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Title: Letter from James Wilson to William Bingham

Date: May 15, 1784

Location: I-SpahrB-1964-11

Contact:

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Dear Sir

I ought to have written to you long before this Time: My only Apology is, that I have been impartial, and have not been a worse Correspondent to you than I have been to my other Friends. The Scene of Business, public and private, in which I have been engaged since you left Philadelphia has prevented my discharging Duties of this Kind. Besides, after receiving the Letter, which you were good enough to write to me last Summer, I was in daily Expectation of another from you; and, like others who are forgetful in their Correspondence, flattered myself I could answer both at the same Time. I presume your Prospects with regard to a Loan for me have not succeeded. I have been advised to try Dr Lettison on this Subject. Dr Rush and Dr Park have written to him by their Conveyance. If you are acquainted with him; will you be good enough to throw your Weight into the Scale? You know it to be of much Importance to me to be supplied with Money; and I cannot be supplied with it on this Side of the Atlantic. Our Works have stood the very uncommon and violent Tempest which happened in Delaware last Winter. This is a striking Proof

William Benjamin Cozzini

Proof of the Goodness and Solidity of Mr Bird's Plan and Execution. The Water, indeed, made a Breach round one End of the Dam, and left the Works exposed to great Danger for some Time; but they received no Injury of Consequence; and the Breach will enable us, in a dry Season, to throw in more Water on the Works than we should otherwise have done; for Mr Bird proposes to place there an additional set of Head-Gates. In short, Nothing but the Command of Money is wanting to complete our System speedily. You may, therefore, judge how much you will oblige me by your Assistance in this Way.

I have been twice at New York on the Business of our Lands in that State; and hope soon to give you Intelligence that the last Hand is put to the Title. Laws are passed both in New York and Pennsylvania for opening their Land Offices. Never was there such an Opportunity for obtaining an advantageous Interest near the Navigation of the Atlantic, and I presume there never will be such an Opportunity again. Now, therefore, is the Time to put in Execution the Plan I gave you: Not a Moment should be lost.

You will probably have heard, before you receive this, that Congress have determined to adjourn on the 3^d of next

Month

Month to meet at Trenton in October next; and that a Com-
mittee of the States is to sit in the mean Time. It will sit,
as I am told, at Trenton. These Steps with, I hope, contri-
-bute, in some Degree, to remove the bad Impression, which
were made last Year in Europe by the injudicious Ad-
-journments of Congress. I have not been able yet to take
my Seat in that House.

I will not, at this Time, detain you with State-
Politics, except to mention that, in my Opinion, the Prospect
of obtaining a Change in our Constitution is becoming
much more favourable than it has been.

Please to present Mr^s Wilson's Compliments and
mine to Mr^s Bingham. Let me hear from you as soon as
possible; and believe me to be, with much Esteem and
Regard,

Yours very sincerely
James Wilson

Philad.^a 15th May 1784

James Wilson
Phila^a May 15th 1786

20
25

13.40
10.10

Accompanied to the
particular care of
Captain Smith

London

William Bingham Esq^r

Dear Sir,

I ought to have written to you long before this time. My only apology is, that I have been impartial, and have not been a worse Correspondent to you than I have been to my other Friends. This Scene of Business, public and private, in which I have been engaged since you left Philadelphia has prevented my discharging Duties of this Kind. Besides, after receiving the Letter, which you were good enough to write to me last Summer, I was in daily Expectation of another from you; and, like others who are frugal in their Correspondence, flattered myself I could answer both at the same time. I presume your Prospects with Regard to a Loan for me have not succeeded. I have been advised to try Dr. Lettsom on this Subject. Dr. Rush and Dr. Park have written to him by this Conveyance. If you are acquainted with him; will you be good enough to throw your Weight into the Scale? You know it to be of much Importance to me to be supplied with Money; and I cannot be supplied with it on this Side of the Atlantic. Our Works have stood the very uncommon and violent [Fresher?] which happened in Delaware last Winter. This is a striking Proof of the Goodness and Solidity of Mr. Bird's Plan and Execution. The Water, indeed, made a Breach round one End of the Dam, and left the Works exposed to great Danger for some Time; but they received no Injury of Consequence; and the Breach will enable us in a dry Season, to throw in more Water on the Works than we should otherwise have done; for Mr. Bird proposes to place there an additional Set of Head-Gates. In short, Nothing but the Command of Money is wanting to complete our System speedily. You may, therefore, judge how much you will oblige me by your Assistance in this Way.

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I will not, at this Time, detain you with State Politics, except to mention that, in my Opinion, the Prospect of obtaining a Change in our Constitution is becoming much more favourable than it has been.

Please do present Mrs. Wilson's Compliments and mine to Mrs. Bingham. Let me hear from you as soon as possible; and believe me to be with much Esteem and Regard,

Yours very sincerely,
James Wilson
Philad'a. 15th May 1784

William Bingham Esquire