gotten some hundred feet bored. but a new difficulty has arisen the spring that was said to be so good has almost entirely dried up, we must therefore get water before we employ M^r Wade—I have had M^r Perrys improvements valued he now states he must have a deed of Trust on the property for the other payment, as the contract does not call for it I conceive I have no right to give it, the inconvenience and expence is too great to be born by me—I know not what to [. . .]—I can't pay that attention to the business in [t]he present unsettled state of my affairs that I wish being obliged to continue at Laportes, you have no money in Richmond, I therefore can't make the remittance you request untill your return—I beg you to write to M^r Perry on the subject of keeping possession of the houses so much

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to the disadvantage of the institution I am Sir with the highest respect your Ob^t ser^t

A. S. BROCKENBROUGH

RC (CSmH: JF); mutilated at seal; addressed: "Thomas Jefferson Esq^r Poplar Forest near Lynchburg"; franked; post-marked Charlottesville, 5 Sept.; endorsed by TJ as received 6 Sept. 1819 and so recorded in SJL.

A PUMP BORER "bores tree trunks to make the cylinders of pumps" (*OED*).

John M. Perry's November 1818 agreement to sell 48.75 acres bordering the 43.75 acres he initially sold to Central College stipulated that "three disinterested judges" were to assign a value to his IMPROVEMENTS on this property and that this sum would be added to the \$40-per-acre price of the land itself. Shortly after Central College turned over its assets to the University of Virginia, in April 1819 the new institution honored the agreement with a \$3,000 down payment to Perry (Agreement by Perry to Sell Lands to Central College, 7 Nov. 1818; Perry to TJ, 10 Apr. 1819, and note).

On this date the three referees, William D. Meriwether, Reuben Lindsay, and John Jordan, completed a valuation according to which Perry's improvements consisted of a west pavilion worth \$1,529.42, an east pavilion with portico worth \$1,554.42, a new addition worth \$662.42, and "Kitchen Out Houses & Imp^{ts}" worth \$1,535.54, for a total of \$5,281.80 (MS in ViU: PP; in Meriwether's hand, signed by Meriwether, Lindsay, and Jordan; endorsed by Brockenbrough; "Valuation of the improvements on the land purchased of John M Perry," with his additional calculation on verso that, the land being worth \$1,950, the total value of the land plus improvements was \$7,231.80).

Presumably reacting to the completion of the valuation, also on 4 Sept. 1819 Perry wrote to Brockenbrough with two propositions under which he would give immediate possession of this land to the university: "for you to give me a deed in

trust to secure the payment of the money at the time it was to be paid according to Contract—otherwise I will give possession upon your promis that you will give me back the possession in Case the money is not paid at the time stipulated—again if you will say to me that you will see the money paid as aforesaid—Either of the above arrangements will be satisfactory to me or any other mode that will answer your purpose better will answer mine," so long as the purchase price was secured to him when it became due (RC in ViU: PP; addressed: "M^r A. S. Brockenbrough Proctor u v"; endorsed by Brockenbrough). In a second letter written around this time, Perry asked Brockenbrough for "a Coppy of the agreement spoken of," commented that "with respect to making a right to the property I have been allways ready & willing which I have told you before. and have urged the Necessaty of Closing the Contract ever Since it was in existance," expressed a willingness to refer either of his two propositions to arbitration, "and if thought unreasonable to abandon the Idie [i.e., Idea]," and concluded that "my arrangement in mony matters forbids my doing less than to make the payment Certain" (RC in ViU: PP; undated; endorsed by Brockenbrough as a letter of 4 Sept. 1819; addressed: "M^r A. S. Brockenbrough P. u. v—Present").

With the purchase price finally established, on 23 Sept. 1819 Perry signed a receipt confirming that he had "Rec^d of A. S. Brockenbrough a Dft on Alex: Garrett for Six hundred & fifteen Doll^s 90 cents being the balance of the first payment of the forty eight & $\frac{3}{4}$ acres of land sold to the Central College & one half the value of the improvements thereon" (MS in ViU: PP; in Brockenbrough's hand, signed by Perry; endorsed in an unidentified hand, in part, as "p^d 23rd Sept^r 1819 \$615.90").