

Prof.
J. M.

Monticello February 10th 1803

This day rec^d your letter of the 10th last month and feel myself obliged by the kind offices of Capt. David, and also Col. Joshua Gish:—from the strong impressions which Colonel Gish made on my mind, in your favor in a conversation which I had with him something more than two years ago,

I became much disposed to engage your aid in my business, relative to some lands which I claim in Kentucky.

I wrote you about that time upon the subject directed, the letter to the post-office at Paris, and am truly sorry to hear of its miscarriage.

In the month of March 1784, was surveyed in my name, under the guidance of Michael Cassidy, whom I am told you know 5643 acres of land, on main Dicking, and who previously, by virtue of a treasury warrant had located the same. Some time after this, from Cassidy's representing to me that he had risked himself among dangers, and encountered other difficulties in advancing far beyond the settlements, in order to find a secure spot on which he could make the location,

I gave, upon the presumption, the whole was completely safe, that he should be entitled to 2500 acres thereof, to be given off in a fair and equitable manner, as a compensation for his risk and services; though it was considerably beyond the stipulation which I had made with a Mr. Wilson, who was proposed, in the first instance, of the warrant, and threw the business into the hands of Cassidy. This transaction, and Cassidy were, at that time, alike strangers to me.

On the 15th Dec. 1788, I obtained a patent for the whole from the land office at Richmond. After years, I think subsequent to this, Cassidy proceeded, without my knowledge, to lay off his part, and informed me by letter, that he drew lots with some person