

1816

Jfn. Oct. 14 - 16  
- 19

Dear Sir

Monticello Oct. 14. 16.

a circumstance has occurred here which will occasion a draw-back of about 30. D. in Mr Higgenbotham's last payment to you. a law was past here some 2. or 3. years ago subjecting lands to be sold for any payment of taxes uncredited on the sheriffs books without limitation of time, unless the party could produce proof of payment; and 10. p. c. interest required from the date. ~~then~~ and no notice was required to be given to the party to produce his proofs. The extent of injury perpetrated by this law is incalculable. I heard by mere accident that your land was advertized to be sold for nonpayment of taxes for the year 1799. being 17. years ago. I attended court, proved by several persons who had been sheriffs that I had always paid your taxes with my own, and included in the same draught on Richmond. I proved a draught of 106. 64 on Gibson & Jefferson for taxes that year, & the sheriffs rec<sup>t</sup>. but it did not specify that it included yours (for none of my draughts for any year did that) the sheriff declared in court that he was new in office that year, did not know that I acted for you, that he did not ~~receive~~ <sup>apply for</sup> the taxes, nor receive them. I was absent a great part of that year at Philadelphia, and think it very possible they were not paid. I observe they were not charged in my account with you; but the mass of business I was always engaged in, and my absences from home prevented ~~my~~ a rigorous attention to making <sup>these</sup> entries, ~~and they~~ altho' the Sheriff's books prove your taxes were paid every other year. they were about 10. D. for the year 99. and with interest at 10. p. cent per annum the court gave judgment for about 30. D. which Mr Higgenbotham paid.

I got home from Bedford on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. and shall remain there on the 19<sup>th</sup>. to remain until the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. I was happy to receive Corcoran's, & Dr. Wistar's visits before I went, and foresee the  
Mr. Short

The season will be too much advanced when I return to expect  
or ask that of Marshal Brouchy. mais tout ce qui est differe' n'est  
pas perdu. When the pleasant season returns the Marshal may  
probably find it agreeable to take a tour thro' our country, on  
which it would give me great pleasure to receive and possess  
him here as long as his own convenience would permit. we  
should wish to make it his home, from which as a center he  
could make his excursions in every direction. I salute you  
with affectionate esteem and respect.

Th: Jefferson