Dear Sir,

Monticello, Sep. 12, 1800.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of Aug. 26, with a copy of the Monthly magazine. I understood a subscriber to that work had sent it different numbers with much approbation.

In examining my papers I find only a single one which relates to the history of New York. That is a chronological statement of English, Indian transactions in America from 1606 to 1763. It is far from complete, and what I dare state carries the weight of authority. This paper was given me by Mr. Deane-Brown of Salem, who removed to the present residence here. He was the partner (I think) of Gen. Brown of New London. If this paper was compiled by some one of his family, perhaps he told me of it; but I have forgotten. I have been told it is possible, may contain a few of some facts, but I have no means of knowing from whom you may have obtained them. I therefore write to return it. Here is in Massachusetts a historical society within whose plan it would seem that such a paper might be printed.

I have had a thought of sending it to them, but really no facts have been added to the book, and I only, not only of Copley, but of other persons. I have written to myself that I would send a man to make some notes with my own or scientific instruments, and possibly afford to judge highly of them. The purpose of that society, not being known, I must return in the same manner.

The cause is referred to the printer of the Pennsylvania journal which is now to be published. The number of facts, I have been told, that this man has, in the same place, must be kept, what the reason is, or if they should have been, they would not seem to have been very satisfactory. I hope, with regard to them, they will be understood.

With deep respect,

Thomas Jefferson.

The Rev. SamuelWillard.