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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from John Leamy to James Hamilton

**Date:** December 19, 1815

**Location:** I-Original-1815-1

### Contact:

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

717-245-1399

[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)



Bordeaux 19 Dec: 1815

Dear James.

Your letter of the 26 Sept. came to hand by the arrival of the *Susquehanna* & I assure you affords me infinite satisfaction. I beg you to fear my dear fellow that notwithstanding our old & intimate acquaintance & our mutual, warm & frequent protestations of friendship; that absence of time had obliterated from your memory the recollection of the friend of your juvenile days & the frequent participator of your pleasures & amusements. - You may easily conceive how agreeably I was disappointed at finding your delay in answering my letter was not attributable to forgetfulness; & the pleasure <sup>with</sup> which I recommenced a correspondence which I sincerely hope may continue during our lives.

I was much gratified at your detailed account of circumstances that have transpired since my departure from America, & beg you will continue it in your future letters, but be particular in letting me know every thing that takes place in Carlisle; I take a great pleasure <sup>in hearing</sup> of the place where I have spent so many agreeable moments. - I hope before I close my existence, some fine night in the month of July or August when the moon beams invitingly to love to beat up the quarters of your ancient mistresses; to visit those enchanting spots dedicated by the studious sons of Dickenson to the Goddess Venus, those delightful places, the favorite haunts of the sable fair of the village of Carlisle. - I hope that you intended visiting Phila this winter where



where you will no doubt enjoy yourself in the rounds of pleasure and dissipation which that city affords. You will see those young ladies of M<sup>rs</sup> Mallon's establishment with whom we were once intimate don't forget to tell me how you found them all, & whether any of them are yet married.

Soon after the date of my last letter they saw the news of the landing of Bonaparte in France reached us & a few days after we learned that he had reinstated himself on the throne, without a drop of blood having been spilled to prevent him. You may readily <sup>conceive</sup> the consternation & wonder that was depicted on the countenance of every body as far removed from the seat of these extraordinary events as we were. On the first of April the Imperial troops appeared before Bordeaux which yielded without an effort & in one month after his re-assumption of the Imperial dignity all France <sup>had</sup> submitted to his yoke without a struggle. In consequence of the declaration of the Congress of Vienna, Napoleon, well convinced that their united strength would again be essayed to dethrone him, devoted his whole time to the strengthening his frontiers & increasing his army; about the middle of June he found himself able to take the field, with his successes in the commencement of his fatal overthrow you are too well acquainted to need a recapitulation. On the 25<sup>th</sup> June we learned here his defeat on the 18<sup>th</sup> same month, on the next day I set out with a friend for Paris determined to see the conclusion of that great Drama. When we reached Chartres we learned



the abdication of the Emperor & the advance of the Allies upon the  
Capital & the great number of Wagons we met on the road with  
wounded Soldiers announced the bloody engagements that were daily  
taking place. On arriving in Versailles, from the dismay & terror  
that prevailed there, it was evident they had already experienced some of  
the effects of war, the Prussians had attacked them the day before  
& they were momentarily expecting another attack. We left Versailles  
without interruption & proceeded on the road to Paris. About a  
quarter of a <sup>from the town</sup> mile we reached the french army which was then  
forming in order of battle. The sun was just then peeping above  
the horizon which rendered the sight peculiarly novel & grand  
after leaving the french camp we passed through the small  
village of Sevres remarkable for its Porcelain manufactory  
there the french had thrown up batteries & were making preparations  
to blow up the two bridges of the town, the moment the enemy  
should appear. - A short time after, <sup>leaving</sup> the town, the thunder of the  
artillery, announced the commencement of the action, which I  
thought I was fortunate in having created.

During my stay in Paris I witnessed those extraordinary events  
which took place & had an opportunity of seeing all these great political  
& military characters of the continent. We returned to Bordeaux  
on the 15 Aug. Subsequent events have been of little comparative  
importance. The Treaty of the 20 Nov. which you will see in  
the



the Public Prints has given the finishing stroke to french humiliation  
& disgrace & will remain a lasting <sup>reminiscent</sup> ~~reminiscent~~ of the dreadful effects  
of Party & divisions of sentiment in a people. — The King in entire  
disregard of the convention of the 3<sup>d</sup> July by which it was stipulated  
that no person should be punished for the opinions he may have held  
or the actions he may have committed after the return of Bonaparte,  
has determined on removing all those who were instrumental in re placing  
Napoleon on the throne, & has commenced by the trial & execution of  
Lafayette & others, the death of the latter has excited sensations of  
horror in the breasts of all reasonable & humane people. This is  
the man who professed to be the father of the people, & as a proof  
he destroys those who are most dear to them & who alone are able to  
protect them. The people are discontented, & let him beware that  
the first act of popular phrensy does not renew the remembrance  
of the fate of his brother. by consigning him to a similar one.

The climate of this Country is delightful, during eight months of the  
year it is a perfect paradise, I am very much pleased with it & God  
only knows when I shall return to my native Country.

The ladies of France although not very handsome, are remarkably  
well formed. Their conversation is light & agreeable, their manners  
seductive & fascinating, their whole demeanour dignified & elegant, in  
short they appear formed to please. Do not suppose however that  
I intend this description as applicable solely to the ladies of this Country.

Cur



Our own Country women possess not only those distinguishing characteristics  
of the french female, but what is far preferable to all exterior accom-  
plishments, a well cultivated mind.

You had better prevail upon your father to let you take a voyage  
to Europe for the complete reestablishment of your health. I should  
be delighted to see you here. - When a good opportunity offers I will  
send you the Newspapers you desire.

I beg you to present my respects to your Father, Mother & Sister  
& to Mr & Mrs Parker & all our friends & believe your sincere friends  
J. S. L.

Dear Dear Dear Sir

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12  
4.8  
10  
5.6



Received of the amount of \$100  
July 23 1800  
Wm. Henry  
John Henry



Mr. James Hamilton Junr.

Carlisle  
Pennsylvania

J. H. Dixon

