

London Sept^r. 30th.

1786 —

D^r. [Sir](#).

I have received yours of Sept^r. 17th. — I wrote you on the 22^d. & 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^r . 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^r. 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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Keywords:

[Letters](#)

[Publications](#)

[Health](#)

[Friendships](#)