January 18, 1815

Mr. Rush

Use of a rifle, by Colonel Ferguson, who fell at Kings mountain, which could be loaded at the touch without using the hammer or turning the barrels away from the enemy, and with such quickness as to fire seven times in a minute.

With very great and faithful respect, I am your obedient ser.

Richard Rush.

James Monroe.
President of the U.S. States.

London January 15, 1819.

Dear sir,

An individual of this town, of the name of Leigh, who represents himself to have been formerly in service in India, has made known to me, through the secretary of the legation, that he has found out an improvement in ordnance.

The principle of his supposed improvement contemplates the use of the spheric-cylindrical, in place of round shot, and a reduction in the weight of the great gun, whilst it is to retain all its capacity to throw with safety and effect, a heavy ball. He offers to demonstrate by experiments,
the superior destructive capacity of being produced by the sphere or cylindrical shot, over the round, when employed in close action, or at different distances not exceeding five hundred yards. He also imagines, that a considerable improvement may be effected in defensive artillery by the use of the sphere or cylindrical shell, on the plan of the rot thunders, as they could be made to contain many more carbine balls, than the common spherical case-shot.

This Mr. Leigh, of whom I can say nothing but how that he wrote the note of an educated man, wants encouragement from our government, which I, of course am not authorized to hold out to him. It may be that his plan does not deserve it. But I have deemed it worth while to allude to it. Better that a thou-

thousand of these hints should be transmitted to no purpose, than that one should be lost by which may prove useful. When Mr. Jefferson was in Paris in 1785, he mentioned in one of his letters now on file in the department of state, an improvement in the manufacture of muskets, which consisted in making every part as exactly alike, that what belonged to any one might be used for every other. If I mistake not, this advantage is now known to our service. How far the above letter may have led to it, I cannot say.

While upon this subject I will add, that, reading Jefferson's reign of Gore. BEC for amusement on my passage, I observed, in volume 2 page 926 (Philadelphia edition) mention made of what was new to me; viz. the invention and practical