

**Thomas Jefferson to William Short, April 4, 1825,
from the Thomas Jefferson and William Short
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

Thomas Jefferson to William Short

Monto. Apr.4.25

Dear Sir

Knowing the interest you take in the progress [success] of our University, I will now undertake to give you some acct. of it; and it is not till now that any thing definitive could have been communicated. The selection of Professors from Europe has been most judiciously made. They are 5 in number, most them a little under or over 30 y. of age, [except] one only being something over 40, of the highest qualifiors in their respective lines, full of zeal, prepared to meet chearfully all novelties and difficulties, [entirely accomodating, amiable] agreeable in manners and pleased with their accomodations and prospects. 3 of them are married. The two of classics & math are from Cambridge. The Nat. Philosopher is a Mr. Bonnycastle son of the Mathematician of that name whose book is the textbook in all our seminaries. The Medical professor is of the Edinb. school, well known as a writer and as far as I am a judge truly learned in his science. The Professor of Mod. languages [being] besides being a consummate classical scholar, teaches Fr. Span. Ital. Swed. Danish and A. Saxon. On this side the water we have engaged a Dr. Emmet, son of Mr. Emmet of N.Y. under good recommendations as a Chemist who will teach botany & Zoology also; and Mr. Tucker well known as late member of Congress, whose deptmt. is Ethics & the science of mind. The Law chair is not yet filled. We had, as you know announced the opening of the instn. for the 1st day of Feby. but 3 of our Professors

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who had embarked from London the middle of Oct. were not yet arrived and indeed it was feared were lost. Many students who had served themselves for the 1st of Feb. disappd. and doubting whether any definite time [could] for our beginning could be depended on engaged themselves elsewhere. We opened our doors however on the 7th of Mar. have now about 60 Students, and others coming in as they became disengaged. We count on about 100 for the present year, and greatly more than that for the next; because it will then be known that we are in actual operation, that our Professors are of the 1st order, and that by that time we shall be provided with a full library and compleat apparatus for all the schools. These things we are now enabled to procure without delay by the actual ret. of the 50 MD given us a year ago by our legislature. In the mean time for the present year we have about 2500 vols. well selected, and a sufficient apparatus for ordinary illustrations. I send you a copy of our Rules for the govmt. of the University, which by it's slanderers local & Professional has been represented as an anarchy subjected to no rules.

In a former letter I have you some acct. of the principles & proceedings of our [early] parties in their early times. Soon after that there appeared in our papers an article under the head of Consolidation, [well] excellently written and worthy of being preserved as a morsel true and genuine history. Most of it rests on public documents, and much of it is within my own knolege. It presents a very different view from that of Harper's letters. I inclose you a copy [of it] and request you to read it. The circle in which you habitually move is one from which you will never hear these truths. Ever affectly. yours. Th.J.

FC (Jefferson Papers, DLC)