

Sir,

June 3 1805

Some time ago I took the liberty of writing to you on the subject of a History of Virginia - I have no other interest in the work than that of a friend to see a faithful and well designed History published. Mr. Burke has long since published the first volume, and I am sorry he has not progressed farther - it is not however for want of a liberal subscription.

Since then I have been employed in endeavors to effect a Map of Virginia, a work I well knew was much wanting, and which would not fail, if accomplished, of rewarding the undertaking with some difficulty and sollicitude. I at length prevailed on Mr. Madison, of Nott's - in the work - he is equally interested in its publication, and I am well persuaded has spared no pains to render it as complete as possible, considering the difficulties we had to encounter in procuring correct materials for such a work. The Map has been examined by several gentlemen in Richmond, and other places, and very generally approved. Some small errors, however, are sometimes pointed out, which are occasionally corrected.

The bearer, Mr. William Davis, sets off to-morrow for the purpose of passing through all the principal towns in this State, with the Map, and it will give me much pleasure, Sir, if you will devote a short time to examine its merits. I am well assured of your disposition to promote works of real utility, and I am not disposed to bring forward one, which does not merit that character.

A Mr. Hooper, from Switzerland, who I have understood was recommended to you, is engaged to engrave the Map,

and

work will do credit to the State.

with sentiments of the highest respect,
I am, Sir, your most obedt. servt.
Wm. Prentiss.

Petersburg, June 3, 1805.

on the subject of printing the
minutes - I have no other views
to be a faithful and well edited
as far as possible the facts
not proper facts - it is not
a business for want of a better
description.

Since then I have been employed in an endeavor to obtain
a copy of the minutes, a work which I have not been able to
which would not be of great service, if accompanied by a
with some difficulties and I do not see the probability of
the publication, and I am well persuaded that it is equally
to be considered as a profitable, considering the difficulty of
to be considered as a profitable, considering the difficulty of
the fact has been examined by several gentlemen in
other places, and very generally approved. I am still more
one some time printed out, which are occasionally covered.

At the house, Mr. William Prentiss, out of the
for the purpose of preparing them, all the principal towns in the
State, with the hope that it will give us more
of you will be glad to see him to examine the minutes. I am
sincerely of your dependence to promote a more perfect
and to propose to him, forward me what you may

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