

**Thomas Jefferson to William Short, May 17, 1824,  
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**

Monticello May 17.24

Dear Sir

I recieved yesterday your favor of the 10th inst. as soon as [I percieved] the vote of invitation to M. de la Fayette had passed one house, and was likely to pass the other, I wrote to the president and to a member or two of Congress, expressing my confidence that they could not mean merely to invite him to come and dine; suggesting the scantiness of his means of meeting expenses, and the necessity of a provision for him coming, staying & returning, and still further [more than that] that if they sent him back empty-handed they would be scandalised thro' the world, I suggested to them a donation [a provision or my a gift] of lands, of which they possess great choice and abundance, sufficient to be a provision for his family. I thought this better than a pension, which I knew could never be agreed to but on bloody debates, or which his truest friends would vote against if from the [general] horror of letting in that source of abuse upon us and also as less likely to be consumed without benefit to his family. I have recieved no answer to my letters, from which I conclude that they considered that I had suggested as a thing of course, for which they had made up their minds and were prepared to do what is [was deemed] proper. We shall soon learn from the returning members whether they looked generally to this, and what [were the] ideas [of providing] provided as to the provision to be made for them, still I think his coming very doubtful. The old king is at death's door, as

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likely to be now dead as not. Some convulsion may take place on that event, from which he would not think of absenting himself. Ever and affectionately yours', Th.J.

FC (Jefferson Papers, DLC)