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Title: Letter from William Bingham to Benjamin Rush

Date: November 10, 1784

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OParis Novem 10th 1784 four Letter of the 23 august con Nation; Jaluary fattend my self with an apoweance of a forvention taking place, gwith the Prospect of an entire Plange in the defective ants of the forstelection; - The Account of your Mercarriage in this allement, has really afflected me admittery with you that the formerer of the State, with all its Dependences, may continue to avrange etrely under the Handad of the lepule bean Party may there not be and Interest. tell more formed able, because mon numerous to oppose it? - I mean the fountry Party, which composer which a great Majority of the Legislatine your antagonests will be employed, to goen Arength in that wanter, by creating new Pre Judices in the Mends of that flut, & Character, they fortering those featoures that they already entidaen ! Situation with the trading Part of the former

Community, unfortunately occasions them to be too Surceptible of Juch' Impressions; Occurrences that have recently taken whace, I am fearfull, that our Opponents have been too successfull in their attempts of When was that Energy & Motorety of Character, that formerly distinguished out Friends at an Election, when they Suffered two Such abnovious & danquous Persons to be retur one for an apentlyman of the other for len your Descomption on this Occasion, is calculated to injury your Party in the attachment of some of its friends; - for Separatly considered from the Influence which there two Men well disprost in a propular aparably - this ving freuen lance of a declinery facere, will always lend to alienate cutour Charachers, composed of what Himry Materials where attachment is orly en propertion to the leppernand of success or Those who have observed the progresome State of Parties en popular Governments, thus alternate Ebbs of Thows, on best too well convinced of the Fruth of the humiliating Remarks the Test law wite add one their of the Value of Ponn - oyle and to your Strongth; I most for at westly west you may not be mistakin; at any Nate, you Mould not price too much any Rate, you Mould not price too much Releaner on the Espectation For,

consider, that a Politician, in order to gain his Points, becomes all things to all Men _ and however characterized the opposite Party may have hear for a percenting Speciel during the Work, & however abnoveous they may habe been in these -quene thereof, they will probably now aparene a Gentlerels & Moderater on their Politics, ever beyond what the Son of good Government Recollect, or a are in point, the unnatural foolition, that lately took place, for the prespose of opporing the National Bank, of the Molines that occasioned it Votheng is So unitable as popular Opena Invance does the Weakness of Stantimes the Defending of human nature, So ever antly appear, as an the constant Revolutions, that it undergoes The Bulk of Mankend on large foculties are generally led by the fentements of others, of there who have the most Skill of advoitings in furnishing arguments and cuftander vulgers, Succeed the best _ Unfortunatily the greatest Penety & Rechtude of Intention will not be difficunt, without Recovere to this left handed their dom's I have been an attentive Wetnes to leve general Elections in England, & have made many Reflections on the fulyest, which I should be happy to der levened to proper account by our Frunds en Pann But Jam afraid, that too general - sylvama y anapathy

an apathy hastaken place amongst the leading Character of the Upublican Party; - Olem emplen the Fable of the House of the Fortoise _ Perseve - rand will effect wonders _ Too great a Indolene which often proves fold to et The ambition; - You have forced a Set of People from the feest Ports of Honor of Condument in the state; - whelst there is a flimper of Hope to animate them, they will make uncearing Struggles to recover their former Situation, & they well never consider them-- selver fallen, untill little Lucifer, they are June never to rise again - When I left my fountry, I thought this nappy, went had arrived, of that leke old Simeon, I might depart in Peace; - but I now find that we are not to be redeerned at eary a Rate, a that we have till to work out our prolitical Salvation; - & not without Some Tear of Trembling en ache depreded of the opportunity of mot artent Weither for Twenty convened that our lountry well be never great or respectable, wethout Some important (hanges in our Constelestion, which the Republicans alone are inclined to have effected; no

Jurional

No personal Consideration has Weight with me; for it is a Mallen of perfect Indefference who fill the places of public Trust, provided they are honest eller, whom Tolers denote their Designation - for the Esperience of weight day convinces me of the Variety, Newstion of Spirit, that attends public Life _

Some of the Northern Parts of Europe - throe Holland, point of Germany, of Flanders; - My Situations how is perfectly agreeable, - orniving the utile duloi in all my Presents; for the Country Surpaper, these in all the Jongs werends of the dats of Sciences; - nor has any Prople carried the Enjoyment of social Measure to So high a State of Perfection

Jam precedently fortunate an my dequaintance, which lay amongot the first
Class of Characters in the Country

Many Persons are Surprised, that watt
an ample Fortune, Sufficient to supply the full
Extent of my Desires in Europe, I hould still
incline to return to america — but these
People are but little acquainted with that
amor Patrick, that distinguishes the american
Character — Border

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Berider, my dife has hetherto been So much enga ged in the himultuous Scener of Burenits of Theorem, that I have not had an opportunity of indulging my favorite Enjoyment, which is Reteriment & Books; Janticipate the Moments with heart fett Salisfaction, that I Shall devole to Juch Pensents, of I fend no Prospect of doing it centill my Determ the america c Mr Hengham to tow Rest, believe me to be denerely Murded Liber MrBingham the same has a series of the same (13) and the second of the second of the second of

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Mosemb: 8.1784

My dear Sir/

Your Letter of the 23^d August conveys Intelligence of a very unpleasing & unexpected Nature; - I always flattered myself with an assurance of a Convention taking place, & with the Prospect of an entire Change in the defective Parts of the Constitution; - The Account of your Miscarriage in this Attempt has really afflicted me -

Admitting with you, that, the Commerce of the State, with all its Dependencies, may continue to arrange itself under the Standard of the Republican Party, - may there not be an Interest Still more formidable, because more numerous, to appose it? - I mean the CountryParty, which composes Such a great Majority of the Legislature.

Antagonists will be employed, to gain Strength in that Quarter; - by creating new Prejudices in the Minds of that Class of Character, & by fostering those Jealousies that they already entertain - And their relative Situation with the trading Part of the Community, unfortunately occasions them to be too Susceptible of Such Impressions; - From Occurrences that have recently taken place, I am fearfull, that our Opponents have been too successfull in their Attempts -

Where was that Energy & Activity of Character, that
formerly distinguished our Friends at an Election, when they Suffered two
Such obnoxious & dangerous Persons to be returned - one for Assemblyman,
& the other for Censor? - Your Discomfiture on this Occasion,
is calculated to injure your Party in the Attachment of Some of its friends;
- for, Seperately considered from the Influence which these two Men will
Support in a popular Assembly, - this very Circumstance of a declining
Course, will always tend to alienate certain Characters, (composed of
flimsy Materials) whose Attachment is only in proportion to the Assurance
of Success -

Those who have observed the progressive State of Parties in popular Governments, their alternate Ebbs & Flows, are but too well convinced of the Truth of this humiliating Remark -

You flatter yourself that the Repeal of the Test
Law will add one third of the Votes of Pennsylvania to your Strength;
I most fervently wish you may not be mistaken; - At any Rate, you Should
not place too much Reliance on this Expectation
Sider, that a Politician, in order to gain his Points, becomes all things
to all Men - And however characterized the opposite Party may have been
for a persecuting Spirit during the War, & however obnoxious they may have
been in Consequence thereof, they will probably now assume a Gentleness &
Moderation in their Politics, even beyond what the Son of good Government
requires
Recollect, as a Case
in point, the unnatural Coalition, that lately took place, for the purpose
of opposing the National Bank, & the Motives that occasioned it -

Nothing is so unstable as popular Opinion in regard to particular Points of Politics, & in no Instance does the Weakness, & oftentimes the Deformity (?, of human Nature, So evidently appear, as in the constant Revolutions, that it undergoes -

The Bulk of ManKind in large Societies are generally led by the sentiments of others, & those who have the most Skill of Adroitness in furnishing Arguments ad captandum vulgus, Succeed the best - Unfortunately the greatest Purity & Rectitude of Intention will not be Sufficient, without Recourse to this left handed Wisdom -

I have been an attentive Witness to two general

Elections in England, & have made many Reflections on the which I

should be happy to See turned to proper Account by our Friends in Pennsylvania -

But I am afraid, that too general an Apathy has taken place amongst the leading Characters of the Republican Party; - Remember the Fable of the Hare & the Tortoise - Perseverance will affect

Wonders - Too great a Reliance on the Goodness of a Cause creates an Indolence, which often proves fatal to it -

Recallect the usual Efforts of disappointed Ambition;

- You have forced a Set of People from the first Ports of Honor & Emolument in the State; - whilst there is a Glimpse of Hope to animate them, they will make unceasing Struggles to recover their former Situation, & they will never consider themselves fallen, untill like Lucifer, they are Sure never to rise again - When I left my Country, I thought this happy Event had arrived, & that like old Simeon, I might depart in Peace; - but I now find that we are not to be redeemed at so easy a Rate, & that we have Still to work out our political Salvation; - & not without Some Fear & Trembling -

Altho deprived of the opportunity of contributing by personal Efforts, you have my most ardent Wishes for Success - I am convinced that our Country, will be never great or respectable, without Some important Changes in our Constitution, which the Republicans alone are inclined to have affected; - No personal Consideration has Weight with me; - for it is a Matter of perfect Indifference who fill the places of public Trust, provided they are honest Men, whose Talents denote their Designation - for the Experience of every Day convinces me of the Vanity & Vexation of Spirit, that attends public Life -

I have made a delightfull Tour thro Some of the Northern Parts of Europe, - thro Holland, part of Germany, & Flanders; - My Situation here is perfectly agreable, - mixing the utile dulci in all my Pursuits; for no CountrySurpasses this in all the Improvements of the Arts & Sciences; - nor has any People carried the Enjoyment of social Pleasure to So high a State of Perfection -

I am peculiarly fortunate in my Acquaintance, which lay amongst the first Class of Characters in the Country -

Many persons are Surprized, that with an ample Fortune, Sufficient to supply the full extent of my Desires in Europe, I Should still

incline to return to America - but these People are but little acquainted with that Amor Patria, that distinguishes the American character - Besides, my Life has hitherto been So much engaged in the tumultuous Scenes of Business & Pleasure, that I have not had an opportunity of indulging my favorite Enjoyment, which is Retirement & Books; - I anticipate the Moments with heartfelt Satisfaction, that I Shall devote to Such Pursuits, & I find no Prospect of doing it untill my Return to America - .

With my best Compliments, & those of Mrs Bingham to Mrs Rush, believe me to be Sincerely

Your obed hbl ser
Wm Bingham

On verso:

Doctor Rush

Philadelphia

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Wm Bingham

Novembr. 8. 1784