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Title: Letter from Benjamin Rush to Thomas Smith

Date: February 26, 1790

Location: O-SpahrB-undated-5

Contact:

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Dear Sir,

Philad^a Feb. 26. 1790.

Your zeal in behalf of our College has long ago, and often, excited my warmest regard. Your last letter is a recent proof of your friendship for our mutual charge. I have devoted myself to the business you have committed to me - but I am sorry to say that hitherto my prospects of success are not very encouraging. The College of Philad^a have lately presented a petition to the Assembly similar to ~~your~~ ours, praying for funds. This event has a favourable aspect upon our application, for it will probably bring about a Union of the city & ^{in the Assembly} country interests in favor of both institutions.

The principal difficulty in the way of our success arises from prejudices entertained against

D^r Nesbitt. His Conversation & Letters are so very
& so public
illiberal against the College - the town of Carlisle -
- and every thing that is American, that ~~the very~~ ^{the very}
name of the College is unpopular with many
people upon his account. I would have excused
his neglect of me in his late Visit to Philad^a.
had ~~he~~ it not increased established prejudices
against him, - for no One in our city ^{believes} ~~to~~ him
when he accuses me of the want of friendships
to him ^{to} the College. It would be happy for his
Character as a moral & religious man, if he
stopped with this Charge against me. But he
has made others ^{against me}, which are equally false &
malicious. Poor man! I pity him - and wish
him - as the best means of promoting his own
happiness, and the honor of the College - a more
Christian Spirit.

Be assured I shall not be idle during the
- remaining part of the session of the Assembly.
The same views which I had in 1782 of the
importance of a Seminary of learning at (Worcester)
still continue to actuate me - and however
much I have suffered, or may suffer, from
my Attachment to it, I hope I shall never
exhaust my zeal in promoting its interests.

- I knew too much of the human heart be-
-fore I embarked in its service, to be disappointed
or offended by the ~~in~~ persecutions of Dr Ewing
or Dr Wisbell. Neither of them can now move
me.

Your brother's wife is (I hope) upon the
recovery from an Attack of the Pleurisy which re-
-duced her to the brink of the grave.

Tru^{ly} D^r Sir yours
sincerely
Benjⁿ Rush

D. B. Wash. Nov. 1790

James Smith Esq

Durham

AK
1938

Philad^a. Feb. 26. 1790

Dear Sir,

Your zeal in behalf of our College has long ago, and often, excited my warmest regard. Your last letter is a recent proof of your friendship for our mutual Charge. I have devoted myself to the business you have committed to me – but I am sorry to say that hitherto my prospects of success are not very encouraging. The College of Philad^a. have lately presented a petition to the Assembly similar to ours, praying for funds. This event has a favorable aspect upon our application, for it will probably bring about a Union of the city & Country interests in the Assembly in favor of both institutions.

The principal difficulty in the way of our success arises from prejudices entertained against Dr Nisbett. His Conversation & letters are so very illiberal & so public against the College – the town of Carlisle – and every thing that is American, that the very name of the College is unpopular with many people upon his Account. I would have excused his neglect of me in his late visit to Philad^a. had it not encreased established prejudices against him, - for no One in our city believes him when he accuses me of the want of friendship to him or to the College. It would be happy for his character as a moral & religious man, if he stopped with this Charge against me. But he has made Others against me which are equally false & malicious. Poor man! I pity him – and wish him – as the best means of promoting his own happiness, and the honor of the College – a more Christian Spirit.

Be assured I shall not be idle during the remaining part of the session of the Assembly. The same Views which I had in 1782 of the importance of a Seminary of learning at Carlisle still continues to activate me – and however much I have suffered, or may suffer, from my Attachment to it, I hope I shall never exhaust my zeal in promoting its interests. – I knew too much of the human heart before I embarked in its service to be disappointed or offended by the persecutions of D^r Ewing or D^r Nisbett. Neither of them can now move me.

Your brother's wife is (I hope) upon the recovery from an Attack of the pleurasy which reduced her to the brink of the grave.

From D^r Sir yours sincerely
Benjⁿ. Rush

(Thomas Smith Esq. at Carlisle)
(Dr. B. Rush March 1790)