

1809  
Jan. 10

Dear Sir

When at Monticello in September last, on looking over some military books; in a work of Marshal Saxe's, he suggests the idea of a bridle for the use of Cavalry, which he thought might be formed so as to command a horse, without having any thing in the mouth. The very great advantages which would be derived from such a contrivance, made so strong an impression upon my mind, that I determined to exert myself, and see, if it were possible, to form a bridle upon such principles which would be sufficiently powerful to command an unruly horse. My success has been fully equal to my expectations, and I flatter myself with the hope of showing you a bridle which will answer the purpose completely, which when once placed on the horse need ~~not~~ be taken off, as it does not at all interfere with his eating, and he is always in readiness to be mounted.

With your permission I will with pleasure send you the bridle, or if you think proper, will carry it on myself; and if there be any merit in the invention I am sure that I shall not suffer by placing it in your care. It has long been my wish to procure a commission in the Army provided there was any probability of a War; but the life of a soldier in peace, is not at all desirable to me. I perceive by the late papers that there will probably be an additional force raised, which will not be called from home, except in case of a War; if such a force is raised, and you would have the goodness to aid me in procuring a

commission, you would definitely oblige  
Randolph Richards, Virginia, Jan. 10. 99.

military

Your most Obed Servt  
recd. Jan. 12.

Richard Randolph

Virginia 10 January, 1809.