

**Thomas Jefferson to Pierce Butler, August 26, 1801,  
The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes.  
Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester  
Ford.**

**TO PIERCE BUTLER J. MSS.**

Monticello, Aug. 26, 1801.

Dear Sir, —Your favor of the 14th came to hand on the 20th. I thank you for the information it contained. It is of that kind which I am anxious to receive. After so long and complete an exclusion from office as republicans have suffered in so much that every place is filled with their opponents justice as well as principle requires that they should have some participation. I believe they will be contented with less than their just share for the sake of peace & conciliation. This latter motive has weighed powerfully with me to do as little in the way of removal as circumstances will admit: for after the bloody severance of the nation into two parts which our predecessors affected, the first duty of every patriot is to reunite and heal the severed parts. Exclusive possession [ *faded* ] one party; removal the other. Yet both must be brought together. The [ *faded* ] of the Southern republicans has been really magnanimous. In Maryland little has been asked, in Virginia N. Cara, Georgia, not one. As to S. Carol I do not think we are yet well enough informed to do anything, but I am extremely happy to find you disapprove of much removal. You say “there are perhaps two or three at most, who, it appears to you should be removed, that the citizens in particular whose continuance in office will disgust every republican in the state.” May I ask of you who is the *one*, who are the two or three? I do it under the seal of confidence & with no earthly wish than to use it for the best purpose of the common cause. Our views are to do little more in the way of removal. We shall get through it in the

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course of the year. After which the measures we shall pursue & propose will I hope have the effect of forming into one body all except the monarchical federalists who are incurable & hopeless. Accept assurances of my friendly attachment & high respect.