Title: Letter from William Bingham to William Irvine

Date: February 26, 1789

Location: I-SpahrB-1961-4
Phila a Feb 26. 1789

(Dear Sir)

I have received your favor of the 23d inst. I have not been unmindful of my engagement to inform you of the result of the application made to the Legislature on the subject of Dickinson College. But no arrangement can be made, until the report of the Committee of Ways & Means, receive its fate: it will then be known, whether the Legislature will have any funds at its command, which it may be able to devote towards the support of this useful Institution.

The public creditor opposes one of the resolutions submitted to the consideration of the House by the Committee of Ways & Means, which recommends the repeal of the funding law. They argue, that the State by virtue of the law, made an open contract with such of its citizens, as chose to fund their public securities, on the revenues then appropriated for the payment of the annual interest, that to annul this contract by the
by the usage of this Law, without the consent of one or more of the Parties to the contract, or without giving them an opportunity to remonstrate against the Tendency of the Measure, would be an infringement of Right by the operation of an Act of Power — that the public creditor, who opposed the Ratification of the federal Constitution, were convinced that the most productive funds, arising from the export of Licitis, would be allocated or directed into the channel of the federal Treasury, but they were at the same time persuaded that the State would procure themample substitution for this voluntary sacrifice, by the substitution of a Revenue equally productive under the operation of the federal System. I do not know how the affair will terminate —

The Members who are interested in the Establishment of a School in Harrisonburg agree violently, the Appropriation of the Profits of Harrison'serry to the Endowment of Dickinson College, which will prevent the Committee reporting in favor of that Measure.

How far an Application for a Partnership of the Certificates that have been entrusted to the State, may
may from Sincerely, you shall know, as I mean to mention this mode of relieving the wants of the College, to some of the members of the Committee, I shall converse with the Comptroller on the subject.

I mention with you on another, that the least attention that the circular Letters from Virginia or New York were entitled to, was not procured to them, by the manner which they were treated in our legislature. Yet it is not too late to rectify the mistake, it may perhaps yet be done.

I am with regard,

To Your Honourable Brother,

Mr. Bingham.
To (General William Irvine)

Dear Sir,

I have received your favor of the 23 Inst. I have not been unmindful of my Engagement to inform you of the Result of the application made to the Legislature on the subject of Dickinson College. But no arrangement can be made, until the Report of the Committee of Ways & Means, receives its fate; - it will then be known, whether the Legislature will have any funds at its Command, which it may bestow towards the support of this useful Institution.

The public Creditors oppose one of the Resolutions, submitted to the Consideration of the House by the Committee of Ways & Means, which recommends the repeal of the funding Law.

They argue, that the State by Virtue of this Law, made an open contract with such of its Citizens, as chose to fund their public securities, on the Revenues then appropriated for the Payment of the annual Interest. - that to annul this contract by the repeal of the Law, without the assent of one of the parties to the Contract, & without giving time & opportunity to remonstrate against the Tendency of the measure, would be an Infringement of Right by the operation of an Act of Power. - That the public creditors, who assented to the ratification of the federal Constitution, were convinced that the most productive funds, arising from the Impost & Excise, would be alienated and directed into the channel of the federal Treasury, but they were at the same time persuaded that the State would procure them ample retribution for this voluntary Sacrifice, by the substitution of a Revenue, equally productive under the operation of the federal System.

I do not know how the affair will terminate.

The Members who are interested in the Establishment of a School in Harrisburg oppose violently the appropriation of the Profits of Harris's Ferry, to the Endowment of Dickinson College, which will prevent the Committee reporting in favor of that measure.

How far an application for a Portion of the Certificates that have escheated to the state, may prove successful, you shall know, as I mean to mention this mode of relieving the wants of the College, to some of the Members of the Committee - & I shall converse with the Comptroller on the subject.

I concur with you in opinion, that the decent attention that the circular letters from Virginia & New York were entitled to, was not procured to them, by the manner which they were treated in our Legislature.

If it is not too late to rectify the mistake, it may possibly yet be done.

I am with regard
Dr. Sir
your obd humble svt

Wm. Bingham