

Dear Sir Mont^o Dec. 20. 22.

The solicitation of a friend which is
be presently explained, is yielded to the
more readily as it gives me an occasion
of greeting you on your accession to the
chair of our ^{govt} state & of congratulating you
particularly on the honorable majority
by which ^{it was} conferred. It besides the interest
I feel in it as a citizen & relation I
have another peculiarly interwoven with
my most anxious ^{affections} ~~interests~~. it is that of
the success of our Union on which I rest
the future prospects of my native state -
the progress of this depends much on
the ^{dispositions} ~~franchises~~ of our first magistrate
whether friendly or adverse, and I recom-
mend it to your patronage with a
hope & confidence that it will regard
& meet ~~the~~ on all occasions the ^{advantage} benefit
of your good offices. and may I not
flatter myself it may be an additional
inducement for ^{your} ~~visiting~~ ^{at convenience} those here
who would be so much gratified by a visit
from you

Now to the particular occasion of my ad-
dressing you. a friend in Philad^a writes
to me on the following terms.

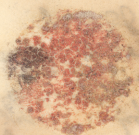
'The place of civil engineer to the board
of public works of Ursi is vacant, & Maj^r
S. H. Long, resident in this city and belong-
ing to the U.S. corps of Topographical engineers
is a candidate for that place. I know that Maj^r
Long is held to be eminently qualified for it
by the gentlemen of this city whose studies &
professions render them competent judges of
the matter. I have had my self good opportunities
of becoming acqu^d with his general information &
capacity, his habits of application & exertion, and
his moral principles & social manners.
in all these respects he appears to me con-
-sistent to the highest esteem & confidence.
having myself not the least knowledge of
the ~~person~~ character or qualifications of Maj^r
Long, I can only say that my opinion of the

M^r Jefferson

Pleasant James Dec. 21. 22.

of the competence of my friend to judge
of these would have great weight with
me in a case wherein I had to act myself

I suppose it to be the same person
who conducted the exploring expedition to
the Rocky mountains two years ago under
appoint from the Sec^y at war, an aut^h of
which has been published in 2. U. I have not
seen it; if it ^{should} have fallen under your
notice it may furnish you other mate-
rials for comparing his ^{services} with
those of his competitors. my 1st wish
is that that may be done which is best
for our country: my 2^d that that which
is best may happen to be that also which
is the wish of my friend. I salute you
with affectionate friendship & respect.



1822

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]