

**Thomas Jefferson to William Short, March 16,
1791 , from Thomas Jefferson and William Short
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

Thomas Jefferson to William Short

Philadelphia Mar. 16. 1791.

Dear Sir

Your private letter of June 5 by Dr. Bancroft came to hand Feb. 12 that of Oct. 25 was received Jan. 27 & that of Dec. 23 four days ago. If in consequence of my former letters Petit cannot be prevailed on to come, I will beg the favour of you to enquire about Mde. de Corny's Maitre d'Hotel, who I know understood his business well, and if she considers his character as an honest one, & reasonably frugal in his management, I can rely on her judgment & her friendship to me. In that case if he will come for moderate wages, say three or four Louis a month I to feed him lodge him, & pay his passage, I shall be glad to receive him. But he must come immediately. Should he propose & make a sine qua non of my paying his passage back to Havre, if he chuses to return, immediately on leaving my service, it is to be agreed to, provided he stays with me two or three years at least. If he will not come & you can send another of whose skill & honesty you can be satisfied, you will oblige me. If they are not tied up to Diligence money only to the port of embarcation, and passage money across the sea, they may be sea-stores, sea-clothes & the lord knows what make that part of the business very heavy. I leave the whole to your discretion & friendship, as to person, character, & terms, assured you will do better governing yourself according to circumstances. Pray get me by some means or

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other a compleat set of Piranesi's drawings of the Pantheon, & especially the correct design for it's restoration as proposed by I forget whom, which was not executed, & of which I have heard you speak. I wish to render them useful in the public buildings now to be begun at Georgetown. To this I wish Frouillé would add Desgodetz's antient buildings of Rome. I must on another occasion open a correspondence with him to send me the books I may want, & have their amount remitted to him once a year. I mention this book now as immediately wanting & as a good opportunity may occur for sending it.

No decision is taken yet with respect to the missions either of France or Holland. The less they are pressed, the better for your wishes as the President will know you more and more himself. To overdo a thing with him is to undo it. I am steering the best I can for you. The excessive unpopularity of the excise and bank bills in the south I apprehend produce a stand against the federal government. In this case the public paper will tumble precipitately. I wish there was someone here authorized to take out yours because if the danger does not take place or passes easily he could buy in again to advantage. Indeed you could not do better than subscribe it into the bank where you cannot recieve less than 6 per cent and may perhaps recieve ten. Very particular reasons prohibit me from acting for you in this way. By no means appoint anybody of the Treasury. I am my sear Sir Your sincere friend & servt.Th: Jefferson

FC (Jefferson Papers, DLC and RC Short Papers, DLC).

Encoded paragraph decoded by Short.