Dear Sir,

Monticello, Apr. 28. 16.

Francis returns as much improved, I am in hope as you will have expected, he reads French with so much ease as to read it for amusement, has not much occasion for his dictionary, pronounces generally well, the few defects remaining being such as will be easily corrected hereafter. Being kept almost entirely at French, he could afford only the time before breakfast for keeping up his Latin, yet he has done more than that, being very sensibly improved in his knowledge of the construction of the language. He will probably require at least two years more to perfect him in that, and to get so far advanced into the Greek as to be able to pursue it alone afterwards. I suppose you are well satisfied of the qualifications of the tutor in N. Carolina, to whom you propose to send him; our own have been for some time bad enough, yet I should not readily have believed we were before us them. At the New London academy there is a teacher (Mr. Mitchell I think is his name) about equal to Mr. Halcomb, a young man very anxious to do what is best, and open to advice. I am sure he would pursue any plan I should recommend to him, and should your mind not be made up for N. Carolina, I believe he would carry Francis on very conveniently; his situation there would have the advantages of being within 10 or 12 hours ride of you, and under my eye 3 months in the year, for I pass that much at Poplar Forest in the 2 or 3 visits I make there in the course of the year. He would be more in the way too, of being always furnished with the best books, and could take some future occasion of passing two or three months here again and of learning Spanish. Ellen has the true pronunciation more perfectly than myself, it is a language which will be very important to an American, as we shall have great intercourse with Spanish America within this day. I cannot too I con):

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country, having the wish to make him a comfortable future home there. After acquiring the language, a course of a couple of years at the Grammar School for Mathematics. I think it would be very necessary.

I am almost afraid to propose to you to yield to me the experience and direction of his education, yet I think I could have conducted it to his advantage. Certainly no expense which could be useful to him, and no attention on my part would be spared; and he could visit you at such times as you should wish. If you say yes to this proposition, he might come on to meet Poplar Forest for which place I shall set out about the 6th of April, and shall be there to about the 21st and could I hear from you soon after my arrival there, I could be taking preparatory steps for his reception and course to be pursued. All this is submitted to your good pleasure. Permit me to mention Eppes to have an attachment to flowers, sends him a collection of seeds, your servant asks for the large Lima bean we got from Wm. Hylton from Jamaica. It has dwindled down to a very poor one, not worth sending, if we had it to spare, which we have not. He thinks there may be some at Eldestill and is now sending to see. If there are any they are of the genuine sort. I will be sent, all here join with me in affectionate esteem and respect to your family and yourself.

Thomas Jefferson