

# Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

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

## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from Joseph Priestley to George Thatcher

**Date:** May 10, 1798

**Location:** I-SpahrB-1965-26

### 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)

275  
Nathumburgh May 10. 1758.

Dear Sir

I thank you for your attention to my paper on Daniel, and wish you would send the number of copies that you have prepared to my Friends in England. I find by a letter just received from London, that they are under no apprehension about an invasion, but I think they make themselves too secure. Whether there be peace or war, there must be a revolution in that country.

The unanimity you speak of in this country does not exist in this neighbourhood. The Gentry, indeed, are generally with you, but the lower classes those who must take the field, had rather fight the English than the French. They do not so soon change their sentiments and ~~habits~~ habits as their superiors.

I have lately received from England an ingenious pamphlet of Dr Tenen's, intitled Thoughts on political insanity, which, if you wish to send, I will send you. I think it will suit this country as well as England. Guided by passion, more than reason, you are, I fear, going to bring a scourge upon yourselves. But it seems to be the method of providence to discipline, and ultimately improve, the world by ~~the~~ the follies and consequent sufferings of man.

The post that brought me your last brought the <sup>which please to return</sup> enclosed. A great number of such letters I used to receive in England, and I have had some from  
yours sincerely, J. D. W. H. G.

P. 1.

I have finished my Exposition of Dance  
as well as the Revolution, and intend, at my leisure,  
of which I have abundance here, to go thro' the  
whole of the Old Testament.

While you are about to ~~trip~~ comb at the  
War on the field, and on the sea, I am  
fighting them in the Laboratory. I have no doubt  
now of demolishing their boasted new system  
of Chemistry.

Full

George Thatcher Esq  
Member of Congress  
Philadelphia

General Gentl  
retat

Northumberland, May 10, 1798

Dear Sir

I thank you for your attention to my paper on Daniel, and wish you would send the number of copies that you have proposed to my friends in England. I find by a letter just received from London, that they are under no apprehension about an invasion, but I think they make themselves too secure. Whether there be peace or war, there must be a revolution in that country.

The unanimity you speak of in this country does not exist in this neighbourhood. The Gentry, indeed, are generally with you, but the lower classes, those who must take the field, had rather fight the English than the French. They do not so soon change their sentiments and habits as their superiors.

I have lately received from England an ingenious pamphlet of *dr Towers*, intitled Thoughts on National Insanity, which, if you wish to see it, I will send you. I think it will this country as well as England. Guided by <sup>S</sup>passion, more than reason, you are, I fear, going to bring a Scourge upon yourselves. But it seems to be the method of providence to discipline, and ultimately improve, the world by the follies and consequent sufferings of man.

The post that brought me your last brought the inclosed, which please to return. A great number of such letters I used to receive in England, and I have had some here.

Yours sincerely, J. Priestley

P.S.

I have finished my Exposition of Daniel as well as the Revelation, and intend, at my leisure, of which I have abundance here, to go thru the whole of the Old Testament.

While you are about to contact the French on the field,  
and on the sea, I am fighting them in the laboratory. I have  
no doubt now of demolishing their boasted new system of  
Chemistry

To: George Thatcher  
Member of Congress  
Philadelphia