Dear Sir,

I am now entering on my 65th year; the habits of mortality tell me... I have lived 25 years in this country, and have probably read 50,000 volumes. Of these, there are probably 10,000 which I would read by choice, before I should read the historical, genealogical, chronological, geographical atlas of M. de Sacy, but it is also probable I shall decamp before I get through with him. Why then add an unit to the 19,900 which I shall never read? To encourage the work? but if the work is a good one, as your recommendation satisfies me it is, it will find its proper encouragement in the market. Whoever of purchasers or readers will deserve it. Again, were you to write a 50 dollar book to prove that a. and b. are a. I should buy it from an 'intrinsic impulse,' and I should read it, the more of being gratified, but knowing neither de Sacy, nor his translator, I feel no intrinsic impulse as to them, nor other reasons tell me it is wise to leave off buying books.

I have at different periods, bought several present states of Europe, geographical. While I have been reading them, Bonaparte has shuffled all together, I deal out new hands, so that one might as well amuse himself with measuring the shadows, which are changing every moment with the rise or decline of the sun, were he, like a second Isaiah, to give us another Stat Soli, we might go to measuring shadows, because there would be some stability in them; but while he is dead, the revolutions are ever so much a stride towards restoring countries to their ancient boundaries, the maps of the moment are not worth the room, more too is at present more a life of reading than reading. I am on horseback among my farms from breakfast to dinner. I take journey 700 of 100 miles every 3 months. I look over them in March and in January 1st, there is more to be done. the idea of mortality, than reading a Stat Soli book. I believe then, my good friend, I will leave to you younger men to encourage this enter - prise by really reading the work, which I should certainly never do, even at 50,000.

Yours, etc.

Thomas Jefferson

Original manuscript in the Thomas Jefferson Papers at the Library of Congress