Dear Sir

Monticello Mar. 9. 13.

I thank you for the book you have been so kind as to send me. it puts a dry subject into a pleasant dress; and explaining the principles of vegetation as well as of Botany, it will be a better preparation to a student than the elementary books generally are. that it's sale should have succeeded only South of Connecticut proves two things; one which I have long observed, that the scale of science cultivated in the east is more limited than that to the South, the clergy, who are afraid of science every where, controuling it there. the second, that the fell hatred of party spirit thinks no persecution too mean. but you should not wonder at their hue and cry against you who declared the heresy of the possibility of the existence of a mountain of salt, when you recollect that against myself who had never uttered a word on the subject, verbal or written. it is true that in a paper written by Maj.r Stoddert an officer, a federalist and an honest man, abridged by Jacob Wagner then chief clerk of the Sec.y of State, now printer of a favorite federal paper in Baltimore, and put by him into the bundle of documents made up at that office for Congress, & passed through me without ever having been seen or read by me, such a fact was stated by Stoddert; but I never heard of it till the federal writers drew forth the morsel so delicious for the exercise of their wit. I thought it as innocent a tub for the whale as could be given them, & said nothing. it shewed too the extent of the science of which they boast they possess the whole. but if truth is their object, they may now take up the Major's book on Louisiana lately published, in which (page 403) he vindicates his former assertion, and produces facts, on which the federal wits may display all their science, and after demolishing Major Stoddert's Salt mountain, may sollicit an Auto da fé to burn you who believed in the heresy, or force you to fly South of Connecticut, where no truth is feared, science is honored, not reviled, & where you, as one of it's sons would always be recieved with cordiality. Accept my prayers for the success of your efforts to do good wherever you are.

Th: Jefferson

Doct.r Benjamin Waterhouse.

free
Th: Jefferson

Doctr. Benjamin Waterhouse

Boston

free
Th: Jefferson

Milton
18 Oct

Doctr. Benjamin Waterhouse

Cambridge

Massachusets

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Dear Sir Monticello Oct. 13. 15.

I was highly gratified with the receipt of your letter of Sep. 1. by Genl. and mrs Dearborne; and by the evidence it furnished me of your bearing up with firmness and perseverance against ~~your~~ the persecutions of your enemies, religious, political and professional. these last I suppose have not yet forgiven you the introduction of vaccination, and annihilation of the great variolous field of profit to them: and none of them pardon the proof you have established that the condition of man may be ameliorated, if not <u>infinitely</u>, as enthusiasm alone pretends, yet <u>indefinitely</u>, as bigots alone can doubt. in lieu of these enmities you have the blessings of all the friends of human happiness, for this great peril from which they are rescued.

I have read with pleasure the orations of mr Holmes & mr Austin. from the former we always expect what is good; and the latter has by this specimen taught us to expect the same in future from him. both have set the valuable example of quitting the beaten ground of the revolutionary war, and making the present state of things the subject of annual animadversion and instruction. a copious one it will be and highly useful if properly improved. Cobbet's address would of itself have mortified and humbled the Cossac priests; but brother Jonathan has pointed his arrow to the hearts of the worst of them. these reverend leaders of the Hartford Convention nation it seems then are now falling out together about religion, of which they have not one real principle in their hearts. like bawds, religion becomes to them a refuge from the despair of their loathsome vices. they seek in it only an oblivion of the disgrace with which they have loaded themselves, in their political ravings, and of their mortification at the ridiculous issue of their Hartford convention. no event, more than this,

has shewn the placid character of our constitution. under any other their treasons would have been punished by the halter. we let them live as laughing stocks for the world, and punish them by the torment of eter-
-nal contempt.— the emigrations you mention from the Eastern states are what I have long counted on. the religious & political tyranny of those in power with you, cannot fail to drive the oppressed to milder associations of men, where freedom of mind is allowed in fact as well as in pretence. the subject of their present clawings and caterwaulings is not without it's interest to rational men. the priests have so disfigured the simple religion of Jesus that no one who reads the sophistications they have engrafted on it, from the jargon of Plato, of Aristotle & other mystics, would conceive these could have been fathered on the sublime preacher of the sermon on the mount. yet, knowing the importance of names they have assumed that of Christians, while the[illegible] mere Platonists, or any thing rather than disciples of Jesus. one of the[illegible]
-ties beginning now to strip off these meretricious trappings; their follow[illegible] may take courage to make thorough work, and restore to us the figure in it's original simplicity and beauty. the effects of this squabble therefore, whether religious or political, cannot fail to do be good in some way.

The visit to Monticello, of which you hold up an idea, would be a favor indeed of the first order: I know however the obstacles of age & distance, and should therefore set due value on it's vicarious execution, should busi-
-ness or curiosity lead a son of yours to visit this Sodom and Gomorrah of parsons Osgood, Parish, & Gardener. Accept my wishes for your health and happiness, and the assurance of my great esteem & respect.

Th: Jefferson

Monticello July 20. 16.

I thank you, dear Sir, for the new Robinson Crusoe you have been so good as to send me. the name of it's hero, like that of the old, merits to be known as should that also of the new Defoe. I have read it with avidity, for a more attaching narrative I have not met with; and it may be truly said of the whole edifice, that the bricks and the mortar are worthy of each other, and promise to be a lasting monument of British character. Pillet's work had already broken that character on the wheel. this gives it the coup de grace. Doct. Strong too, with his band of Anglo-feds cannot but sympathise with the sufferings of their dear friends, their idolised bulwark, with which they took such pious and affectionate part in it's war against their native country. — but if they repent, let us give them quarter, let us forget all, & henceforward become a cordial & incorporated nation. if Unitarianism, as a tertium quid, can fuse us with a part of them, let us yield to that amalgam.. it will reduce the mass so far. and the Trinitarian residuum may hereafter perhaps find some other principle, physical or moral, religious or civil, which may solve it's refractory particles also, and make all homogeneous. how goes the weather between these conflicting schismatics? we hear nothing of the storm at this distance, and are contented to be honest, without presuming to scan the nature of the being who made us what we are. I salute you with great friendship and respect.

Th: Jefferson

Doct. Waterhouse.

free
Th: Jefferson

Milton Va
24 July

Doctr. Benjamin Waterhouse

Cambridge

Massachusetts.

Dear Sir Monticello Mar. 3. 18.

I have just recieved your favor of Feb. 20. in which you observe that mr Wirt, in pa. 47. of his Life of Patrick Henry, quotes me as saying that 'mr Henry certainly gave the first impulse to the ball of revolution.' I well recollect to have used some such expression in a letter to him; and am tolerably certain that, our own state being the subject under contemplation, I must have used it with respect to that only. whether he has given it a more general aspect, I cannot say, as the passage is not in the page you quote, nor, after thumbing over much of the book, have I been able to find it. in page 417 there is something like it, but not the exact expression; and even there it may be doubted whether mr Wirt had his eye on Virginia alone, or on all the colonies. but the question <u>Who commenced the revolution?</u> is as difficult as that of the first inventors of a thousand good things. for example who first discovered the principle of Gravity? not Newton: for Galileo who died the year that Newton was born, had measured it's force in the descent of gravid bodies. who invented the Lavoisierian chemistry? the English say Dr. Black, by the preparatory discovery of latent heat. who invented the steam boat? was it Gerbert, the Marquis of Worcester, Newcomen, Savary, Papin, Fitch, Fulton? the fact is that one new idea leads to another, that to a 3d. and so on thro' a course of time, until some one, with whom no one of these ideas was original, combines all together, and produces what is justly called a new invention. I suppose it would be as difficult to trace our revolution to it's first embryo. we do not know how long it was hatching in the British cabinet before they ventured to make the first of the experiments which were to develope it in the end, and to produce compleat parliamentary supremacy.

those you mention in Massachusets as preceding the stamp act might be the first visible symptoms of that design. the proposition of that act in 1764. was the first here. your opposition therefore preceded ours, as occasion was sooner given there than here. and the truth, I suppose is, that the opposition in every colony began whenever the encroachment was presented to it. this question of priority is as the enquiry would be who first, of the 300. Spartans, offered his name to Leonidas? I shall be happy to see justice done to the merits of all, by the unexceptionable umpirage of dates & facts, and especially from the pen which is proposed to be employed in it.

I rejoice indeed to learn from you that mr Adams retains the strength of his memory, his faculties, his cheerfulness, and even his epistolary industry. this last is gone from me. the aversion has been growing on me for a considerable time, and now, near the close of 75. is become almost insuperable. I am much debilitated in body, and my memory sensibly on the wane. still however I enjoy good health and spirits, and am as industrious a reader as when a student at College. not of newspapers. these I have discarded. I relinquish, as I ought to do, all intermedling with public affairs, committing myself chearfully to the watch and care of those, for whom, in my turn, I have watched and cared. when I contemplate the immense advances in science, and discoveries in the arts which have been made within the period of my life, I look forward with confidence to equal advances by the present generation; and have no doubt they will consequently be as much wiser than we have been, as ~~our fathers~~ we than our fathers were, and they than the burners of witches. even the metaphysical contest, which you so pleasantly described to me in a former letter, will probably end in improvement, by clearing the mind of Platonic mysticism, & unintelligible jargon. altho age is taking from me the power of communicating by letter with my friends, as industriously as heretofore, I shall still claim with them the same place they will ever hold in my affections, and on this ground, I with sincerity and pleasure assure you of my great esteem and respect.

Th: Jefferson

free
Th: Jefferson

Free

Doct. Benjamin Waterhouse

Cambridge

Massachusetts

Dear Sir Monticello Jan. 31. 19.

Your favor of the 15th. was received on the 27th. and I am glad to find the name and character of Samuel Adams coming forward, and in so good hands as I suppose them to be. but I have to regret that I can add no facts to the stores professed. I was the youngest man but one in the old Congress, and he the oldest but one, as I believe. his only senior, I suppose, was Stephen Hopkins, of and by whom the honorable mention made in your letter was richly merited. altho' my high reverence for Samuel Adams was returned by habitual notices from him which highly flattered me, yet the disparity of age prevented intimate and confidential communications. I always considered him as more than any other member the fountain of our important measures; and altho' he was neither an eloquent nor easy speaker, whatever he said was sound and commanded the profound attention of the House. in the discussions on the floor of Congress he reposed himself on our main pillar in debate, mr John Adams. these two gentlemen were verily a host in our councils. comparisons with their associates, Northern or Southern, would answer no profitable purpose, but they would suffer by comparison with none. I salute you with perfect esteem & respect.

Dr. Waterhouse

Th: Jefferson

free
Th: Jefferson

Free
S. & J. Adams

Doctr. Benjamin Waterhouse

Cambridge Mass.

Dear Sir Monticello June 26. 22.

I have recieved and read with thankfulness & pleasure your denunciation of the abuses of tobacco & wine. yet however sound in it's principles, I expect it will be but a sermon to the wind. you will find it as difficult to inculcate these sanative precepts on the sensualists of the present day, as to convince an Athanasian that there is but one God. I wish success to both attempts, and am happy to learn from you that the latter, at least, is making progress, and the more rapidly in proportion as our Platonising Christians make more stir and noise about it.

The doctrines of Jesus are simple, and tend all to the happiness of man.

1. that there is one God, and he all-perfect:
2. that there is a future state of rewards and punishments:
3. that to love God with all thy heart, & thy neighbor as thyself. is the sum of religion.

these are the great points on which he endeavored to reform the religion of the Jews. but compare with these the demoralising dogmas of Calvin.

1. that there are three Gods:
2. that good works, or the love of our neighbor are nothing:
3. that Faith is every thing; and the more incomprehensible the proposition, the more merit in it's faith:
4. that Reason in religion is of unlawful use:
5. ~~that God from the beginning elected certain individuals to be saved. & certain~~ others to be damned; and that no crimes of the former can damn them, no vir-tues of the latter save.

Now which of these is the true and charitable Christian? he who believes and acts on the simple doctrines of Jesus? or the impious dogmatists of Athanasius and Calvin? verily, I say that these are the false shepherds, foretold as to enter, not by the door into the sheep-fold, but to climb up some other way. they are mere Usurpers of the Christian name, teaching a Counter-religion, made up of the deliria of crazy imaginations, as foreign from Christianity

Doctor Waterhouse.

as is that of Mahomet. their blasphemies have driven thinking men into infi-
-delity, who have too hastily rejected the supposed Author himself, with the horrors
so falsely imputed to him. had the doctrines of Jesus been preached always as purely
as they came from his lips, the whole civilised world would now have been Christian.
I rejoice that in this blessed country of free enquiry and belief, which has surrend-
-ered it's creed and conscience to neither kings nor priests, the genuine doctrine of
one only God is reviving, and I trust that there is not a young man now living
in the US. who will not die an Unitarian.

But much I fear that when this great truth shall be re-established, it's votaries
will fall into the fatal error of fabricating formulas of creed, and Confessions of faith,
the engines which so soon destroyed the religion of Jesus, and made of Christendom
a mere Aceldama: that they will give up morals for mysteries, & Jesus for Plato. how
much wiser are the Quakers, who, agreeing in the fundamental doctrines of the gospel,
schismatize about no mysteries, and keeping within the pale of common sense, suffer
no speculative differences of opinion, any more than of feature, to impair
the love of their brethren. be this the wisdom of Unitarians; this the holy mantle
which shall cover within it's charitable circumference all who believe in one God,
and who love their neighbor. — I conclude my sermon with sincere assurances
of my friendly esteem and respect.

Th: Jefferson

No. II

free

Th. Jefferson

Free

Doctr. Benjamin Waterhouse

Cambridge Mass.

Dear Sir Monticello Oct. 15. 22.

I am much indebted to the rainy morning at Newport for your acceptable letter of Sep. 12. it gives me information of the state of religion in Boston and Cambridge of which I had not a just idea. I could not have concieved that a Congregationalist, after the pollution of his pulpit by the prayers of an Unitarian, would have again officiated in it, without lustrations, purifications & exorcisms to drive away the malignant spirits. these energumeni will be tamed at last. here no clergyman of any sect ever pronounces the word Unitarian. they are afraid of letting their hearers know that there are any such beasts lest they should be tempted to hunt after them. in a single instance, a Presbyterian here preached a sermon against Sparks's book, & against a neighbor for possessing it. the moment the sermon was over, the whole congregation crouded around the professor to beg the reading of the book.

I had not before attended to the fertility of Rhode island in men of eminence. she certainly has had her distinction in that line. she seems however for a while to have been resting on her oars. I am sorry to learn that mr Holly is leaving Kentucky. I had hoped he would have dropped a spark of reformation there, where I thought, from their freedom of mind, it would have kindled and spread rapidly. I am looking with anxiety to see the dawn of primitive christianity here, where, if it once appears, it will soon beam like the rising sun, and restore to reason her day. 'thy kingdom come' is therefore my prayer; and my confidence is that it will come. give us your prayers also, and your preachers, and accept the assurance of my great esteem and respect

Dr. Waterhouse.

Th: Jefferson

free

Th: Jefferson

3

Doct. Benjamin Waterhouse

Cambridge Mass.