

Thomas Jefferson to Josiah Meigs, September 18, 1813 , from The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.

TO JOSIAH MEIGS J. MSS.

Monticello, Sep. 18. 13.

Dear Sir, —I thank you for the information contained in your letter of Aug. 25. I confess that when heard of the atrocities committed by the English troops at Hampton, I did not believe them, but subsequent evidence has placed them beyond doubt. To this has been added information from another quarter which proves the violation of women to be their habitual practice in war. Mr. Hamilton, a son of Alexander Hamilton, of course, a federalist and Angloman, and who was with the British army in Spain declares it is their constant practice, and that at the taking Badajoz, he was himself eye-witness to it in the streets, & that the officers did not attempt to restrain it. The information contained in your letter proves it is not merely a recent practice. This is a trait of barbarism, in addition to their encouragement of the savage cruelties, & their brutal treatment of prisoners of war, which I had not attached to their character.

I am happy to hear that yourself & family enjoy good health & tender you the assurance of my great esteem & respect.