May it please your Excellency,

I, who now take the liberty of addressing you, am a stranger who have fled from my native country, oppressed by tyrants & delayed in blood, to seek an asylum in this bloomed land of liberty. After a tedious and dangerous passage across the Atlantic, my heart rejoiced at the prospect of soon seeing an end to my misery; but my hopes were quickly blighted when I learnt that my occupation was held in small esteem in this country. Having no other resource, without friends, without a knowledge of the English language, and not even having money sufficient to pay my passage, I saw all my fellow passengers leave the ship and gain immediate employment at their respective occupations. No one thought of my talents worth the purchase, and I was left alone, on board, as an outcast. Once indeed I was visited by a gentleman, who, as I have been told, is Engraver of the Mint. To him I showed my medals & he approved of the work and seemed to give me some hopes.
of employment under him; but after he left me I heard no more from him. Being then compelled either to pay my passage or go to jail, I resolved to agree, with any person who would pay my passage, on as good terms as I could; An opportunity of that kind soon offered, and I am now in a state of bondage at hard labour, cut off from social happiness and literally a slave in a land of liberty.

I have however been informed of two things which give me a cheering ray of hope—first, the U.S. are in want of good Medals; and second, that the chief Magistrate may be addressed by a friendless being like myself without taking offence, and that at Monticello the acts are not held in contempt. I hope therefore that if the Specimens of my workmanship meet your approbation, you will order matters that I may be employed, in such a way as to regain my freedom, and become a lawful citizen of the United States.

I am, Sir, with the highest respect,

Philadelphia, May 24th 1803

[Signature]