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Title: Letter from John Adams to James Warren (Copy)

Date: July 24, 1775

Location: I-Purchase-1972-2

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(copy)

Philadelphia July 24th 1775

D^r Sir,

In confidence, I am determined to write freely to you this Time — A certain great Fortune and Piddling Genius whose Name has been trumpeted so loudly, has given a silly Cast to our whole Doings — We are between Hawk and Buzzard — We ought to have had in our Hands a Month ago, the whole Legislative, Executive and Judicial of the whole Continent, and have compleatly Modelled a Constitution, to have raised a Naval Power and opened all our Ports wide, to have arrested every Friend to Government on the Continent and held them as Hostages for the Poor Victims in Boston — And then opened the Door as wide as possible for Peace and Reconciliation, after this they might have Petitioned and Negotiated and Addressed &c. if they would — Is all this Extravagant? — Is it wild? — Is it not the soundest Policy? —

One Piece of News — Seven Thousand Weight of Powder arrived here last Night — We shall send along some as soon as we can — But you must be patient and Frugal.

We are lost in the extensiveness of our Field of Business — We have a Continental Treasury to Establish, a Paymaster to chuse, and a Committee of Correspondence or Safety, or accounts, or something I know not what that

has confounded us all Day.

Will you shall I hail you Speaker of the House
or Counsellor or what? What kind of an Election had you?
what sort of Magistrates do you intend to make.

Will your new Legislative and Executive feel
bold, or irresolute? Will your judicial Hang and Whips,
and Fine and Imprison, without Scruples; — I want to
see our distressed Country once more — yet I dread the
sight of Devastation.

You observe in your Letter the Oddity of a
great Man, he is a queer Creature — But you must
Love his Dogs if you Love him, and forgive a thousand
Whims for the sake of the Soldier and the Scholar.

Addressed

Yours

To the Hon^{ble} Genl Warren Esq^r

Watertown

fav^d by M^r Mitcham

MS.

This Letter was Anonymous, but wrote in the same
hand with that Addressed to Abigail Adams.

1009
August

of the Hon^{ble} James Manners Esq^r;

Waterhouse

Philadelphia July 25: 1775.