Sheepwood Court
March 17, 1846

My Dear Sir,

Julia has informed me of her intention to enclose to you a specimen of a newspaper published in Portsmouth, D-C. called the "New Era," and I desire to say that the paper has been uniformly candid and just towards me, and now does not hesitate upon all occasions to defend me against the aspersions of my enemies. It is a daily or bi-weekly, and is the adjacent to the "Old Dominion," a weekly paper published and edited by the same person. Its defence of me from the first is visible in all the region of its circulation, in the course of public opinion which is decidedly favorable. But still its circulation is limited and the Editor barely sustains himself. There is consequently no marked ability about its editorials or contributions of any great value, and yet the cause of its importance to truth and justice over a somewhat extensive region embraced in Virginia and N. Carolina cannot be well over-estimated. The subscription to the
Old Dominion is two dollars per annum.

To the New Era, I am happy to report that we have 12, 15 or 20 subscribers even to the Old Dominion, and a letter was addressed to Mr. Cunningham, the editor, in company with it, expressing the appreciation of the subscribers for his grace and generosity. It would not fail to be highly gratifying to him, while it would have the effect of giving him greater confidence in himself and the cause he is pursuing. It is moreover of the greatest importance to me that there should be a paper in Virginia to repel attacks made upon me. It is natural that I should have desire to stand well, and my sufferings from the gods have been that I have had no press in the State to speak out openly and fairly. May the Old Dominion and New Era supply this great want! It has occurred to me that if a handful of friends in the principal cities would become subscribers, this object might be attained. If 50 of the subscribers pay $2 per annum for the Old Dominion, or $5 for the New Era, it is a small affair, and if Mr. Brandish...
Cha. 5th. Oct. V 3
18th. March. 1803

Alexander Gardiner Esq.
No. 43. Lafayette Place
New York