

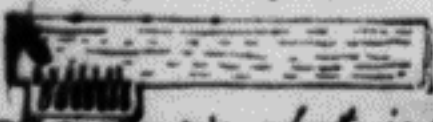
Dear Sir

Paris Dec. 23. 1786.



My last letter to you was dated Aug. 12. yours of May 27  
 & June 28. were not then received, but have been since. I take  
 the liberty of putting under your cover another letter to Mrs Champé  
 as also an enquiry after a Dr. Griffiths. & letter to M. La  
 Vicillard from the person he had consulted about the assesse  
 d'Oriont will convey to you the result of my researches into  
 that article. your spring boat for assisting a vessel in sailing  
 cannot be tried here, because the Seine being not more than  
 about 40 toises wide, & running swiftly, there is no such thing  
 on it as a vessel with sails. I thank you for the volume of  
 the Phil. trans. which came safely to hand, & is in my opinion  
 a very valuable volume & contains many precious papers.  
 the Paccan nut is, as you conjecture the Illinois nut. the former  
 is the vulgar name South of the Patowmâ, ~~and also~~ with the  
 Indians & Spaniards, and enters also into the Botanical name  
 which is Juglans Paccan. I have many volumes of the Encyclo-  
 -pedie for yourself & Dr. Franklin, but as a winter passage is  
 bad for books, & before the spring the packets will <sup>begin to</sup> fail from Havre  
 to New York, I shall detain them till then. you must not  
 presume too strongly that your comb footed bird is unknown  
 to M. de Buffon. he did not know our prather. I gave him the  
 stuffed skin of one I bought in Philadelphia & it presents him

J. W. Hopkinson

a new species, which will appear in his next volumes. I have con-  
-vinced him that our deer is not a chevreuil: and would you be-  
-lieve that many letters to different acquaintances for Virginia  
-where this animal is so common, have never enabled me to pre-  
-sent him with a large pair of their horns, a blue & a red skin  
-stripped, to show him their colour at different seasons. he has  
-never seen the horns of what we call the elk. this would decide  
-whether it be an elk or a deer. I am very much pleased with  
-your ~~appreciation~~<sup>project</sup> of the Harmonica & the prospect of your succeeding  
-in the application of keys to it. it will be the greatest present which  
-has been made to the musical world this century, not excepting the  
-Piano forte if it's tone approaches that given by the finger as  
-nearly only as the harpsichord does that of the harp, it will be very  
-valuable. I have lately examined a Fort-bass newly inven-  
-ted here, by the celebrated Koenigshoff. it is precisely a Piano forte  
-about 28 feet long, 8 inches broad & 9.5 deep. it is of one octave only,  
-from D<sub>2</sub> to D<sub>3</sub>. the part where the keys are, projects at the side in order  
-to lengthen the levers of the keys, thus  It  
-is placed on the floor, & the harpsichord or other piano forte is set  
-over it, the feet acting in concert on that side while the fingers play on  
-this. There are three union chords to every note, of strong brass wire,  
-& the lowest base wire wrapped on them as the lowest in the piano-  
-forte. The chords give a fine, clear, deep tone, almost like the pipe  
-of an organ. - have they connected you with our most? very  
-friend

friend Monroe promised me he would take care for you in that  
or perhaps the establishment of that at New York may have been  
incompatible with your residence at Philadelphia. a person  
here has invented a method of coining the French coin of 6. livres  
so as to strike both faces & the edge at one stroke, and makes a  
coin as beautiful as a medal. no country has ever yet produced  
such a coin. they are made cheaper too. as yet he has only made  
a few to show the perfection of his manner. I am endeavoring to  
procure one to send to Congress as a model for their coinage.  
they will consider whether, in establishing a new mint, it will  
not be worth while to buy his machines, if he will furnish them.  
a dislocation of my right wrist, which happened to me about a  
month after the date of my last letter to you has disabled me  
from writing 2 months. I do it now in pain & only in cases  
of necessity, having as yet no other use of my hand. I put  
under your cover a letter from my daughter to her friend.  
she joins me in respects to your good mother, to Mrs. Hopkinson  
& yourself, to show I possess assurance of the esteem with  
which I am Dear Sir your sincere friend & servant

Th: Jefferson