Monticello Oct. 19, 1822

Dear Sir,

I have waited for a post to announce to me your return to Virginia, and as we have as yet had none here, I presume they must have reached you, in their advance towards us, by this time, and that I may now acknowledge your letter written on your departure for Canada. That the trip disappointed me of the expected visit to your native state, yet I hold on to the promise as a thing due, and to happen. Our University still wants the key-stone of its arch, the Rotunda; but even in its present state it is worth a visit, as a specimen of classical architecture, which would be remarked in Europe. Our last legislature has acquired the immortal title of Parliamentum indolentium, by its refusal to do anything towards completing and bringing this establishment into use. This would require a further sum of $60,000. In addition to the $200,000 it has already cost. The late elections are believed to have been favorable to it, and that a very general disapproval of their conduct has been excited even among the people. Our enemies are in the wire-glasses of Wm. M'Farlan, to whom are added the Presbyterian clergy. This is rather the most numerous of our present sects, and the most ambitious, the most intolerant and tyrannical of all our sects. They wish to see no instruction of which they have not the exclusive direction. Their present aim is ascendency only, their next exclusive possession and establishment. They dread the light which this University is to shed on the public mind, and its obstruction to their ambition. But there is a breeze advancing from the North, which will put them down. Unitarianism has not yet reached us; but our citizens are ready to receive reason from any quarter. The Unity of a supreme being is so much more simple and eligible than the triumvirate arithmetic of the counterfeit Christians.
that it will kindle here like wild-fire. We want only eloquent preachers of the primitive doctrines to restore them to light, after the long night of darkness under which they have been hid. Such would gather into their fold every man under the age of 40. Female fanaticism might hold out awhile longer.

I wish with you that Congress had the power of expending our surplus moneys (if ever we are to have them) on public improvements, and have long wished for such an amendment to the constitution, with the condition expressed that the federal proportion of each state should be expended within on improvements within the state. Otherwise all, like our lighthouses, we would go to New England.

My health, after which you kindly enquire, is entirely re-established. I am very weak indeed and daily getting worse so, insomuch that I do not walk into my garden without feeling it sensibly, yet I ride without fatigue 6, 8, or 10 miles every day, and a few days ago 20 miles without suffering. I hope you preserve your health, and may long do so. I salute you with assurance of my constant and affectionate friendship.

Th: Jefferson