

Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

Documents Online

Title: Letter from Benjamin Rush to John Rush

Date: May 4, 1805

Location: I-Friends-undated-4

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

My dear son/

Philadelphia May 4th 1805

Your letters from St Simons & Charleston
 came safe to hand. The latter has excited contrary emotions
 in my mind. I rejoiced in your prospects of ^{your} professional
 and domestic establishments, and regretted that it was not
 in my power immediately to comply with your request to
 furnish you with the means of effecting both. I have
 lately had an unexpected demand for between 8 & 9000 \$
 the particulars of which you shall know hereafter. James
 & Ben have come home from College with their usual
 wants which must be supplied. Richard is still unable
 to maintain himself. My receipts ~~for~~ money have
 been much less than in former years, owing to our
 city having been recently drained of specie by an unusual
 encumber of East India Ships. To borrow is impossible;
 the only two friends I have in Philad^a whom I have
 applied in ~~such~~ ^{to} ~~diff~~ ^{to} ~~emergencies~~ are exhausted, viz
 Capt. Barry and Mr Coates. Even the Banks are unable to
 supply the demands of our citizens. Two hundred
 thousand Dollars in good notes were rejected yesterday
 by the Bank of the United States. - In addition to

all the above causes of my ⁱⁿability to advance you the
sum you have requested, I have paid a part of the debts
contracted by you before you left the city, and am now
and then reminded by your creditors of others which
I cannot I am unable to pay. Adieu my dear.

For my advanced age, the size of my family, - the
small sum of productive property I have accumulated,
and ~~the large sum of property~~ ^{the} ~~expensive~~ ^{expensive}
~~property~~ nature of my other property, from taxes and
law suits which are necessary to keep it. But let not

this answer to your request deter you from settling in
Prince Wm County. ~~Begin~~ with the money furnished you
by Maj^r Butler, you may buy a horse & chair, - your
purses sundries and instruments, & with these in
a farmers house, you may begin the world with
more advantages than I did. Should the sum you

have or may receive from Maj^r Butler not be ^{the sum of 500 Dol^{rs}} ~~enough~~
for the above purpose, try to borrow ^a ~~little~~ ^{little} more from
him, or any one else. I ~~will~~ ^{do hereby obligate myself to pay for} ~~will~~ ^{two or}
three years (if my life be spared) ~~paying~~ the interest of
it, provided you apply it to your contemplated settle-
ment in South Carolina. Give my love to the Lady

who has admitted your visits. Should she become my Daughter,
she shall not find me an unkind father. As soon as that
event takes place (provided it be not before next winter) I
will send you something that shall appreciate ^{the favour of} your pa-
rents love with every view you take of your father. I
have only to add upon the subject of your Settlement, that
it ^{has} been generally circulated in our City that you are
about to fix ^{with great prospects} in South Carolina - Of course it ^{will not do to}
think of returning to Philadelphia. The India Vessels have
spoiled. Had they not, - ~~then~~ could you think of
going out in one of them?

The affectionate interest you take in every thing
that relates to the progress of my Opinions in medicine
me to mention to you that I have lately received a number
of queries from the Government of Etruria in Italy, &
of Persia, relative to the origin and means of preventing the
yellow fever. I have answered the former. The Spanish
Consul informed me a few Days ago that my Account of
the yellow fever of 1793 had lately been translated into the Spa-
nish language by Order of the King of Spain. This Com-
munication is in Confidence. These Notices ~~of my principles~~
by foreigners, ^{of my principles} are ^{me after having} consoling to ~~me~~ ^{me} who has been rendered
an exile by ~~them~~ ^{them} in ~~the~~ ^{my} native Country. -

Dr. Puzos will be appointed Professor of Surgery in our
University next week. It has been consented to, ~~by~~ ^{to prevent}
his giving an independent Course of Anatomy & Surgery. ^{all the families}
join in love to you. - Let me

hear from you soon. your ever affectionate father. Benj^l Rush
Dr Garden settled in Charlestown with but two Dollars in his pocket.
- the wealth & reputation he left behind ~~him~~ ^{him} are known to thousands.
Your Brother Rich has not been able to collect a Dollar of the money due
to you owing to his inability to read your hand writing, or figures
in your books. Learn from this a caution, or you may suffer by
similar inattentions in South Carolina.

Dr John Rush

to the care of

Dr David Ramsay

Charleston

South Carolina.



Subscribed by
Wm to Dr Rush

Philadelphia May 4th 1805

My dear Son

Your letters from St. Simons & Charleston came safe to hand. The latter has excited contrary emotions in my mind. I rejoiced in your prospects of a professional and domestic establishment, and regretted that it was not in my power immediately to comply with you request to furnish you with the means of effecting both. I have lately had an unexpected demand for between 8 & 900 Drs the particulars of which you shall know hereafter. James and Ben have come home from College with their usual wants which must be supplied. Richard is still unable to maintain himself. My receipts of money have been much less than in former years, owing to our city having been recently drained of Specie by an unusual number of East India Ships. To borrow is impossible. The only two friends I have in Philada to whom I have applied in endless emergencies are exausted, viz Capt. Barry and Mr. Coates. Even the Banks are unable to supply the demands of our citizens. Two hundred thousand dollars in good notes were rejected yesterday by the Bank of the United States.

In addition to all the above causes of my inability to advance you the Sum you have requested, I have paid a part of the debts contracted by you before you left the city, and am now and then reminded by your creditors of others, which I lament I am unable to pay.

Recollect my dear son my advanced age, the size of my family, - the small Sum of productive property I have assembled and the expensive nature of my other property from taxes and law suits which are necessary to keep it. But let not this answer to your request deter you from settling in Prince Wm. County. With the money furnished you by Maj'r Bulter, you may buy a horse & chair, - you possess

medicines and instruments, & with these in a farmers house, you may begin the world with more advantages than I did. Should the sum you have or may receive from Maj'r Butler not be eno' for the above purpose, try to borrow the sum of 500 Dol'rs more from him, or any one else. I do hereby obligate myself to pay for two or three years (if my life be spared) the interest of it, provided you apply it to you contemplated settlement in South Carolina

Give my love to the Lady who has admitted your visits. Should she become my Daughter, she shall not find me an unkind father. As soon as the event takes place (provided it be not before next winter) I will send you something that shall associate your parents love with every view you take of the furniture of your parlour.

I have only to add upon the subject of your settlement, that it has been generally circulated in our city that you are about to fix with great prospects in South Carolina. Of course it will not do to think of returning to Philadelphia. The India Vessels have [now] sailed. Had they not, could you think [forward a moment] of going out in one of them?

The affectionate interest you take in every thing [] that relates to the progress of my Opinions in medicine [prompts] me to mention to you that I have lately received a number of queries from the governtments of Etrusia in Italy, & of Prussia, relative to the origin and means of preventing the yellow fever. I have answered the former. The Spanish Consul informed me a few days ago that my account of the yellow fever of 1793 had lately been translated into the Spanish language by order of the King of Spain. This communication is in confidence. These notices by foreigners of my principles are consoling to me after having been rendered an exile by them in my native Country.

Dr. Physic will be appointed Professor of Surgery in our University next week. It has been consented to, to prevent his giving an independent course of Anatomy & Surgery. All the family join in love to you - Let me hear from you soon. Your ever affectionate father Benjⁿ Rush.

Dr. Garden settled in Charlestown with but two Dollars in his pocket. The wealth & reputation he left behind him are known to thousands. Your Brother Richard has not been able to collect a Dollar of the money due to you, owing to his inability to read your hand-writing, or figures in your books. Learn from this a caution, or you may suffer by similar inattentions in South Carolina.