Dear Sir,

The Rev. John H. Rice of this place, a gentleman of great erudition, is about to publish a magazine, in which he proposes to give a view of the literature and literary men of Virginia. To this end, he is anxious to procure a complete catalogue of all the works of any merit which have been published by Virginians since the first foundation of the colony; the names of the respective authors, the times of their publication, and a brief account of the works. Being extremely desirous to gain the valuable information which he naturally supposes you to possess on this subject and not having the advantage of a personal acquaintance with you, he has requested me to make this application, which I do with the least reluctance, because I know you are the lady miscellany. Will you take in whatever concern the honor of Virginia, allow I hope to have whether it will be convenient to you to grant this request? But whether it be or not I beg you to be assured that I shall not be the least your much obliged friend and servant.

Thomas Jefferson