Sir,

Monticello, Feb. 9, 1818.

I thank you for the volume of American State papers you have been so kind as to send me. The collection certainly will be a very useful one. The messages of the Presidents giving to Congress a State of the nation regular once a year, with the documents supporting it, do in fact amount to a history of the nation, with the advantage of being authentic. The message of Dec. 6, 1805, was not printed at the time because it was confidential, which was the case also of some of the documents particularly the letters of our ministers; nor am I quite certain that the National Intelligencer always published all the documents. They might sometimes perhaps omit those they thought uninteresting. The loose sheets printed daily for the use of the members would be most to be depended on, if a copy has been preserved by any of our members. Accept the assurance of my great respect.

J. Jefferson

Mr. James Savage
Savage James. Feb. 9. 15.

... writes considerable notations for his records of any events or actions that may be occurring. Such notes would be crucial for maintaining a thorough record of activities and events. Further, it is clear that these notes are being used to guide decisions and actions.

... to provide additional context and to summarize the main points of the letter.

[Handwritten signature]

Thomas Jefferson
Monticello, Virginia