

Thomas Jefferson Esq

New York Jan 27 1813

Sir,

you may recollect in my reply to your enquiries concerning the nature of the Stone fire Cabinets & my invention that after giving you a faint description I stated that I should shortly revisit again part of the Country & have the pleasure personally to give you a detailed account of their operations, & produce you for inspection several of my models. I have however had the misfortune to be thus long detained by domestic concerns & have to beg that you would desire some friend of yours in this City to call for me at my family residence No 108 Northam Street to whom I will make every communication necessary to a thorough investigation of the principle & operations of this entire new system of controlling & conducting Caloric power to all the purposes of life. A number of these fire Cabinets in elegant stoves are in operation in this City & one gentleman informs me that one hour after his fires are exhausted he finds himself degrees more heat in his rooms than when the fire was burning & the heat much more regular general & pleasant than ^{in any other manner} & he also assures me that three heatings of fifty ^{minutes each} keep summer heat 17 hours. I am particularly desirous that you should ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ ^{your} ~~own~~ ^{own} behalf make the most critical investigation & we put the same to you as early as possible as our operations the next season will depend upon making early importations of the Stone. Prejudice having become a perfect quibbler is holding society in ignorance of a blessing of no small magnitude. When I call upon you, Sir, I should be a gain. By supplying all public institutions with the same degree of Caloric power for security price so low as the quarters of the common cost of fuel & fire, ^{also} the fire cabinets & keep them in one pair at my own expense ~~also~~ for as many seasons as suited the Contracting party. Should you recommend to the several Literary Societies of which you are a member to pursue this investigation I sincerely believe you would ^{render} ~~essential~~ service to an infatuated blind Community, who are daily sacrificing health, property, ~~expense~~ & age, to confirmed prejudice & unwholesome habit. The influence of the great, can alone cure this fatal malady. The saving amounts in every branch of domestic life to go parts out of 100, & its cleanliness, beauty & safety, will gratify the most extravagant anticipations. I have a model which is so constructed that the Cabinet part forms two spacious Acorns one above the other, running nearly from jamb to jamb in the common Chimney corner, which make fine Cellarets, or Coolers in Summer, & in winter give as much heat as the they stand out in the Rain. also ~~stands~~ ~~or~~ ~~bakes~~ in great perfection, see make ^{some} however of the pedestal ^{of them} ~~forms~~ those for the Chimneys have a ^{small} ~~fire~~ place in front, from, as by which, the interior

Substances are charged with heat ^{for definition.} Our fires never exceed one tenth part of the quantity burning usually at one time in the common chimney corner, nor do we keep fire more than one fifth part of the time, these items therefore may be worthy of peculiar attention. The samples of Stone, models, drawings &c. promised I am at a loss to know how they shall be conveyed in safety: will you have the goodness to instruct me on that head, I will communicate to you through my friend also any improved method of ^{heating} cooking for Ships & Camps, simple & efficacious to a degree unknown, & which if adopted would give great relief & comfort to the brave defenders of our country, & this too by an application inconceivably cheap & portable. Extensive patronage would immediately encourage a great reduction in the prices & soon bring this blessing within reach of the poor. So extravagantly do the advantages multiply in the use of this new system of Camp cooking Caloric power in suitable Stone that I have the misfortune to lie under the imputation of Lunacy for stating publicly simple facts, & my life is likely to be rendered useless to my fellow men from this extraordinary circumstance, for with one of the greatest blessings in my hands ready to be widely dispersed I am kept at bay by the most unaccountable prejudice, no mystery attends the thing, it only wants investigation, for I have reduced the system to the most perfect simplicity, & by conducting it generally at right angles by flues from one to one & a half inches I so completely envelope squares with flame that the most valuable purposes can be effected & that peculiar rendered useful, which is usually lost in the common grate, fire place, or stove. The use of fuel in this way would put a stop to the heaved sacrifices of human beings which at this season of the year to the disgrace of civil society & the wounding of humanity are daily suffered in England & America. A Physician very justly observed that the fire side in Great Britain & in this country produced more human sacrifices by Burnings, Consumptions, Colic, Dropsies, Rheumatism & Complaints, than all other causes united, or than even gun powder & ardent spirit added to the list, as said he a system nourished by fluids, as is the human body, must depend for the accuracy of its operations greatly upon the equality of the atmosphere in which such body is placed. Should I not outline the unreasonable prejudice that prevents the general adoption of this new system I shall at least die with the satisfaction that agreeable to the injunctions of scripture I shall actually have blessed those who have cured some, for indeed I have spent

many of my best years & a large property in bringing the
things to its present state of perfection,

I am with the most perfect
respect

your O^b Servant
Abm Howard Quincy

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Quincy, Abraham Howard, N.Y., Jan. 27, 1852

rec'd Feb. 10

Wm. Jefferson Sager

late President of the

United States

Monticello

Virginia

