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Title: Letter from Hugh Henry Brackenridge to James Hamilton

Date: May 19, 1803

Location: RG 1/1 - 5.4.1

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May 19. 1803. Philad.

Sir. From Easton, on the Delaware
Came with the speed of an ex-
-press, to this city ~~to wait~~ with a
View to see the celebrated Mr Latrobe
who was said to be about to set out
from this his place of residence &
to be absent some time. Had
the good luck to find him at
home, and having waited on
him, laid before him rough
sketches of the several plans
proposed all advised for Dickinson
College; explained the situation
of the ground, and town, streets
&c and proposed fund for
the building.

Having left him near
a week ago, and I have this
after noon again seen him,
having in the mean time
been from the city, at the Cir-
-cuit court of Bucks county.

He will forward by the mail
addressed to you plans of
the building to the best of
his skill, & has delivered
me a letter prepared in fact
for the trustees, though
addressed to me, explaining
his ideas on the subject. The
plans have been projected after
much reflection on his part,
with any assistance I could
give as to collateral expla-
nations & is fully approved
of ^{by} me, if that is of any con-
sequence or will contribute
to satisfy you as to the
expediency of adopting it, in
any degree.

I write in haste but
will be at home in ~~the~~ 100

weeks from the time you re-
ceive this, and will almost
immediately return and obtain
working draughts and such
further instructions as may
be necessary.

It is Mr. Lathrop's decided
Opinion, & it is now mine
that the building be off stone,
that the basement story of
the old building be used;
and that it be, of course, on
the site or found along
the old. This will save
expense, but if the thing was
new, it is the place. In the
center one way, and about
Eg. in depth; & on a found
somewhat rising.

Yours
Wm. B. Burdette

You will see that no Labrolæ
contributed from exclusive
of Hector's hive, the advantage
of his style in architecture,
which is noble & desirable,
the foundation the first
- li.

43
36
16
8
2

121

556
36
29

621

[Editor's Note: All strike-throughs and misspellings have been retained.]

May 19. 1803. Philada.

Sir. From Easton on the delaware came with the speed of an express, to this city ~~to wait~~ with a view to see the celebrated Mr Latrobe who was said to be about to set out from this his place of residence & to be absent some time. Had the good luck to find him at home, and having waited on him laid before him rough sketches of the several plans projected at Carlisle for Dickinson College; explained the Situation of the ground, and town, streets, etc. and probable fund for the building.

Having left him near a week ago, and I have this afternoon again seen him, having in the mean time been from the city, at the Circuit Court of Bucks County.

He will forward by the mail addressed to you plans of the building to the best of his skill, & has delivered me a letter prepared in fact for the trustees, though addressed to me, explaining his ideas on the Subject. The plan has been projected after much reflection on his part, with any assistance I could give as to collateral explanations & is fully approved of by me, if that is of any consequence or will contribute to Satisfy you as to the expediency of adopting it, in any degree.

I write in haste but will be at home in [deleted and illegible] two weeks from the time you receive this; and will almost immediately return and obtain working draughts and such farther instructions as may be necessary.

It is Mr Latrobe's decided opinion, & it is now mine that the building be of Stone; that the basement story of the old building be used; and that it be, of course, on Scite of foundation of the old. This will save expense, but if the thing was new, it is the place. In the center one way, and above 2/3 in depth; & on a ground some what rising.

Yours,
H H Brackenridge

You will see that Mr Latrobe contributes gratis exclusive of Clerks hire, the advantage of his skill in architecture which is noble & deserves the gratitude of the public.