Title: Letter from Joseph Priestley to George Thatcher
Date: May 10, 1798
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Dear Sir,

I thank you for your attention to my paper on Vanbrugh, and wish you could read the mystery again that you have prepared to my friends in England. I trust by a letter just received from London, that they are under no apprehensions about an invasion, but I think they make themselves too secure. Whether there be peace or war, there must be a revolution in that country.

The unanimity you speak of in their country does not exist in our neighborhood. The gentry, in fact, are generally with you, for the less claps their rod must take the field, and not the English than the French. They do not so soon change their sentiments and habits as their situation.

I have lately received from England an escape from pamphlet politics, entitled "Thoughts on the present situation," which, if you wish to see it, I will send you. I think it will suit this country as well as England. Guided by paper, more than men, you are, I fear, going to bring a revenge upon yourselves. But it seems to be the method of providence to discipline, and ultimately improve the world by their felicity and consequent sufferings among them.

The rest that brought me your last brought the news of your return. I trust this number of each letter I sent to receive an answer, and I have had some hopes of receiving one early. I remain,

[Signature]
I have finished my Exposition of Daniel, or rather the Antichrist, and intend, at any time, which I have abandoned here, to go over the whole of the Old Testament.

While you are able to keep control of the Farm or the field, and in the sea, I am fighting there in the laboratory. There is doubt now of demolishing them, but the new system of Chemistry.
George Thatcher Esq.
Member of Congress
Philadelphia
Dear Sir

I thank you for your attention to my paper on Daniel, and wish you would send the number of copies that you have proposed to my friends in England. I find by a letter just received from London, that they are under no apprehension about an invasion, but I think they make themselves too secure. Whether there be peace or war, there must be a revolution in that country.

The unanimity you speak of in this country does not exist in this neighbourhood. The Gentry, indeed, are generally with you, but the lower classes, those who must take the field, had rather fight the English than the French. They do not so soon change their sentiments and habits as their superiors.

I have lately received from England an ingenious pamphlet of Dr. Towns, intitled Thoughts on National Insanity, which, if you wish to see it, I will send you. I think it will this country as well as England. Guided by passion, more than reason, you are, I fear, going to bring a scourge upon yourselves. But it seems to be the method of providence to disipline, and ultimately improve, the world by the follies and consequant sufferings of man.

The post that brought me your last brought the inclosed, which please to return. A great number of such letters I used to receive in England, and I have had some here.

Yours sincerely, J. Priestley

P.S.

I have finished my Exposition of Daniel as well as the Revelation, and intend, at my leisure, of which I have abundance here, to go thru the whole of the Old Testament.
While you are about to contact the French on the field, and on the sea, I am fighting them in the laboratory. I have no doubt now of demolishing their boasted new system of Chemistry.

To: George Thatcher
Member of Congress
Philadelphia