

London Sept<sup>r</sup>. 30<sup>th</sup>.

1786 —

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir.

I have received yours of Sept<sup>r</sup>. 17<sup>th</sup>. — I wrote you on the 22<sup>d</sup>. & gave an account of Lediards departure, and have concluded it is best to be silent on the subject of a Servant — accept of my thanks for your intentions — the Books you request shall be sent, but the request came too late for them to accompany M<sup>r</sup> . Jeffersons, for as I take great pleasure in serving my friends, I had been so expeditious as to have them all parked and deposited at Stackd<...>ales to be sent by the diligence, before I was acquainted with your wish, I shall however, send them, the first convenient opportunity, addressed to your Friend, who I am sorry to find has met with the misfortune of dislocating his wrist — if while he labours under this inconvenience it should become necessary to make any communications to our friend Humphries, it will furnish him with a subject for a pun — in his own stile, which if know him, would run thus — "well I'm glad to find it so, it is just as it ought to be, my friend, Short has become M<sup>r</sup>. Jeffersons right hand man" — I have wrote him by the last Packett, not a Letter of Ceremony, nor a Letter of Business, but a Letter in Latin demanding the reasons of this silence, I know I have committed myself by it, but it will give him an opportunity to lash and be witty, he will pass his time agreeably when he is answering it, and I shall laugh most immoderately when I receive it = I have never yet been frightened with the length of your Letters — that this is so short, you may thank Monsiur Mad-zei —

W. . S.

Smith —

Endorsement:

1786

W S Smith Sep. 30

**Ed. note:** In early September, Jefferson had injured his wrist while attempting to jump over a fence. See <https://www.monticello.org/encyclopedia/wrist-injury-1786>, accessed 12 March 2026.

Document Information

Date:

30 September 1786

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Recipient:

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Keywords:

Letters

Publications

Health

Friendships