

Boston 12^{Jan} 1808

Hon^d Sir-

Permit me to describe an improvement
I have made on the fire arms; ~~it~~ or
a new kind of cannon or instrument
to discharge a quantity of shot at once.
& instead of scattering them in a circu-
-lar manner; - ~~throw~~ them in a horizon-
-tal line. - Suppose the instrument
to be made at the breech as a common
Hetzger with a calibre or chamber
sufficient to hold a proper quantity
of powder to throw three or four lbs
of Musket balls - or buck shot. &
a Muzzle to be made of wrought
iron somewhat like the bell muzzle
blunder buss. - instead of being a round
calibre - a flat or a long oval.

Form of the Muzzle



Thus } The common
Musket will scatt-
-er its shot in circle.

thereby a part of ~~the~~ shot is carried above
& below the object. I have thought that
such things might be constructed for a kind
of flying artillery: to throw Musket balls or
even in a close engage-ment to throw
Buck or Duck shot—suppose a regme-
nt of Men were armed with Pistols of
such a construction Hung at their backs
and to meet their enemy sword in hand—
in the first place to discharge small
shot in the faces of ^{the} enemy then fall
upon them with the sword—or fall
back ~~at~~ and let the Cavalry fall upon
them. I am confident that I can with a
Machine: & two Men to work it. cast
a ton of Musket balls per Day. — I have
not yet thoroughly proved My plan
of a cannon or Gun. if on examination
you find it worth your attention you will
pleas to inform — Me (your Most obedient
Th. Jefferson Esq. — Servant
Daniel Pettibone

Ps Please to show this communication
to General Dearborn. - - -
art is better than particular forms in
war. -

Pettibone Dan Boston Jan. 12. 08

recd Jan. 21



Thomas Jefferson Esqr

President of the United

States -

Washington City.

PAID

