

## Thomas Jefferson to Washington, D.C., Commissioners, March 21, 1792, with Copy, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

### Jefferson to Commissioners JEFFERSON TO THE COMMISSIONERS

*Philadelphia March 21st. 1792*

*Gentlemen*

Your favors of March 14th. have been duely received, as also Mr. Carrol's seperate letter of March 15th. I now enclose you copies of the two advertisements inserted in Freneau's, Fenno's, and Dunlaps', papers of this place. You will probably think it proper to have them inserted in papers of other parts of the Union, following herein, your own choice. It is rather desired too that you adopt such method as you think best for obtaining a Superintendant of proper qualifications, whether by advertising, or by private enquiry. the President is not able to give you any satisfactory information as to the Charlestown architect. Mr. Ellicott being of oppinion he cannot be in readiness for a Sale before the last of July, the blanks for the day of producing the plans are filled up with 15th of that month, so as to allow time for decision between them, before the sale. Mr. Ellicott sets off the day after tomorrow, he says it was his intention that his brothers, receiving 3 Dollars a day should bear his own expences. I have advised him to reconsider with you his own demand of 5 Dollars, and abate from it what reason my require, so that he considers, that allowance as still open. there is at Amsterdam a Mr. Hermen-Hend Damen a merchant-broker (conected with the Van Stephorsts) who is from the Palatinate.

*Tripoli Column, erected in the Navy Yard, 1808, the first monument on public grounds in the National Capital.*

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*One of the boundary stones at the north point of the District of Columbia.*

*The Capitol as it stood in the administration of Thomas Jefferson (Statuary Hall, the old House of Representatives, at right; the Senate at left); and connecting covered way, 100 feet long, where is now the Rotunda. (Courtesy of National Commission of Fine Arts. )*

*The old Capitol Building, completed by Charles Bulfinch in 1827.*

*Robert Brent's first commission as mayor of the City of Washington, reproduced in Volume 2, Records of the Columbia Historical Society.*

he informed me that the Palatines who emigrate to America, come down the Rhine to embark at Amsterdam. he undertook to procure any number I should desire, and to deliver them at Richmond,

clear of all expence, for 10. Guineas a man, paid at Amsterdam, or 11 Guineas at Richmond. they were to be indentured to serve me one year for their passage, and to remain 7 years tenants on my lands on half-stocks, you would have to propose wages instead of this and a shorter contract; and very moderate wages would probably do. if you have no preferable channel of your own, and will be good enough to do what is necessary on your part, I will forward your letters, and accompany them with my own to Mr. xxx Damer. & to the Vanstaphersts so as to have your purpose answered with zeal and fidelity, the temporary check on the price of public paper, occasioned by Mr. Duer's failure, induces Mr. Blodget to think it will be better to postpone for a few days the opening of the Loan proposed, as he thinks it important that the present panic should be so far over, as to enable him to get it through at once, when proposed. I have the honour to be with the most perfect esteem and respect Gentlemen—Yours &c.

Th: Jefferson

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P.S. The President thinks the bridge over Rock-creek should be of stone, and that it will be the cheapest in the end.

[Pp. 84–5, Commissioners' letterbook, Vol I, 1791–1793, in the National Archives.]