Wm. Mason Esq.
Georgetown

14 April 1814

I did myself the pleasure of writing to you since my return on the subject of procuring from your flock, a Ram and a Ewe of full blood since which I have a letter from a gentleman offering me a full blood 2 years old Ram for $50 with the Ewe on of course but he wont let me have a Ewe — Now Sir as I would prefer much to have the one with the other and also have my Flock spring from your Stock which I suppose is at least as perfect as any other added to which considerations the reliance that I would have on your friendship in making me a proper selection (for no doubt ever in yours there is a considerable choice) to begin with I therefore take the liberty of proposing that you will sometime between shearing time and the 1st of May let me have a choice Ram not exceeding 2 years old And 2 Ewes of the same age for which I will be willing to pay you the sum of 200 and 50 Dollars and that estimating that they will now produce 15 lb of wool at 50 cts per lb $50 will be equal to $300 for 30 sheep which I think does not appear to be a very trifling sum if you think it too much you can reduce the sum and it will not give me offence you may perhaps think me unreasonable after your saying you would not sell any ewes to make such a request but take notice it will not be the first time I have asked friendship if you refuse I suppose I must be content the Ram I am offered at $50 with the Ewe on and I suppose the Ewe worth any 14 he would then stand me in $38 by which calculation I am sacrificing $62 for the sake of getting from your two noted Ewes at $100 I know that you may and probably will say that my calculations have nothing to say to the value of your sheep and that you can calculate for your self as this I grant however as your determinations will govern me as to the acceptance or rejecting the offer that has been made I will be much obliged by your writing me in course

P.S. Perhaps you can contrive some method of accomodating me at less expence and more agreable to yourself I suppose that by giving me two Ewes that an Older, after having been covered by one of the choicest Rams (but observe they must have good teeth) and one of your best Ram lambs of the last yearling in the case, I would expect the price to be low the Ewes healthy and of approved decent I would like to begin with 2 Ewes at least, as otherwise I must progress so slowly & if I had but one and any accident should happen her I would be nearly when I started be pleased to let