

To Thomas Jefferson —

Baltimore July 26th 1795.

I'd have wished & had intended my dear Sir to see ^{you} on the subject upon which I now write but the indisposition of my sister w^{as}ged me to place her under the charge of a friend to proceed slowly to Bedford ^{Spring} on the Alleghany where I must join her so soon as I have procured some necessary information in this city.

You will receive from my paternal friend the prospectus of the plan on which I feel very anxious for y^r opinion. Knowing how deeply the object it refers to has engaged your attention I venture to intrude it upon your valuable time without apology. Since my interesting visit to Monticello my course has lain chiefly within the borders of slavery & where even I have issued from them I have carried with me the impressions of that one great national evil w^h alone seems to threaten the prosperity as it alone defaces the beauty of this proud citadel of human liberty. — Engaged by this one subject all my enquiries & reflexions have had reference to it. Encouraged by the result of these to consider the evil as not yet desperate I have (I fear you will think presumptuously) ventured to enlist myself among its combatants. — The countenance & support afforded me w^o give me yet more courage, & I reckon upon

of approbation. - Of the prospectus I send, I have had
a small number of copies thrown off privately - It has
been drawn up rather hastily, but will I trust give a
general view of the plan & object. -

I sh^d observe to you Sir that it is only a general view
that has been attempted. Sh^d the first ^{or permanent} attempt succeed
I am encouraged to hope that very spirited measures
will be taken in this state for the adoption of something
similar. I understand from the friends of the lamented
General Harper that the plan now offered bears much
resemblance to a projected establishment of his in which
he was just about to engage before his death.

I have hitherto met with encouragement beyond my hopes
& I ardently trust sh^d you authorize me to do so, that I may
before many months communicate to you the commencement
of our operations. We now move westward with some friends
interested in the cause; - Mr Papp (whose name is mentioned
in the prospectus - whom we shall see at his settlement
near Pittsburg) will either accompany us or follow
immediately to Tennessee. - An apparently very tempting
property is offered (for such an establishment at a very
reduced price) in Kentucky on the Tennessee line, sh^d
it suit, much trouble will be spared & the business
be started immediately, there being a good house & other
improvements on the property. Sh^d it ^{not} satisfy Mr Papp's
experienced eye we shall probably seek a location
south of the Tennessee line on Congres^s lands. Several

Philanthropic citizens of the West volunteer their services as
Schoolmaster farmer &c. When the location is made some
leading Philanthropists of New York engage to raise privately
part of the necessary funds. ^{tho} The promises of Negroes
we have rec^d (30 in families) from S. Cardine & others from
this state ^{by made good} the sum of first expenses will be greatly
reduced.

I send two or three copies of the prospectus, ^{to sh sh the plan}
meat with yr approbation, you w^d perhaps convey to the hands
of yr Philanthropic citizens. ^{tho} may be disposed to supply
Negroes to the establishment, the charges of the removal
will be paid at their arrival at the settlement. It w^d
be desirable at the commencement that Field Negroes
(in families) only ^{sh^d be} admitted. It is hoped that the
location will be made & farms opened by next
January. No time will be lost in communicating on
the subject to those whom it may regard.

Mr Davis, an experienced cotton planter of Mississippi,
whose acquaintance we lately made in New York, proposes
visiting Monticello & will reply to any enquiries you may
wish to make respecting the estimate given in the
prospectus.

Will you excuse this intrusion my dear Sir & permit
me to present thi' you my affectionate remembrances
to Mrs Randolph & her daughters.

Permit me also to subjoin the assurance of
my very highest respect -
Frances Wright

Wright Frances, Balt. July 26. 25. recd. Aug. 3.

You will oblige me by communicating the plan to Mr George
Tucker now I believe in yr college with my compliments

Vote

Letters will find me ~~at the~~ ^{at the} ~~office~~ ^{office} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~25th~~ ^{25th}
of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~month~~ ^{month}, to the care of Mr Rapp Economy, below
Pittsburgh Penna. — afterwards Nashville Port Office
Tennessee.

As I find General Lafayette does not go immediately to
Monticello I send him by post. —

Thomas Jefferson