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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from William Bingham to William Irvine

**Date:** February 26, 1789

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25/2/79  
Philad<sup>a</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 26. 1789

Dear Sir

I have received your favor of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Inst<sup>l</sup> — I have not been unmindful of my Engagement to inform you of the Result of the Application made to the Legislature on the Subject of Dickinson College — But no Arrangement can be made, untill the Report of the Committee of Ways & Means, receives its Fate; — it will then be known, whether the Legislature will have any funds at its Command, which it may bestow towards the support of this usefull Institution —

The public Creditors oppose one of the Resolutions, submitted to the Consideration of the House by the Committee of Ways & Means, which recommends the repeal of the funding Law —

They argue, that the State by Virtue of this Law, made an open Contract with such of its Citizens, as chose to fund their public securities, on the Revenues then appropriated for the Payment of the annual Interest — that to annul this Contract

by the

by the repeal of this Law, without the assent of  
one of the Parties to the Contract, & without  
giving Time & Opportunity to remonstrate  
against the Tendency of the measure, would be  
an Infringement of Right by the Operation of  
an Act of Power — That the public  
Creditors, who assented to the Ratification of the  
federal Constitution, were convinced that the  
most productive funds, arising from the Propriety  
& Excise, would be alienated & directed into  
the Channel of the federal Treasury, — but  
they were at the same time persuaded that  
the State would procure them ample Vindica-  
tion for this voluntary Sacrifice, by the substi-  
tution of a Revenue, equally productive under  
the Operation of the federal System —

I do not know how the Affair will  
terminate —

The Members who are interested  
in the Establishment of a School in Harrisburg  
oppose violently, the Appropriation of the Profits  
of Harrisburg, to the Endowment of Dickinson  
College, which will prevent the Committee  
reporting in favor of that Measure —

How far, an Application for a Part  
of the Certificates that have been created to the State,  
may

may prove Successful, you shall know, as  
I mean to mention this Mode of relieving the  
Wants of the College, to some of the Members of  
the Committee & I shall converse with the  
Comptroller on the subject.

I concur with you in opinion, that  
the decent Attention that the circular Letters  
from Virginia & New York were entitled to,  
was not procured to them, by the Manner  
which they were treated in our Legislature.  
If it is not too late to rectify the  
Mistake, it may properly yet be done —

I am with regard

Y<sup>r</sup> for  
Respectful  
W<sup>th</sup> Bingham

To (General William Irvine)

Dear Sir

I have received your favor of the 23 Inst. I have not been unmindfull of my Engagement to inform you of the Result of the application made to the Legislature on the subject of Dickinson College. But no arrangement can be made, untill the Report of the Committee of Ways & Means, receives its fate; - it will then be known, whether the Legislature will have any funds at its Command, which it may bestow towards the support of this usefull Institution.

The public Creditors oppose one of the Resolutions, submitted to the Consideration of the House by the Committee of Ways & Means, which recommends the repeal of the funding Law.

They argue, that the State by Virtue of this Law, made an open contract with such of its Citizens, as chose to fund their public securities, on the Revenues then appropriated for the Payment of the annual Interest. - that to annull this contract by the repeal of the Law, without the assent of one of the parties to the Contract, & without giving time & opportunity to remonstrate against the Tendency of the measure, would be an Infringement of Right by the operation of an Act of Power. - That the public creditors, who assented to the ratification of the federal Constitution, were convinced that the most productive funds, arising from the Impost & Excise, would be alienated and directed into the channel of the federal Treasury, but they were at the same time persuaded that the State would procure them ample retribution for this voluntary Sacrifice, by the substitution of a Revenue, equally productive under the operation of the federal System.

I do not know how the affair will terminate.

The Members who are interested in the Establishment of a School in Harrisburg oppose violently the appropriation of the Profits of Harris's Ferry, to the Endowment of Dickinson College, which will prevent the Committee reporting in favor of that measure.

How far an application for a Portion of the Certificates that have escheated to the state, may prove successfull, you shall know, as I mean to mention this mode of relieving the wants of the College, to some of the Members of the Committee - & I shall converse with the Comptroller on the subject.

I concur with you in opinion, that the decent attention that the circular letters from Virginia & New York were entitled to, was not procured to them, by the manner which they were treated in our Legislature.

If it is not too late to rectify the mistake, it may possibly yet be done.

I am with regard

Dr. Sir

your obd humble svt

Wm. Bingham