Dear Sir


Your favor of the 19th. was received yesterday. Those of Feb. 20 & March had come to hand before, and were still in my letter of letters to be answered. The only circumstance in these which pressed for an answer had escaped my memory, until your last reminded me of it. That is to say, the visit proposed by General Moreau, and first I must set to rights the idea that a visit while at Washington would have occasioned embarrassment, not the least. I had considered the incident as a possible one, and had made up my mind on it. I should have received him with open arms, and should have frankly stated to Turreau the reason and right of my so doing. I considered the general's not visiting us at Washington as an evidence of his discretion, which could not be taken amiss, because it's friendly manners; but he would have been cordially received, and I wish him to understand this as having been my purpose. With respect to the visit here, I can say with sincerity, that I should receive the general with the greatest pleasure, and a due consideration of the honor done. The high estimation in which I hold his character and particularly its combination of integrity with talents would ensure this, but my respect for him would shrink from a compliment which was to cost him the labor of such a journey. Were indeed the visit to Monheillo merely an episode to one to the cause, or Natural bridge, or a promenade of convenience, this part of the country, it's gratitude here would be pure and unalloyed. let my silence should be considered by him, as it has been by yourself, as a proof that I was indifferent at least to his visit. I must repose myself on your friendship so far as to

Mrs. Short
give him a true comprehensive view of my impressions on the subject, and such too as may leave him at perfect liberty to conduct his own convenience as well as wishes. should he propose to come, my visits to Bedford 3. or 4 times a year, for each of which I am absent a month, would render some previous idea of the time of his coming necessary to me to prevent mutual disappointment. the periods of these visits to Bedford being unfixed and immaterial admit his taking his own time. the delay of the post between this and that place are such that all no letters arriving during my absence are forwarded thereto. 

So proceed to the other parts of your letter. the house of Gibson & Jefferson continuing as before, n. Gibson will do for you whatever my Jefferson has here before done, he is a most excellent man, and worthy of any confidence you may have occasion to repose in him. 

Throckmorton's offer of 12. D. to you for the land, and his making the offer to you instead of me, shows he expected to take you by surprize to a native Virginian, in commerce, and having asked & received previous information from me that the price was 12. D. he came to see the land, he was several days at Monticello. I referred him to the tenant, to shew him the land, he happened to apply to Gamble, who showed it to him most unfaithfully, still I do believe he would then have given 10. D. but I thought it would more, and offered no abatement. after I received your desire to let it go at 10. D. I gave him notice of it (he lives at Port Royal) and instead of answering my notice, he has hoped to get it still lower from yourself. I have no fear of getting the 10. D. when the incumbrance of the tenant shall be removed. the law from which you apprehended danger respects only lands which the owner have failed to enter on the Commissioners books, to avoid paying taxes
Your accounts will show you that the taxes of yours have been regularly paid, and of course that they are on the Commissioners books. The letter from Mad. de Jefle with the Memoires of the Margrave came to hand only the last week. Some of my correspondents, booksellers particularly, had so indiscriminately used my privilege of franking, by sending by mail packets more proper for a wagon (one of N.York for instance, sent me 7 1/2 vol. by mail) that I was obliged to desire the P.M. C. to stop all packages larger than an 8vo. vol. and commit them to the stage, in this way they experience considerable delays which has been the case with M. de Jefle's package. The Memoires have run the quantit of my whole family, and I shall think, take them up myself, after which I will forward them to you, a volume at a time. — From the Abbé Rocque I never receive either letter or book indeed having never been able to hear of him, tho' I have often enquired, I had concluded he was no longer in vigour, whatever he has written, whether on coins or any thing else must be sensible. I found him a very sound-headed man. But the MD volume you speak of must be beyond the limits prescribed for the mail, and the stage would be too unsafe to be trusted with it unless under the care of a passenger. I shall read with pleasure his Memoire sur la chrysalid de Roche, if you can hazard it by mail. I presume it is a prosecution of the effects of the two distinct refrangibilities of the Iceland chrysalid, of which he had made two telescopes before I left France, which gave you the distance of any object whose diameter was known, or the diameter of the distance was known. — I set out for Bedford within 3 or 4 days to be absent a month. Accept the assurance of my constant and affectionate esteem.

Th: Jefferson