New York, March 10th, 1818

Sir,

It has been a favourite object of my literary ambitions to become the biographer of yourself and a few other the great and eminent men of our country. The varied events which have happened review the part you have acted in that mould 

Drama which has been exhibited in the theater of actions and the part which you have have created a public interest of the hero would have created a public interest in your private memoirs, which but little in your private memoirs, which but little in your private memoirs, which but little interest can have been afforded you for these compilations. This state must not be left unexposed. Our national is to intervene with your personal historian in a degree to be inseparable. The present nation all have claims which should not be left without justice to the merits of your own fame to the veracity of history enforced the demand.

Under these circumstances, as well from a sense of public duty as from an admiration of the virtues States of the subject.
To memoir I ventured to offer my service to execute the task, if it be not already confided to other hands. Of the delicacy of responsibility of such a work, I am not unaware, and that it may not be entrusted to any man without satisfactory testimonials of character, education, and ability. Such testimonials shall be produced the moment it is discovered that the service here offered will be acceptable.

To render these services it would be necessary to have access to all the papers whether of a public or private nature which you might think calculated to reflect light upon any event of your life that impairs the character of your evidence, or tend to damage the time at the need.

From the considerations on which the honor of my friends on this subject is made, I trust you will not deem it remonstrating but accept, as an apology, the appearance of those sentiments of profound respect with which I have the honor to be

Your obedient, George H. B. Richards.

His Excellency Thomas Jefferson, Late President of the United States, Monticello, Va.