

**Thomas Jefferson to Robert Brent, August 14, 1805,  
from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited  
by Saul K. Padover.**

**Jefferson to Robert Brent**

*Monticello, August 14, 1805.*

*Sir:*

A considerable journey southwardly from this has prevented my sooner acknowledging letters from yourself, from Mr. Gardiner, and from Mr. S. H. Smith, announcing that I had been elected, by the City Council, a trustee for the Public Schools to be established at Washington, and, by the Trustees, to preside at their Board.

I receive, with due sensibility, these proofs of confidence from the City Council and from the Board of Trustees, and ask the favor of you to tender them my just acknowledgments.

Sincerely believing that knowledge promotes the happiness of man, I shall ever be disposed to contribute my endeavors towards its extension; and, in the instance under consideration will willingly undertake the duties proposed to me, so far as others of paramount obligation will permit my attention to them.

I pray you to accept my friendly salutations, and my assurances of great respect and esteem.

Th: Jefferson.

ROBERT BRENT, ESQ., *Chairman &c.*

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[P. 003, HISTORY OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF WASHINGTON CITY, District of Columbia, From August, 1805, to August, 1875, written, at request and published by order of the Board of Trustees of Public Schools, for the National Centennial Year, 1876, By Samuel Yorke At Lee.]