

Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

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

Documents Online

Title: Letter from Timothy Pickering to Charles Hall

Date: August 1, 1799

Location: I-WilliamsC-1956-9

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Philadelphia August 1. 1799.

Dear Sir,

On the 29th ult. I received your favour of the 26th, and with much pleasure have read your observations on Mr. Coopers mischievous address. When the remainder arrives, I will give the whole to one of the printers here for publication. It is important that the observations should circulate as extensively as the poison for which they were intended as the antidote; and especially in the quarter where Coopers address in hand bills has been distributed. If therefore when you shall have finished your observations, you think it will be useful to reprint them in a hand-bill or pamphlet, to be dispersed wherever the address has travelled, pray do it, pay the expence, and take the most convenient mode of applying to me for a reimbursement.

One disadvantage always attends matters of this kind, That the mischief may be

be done in a few words; while many columns
are necessary to expose the misrepresentations
and falsehoods: and many readers are too in-
dolent to peruse long pieces. - If you should
republish your observations, it may be worth
while to revise them for the purpose of conden-
sing them: But I do not know that this can
be done without injuring them: On the con-
trary, you may find it best to extend them.

As to Dr. Priestly, his conduct in this affair
is wholly unpardonable. I once thought him
a persecuted Christian: but I am now satisfied
that ambition influences him, like the mass of
seditions, turbulent democrats; and that no gov-
ernment which human wisdom could devise would
ever make them contented, unless they were placed
at its head. - I am sorry that Cooper like Priestly
has not remained an alien. The indecent in these
strangers thus meddling with our government, merits
a severe animadversion: I hope besides that Mr.
Rowle will prosecute both.

+ If you reprint, send me } I am with sincere esteem & respect
a few copies. } D. Sir your obt. servt.

Charles Hall Esq.

J. Pickering.

(private)

Charles Hall Esq
Sunderbury



Sept 1799
P. Pickens Esq.

Philadelphia, August 1, 1799

Dear Sir:

On the 29th ult. I received your favor of the 26th, and with much pleasure have read your observations on Mr. Cooper's mischievous address. When the remainder arrives, I will give the whole to one of the printers here for publication. It is important that the observations should circulate as extensively as the poison for which they were intended as the antidote; and especially in the quarter where Cooper's address in hand bills has been distributed. If therefore when you shall have finished your observations, you think it will be useful to reprint them in a hand-bill or pamphlet to be dispersed wherever the address has travelled, pray do it, pay the expense, and take the most convenient mode of applying to me for a reimbursement.

One disadvantage always attends matters of this kind, that the mischief may be done in a few words; while many columns are necessary to expose the misrepresentations and falsehoods: and many readers are too indolent to peruse long pieces. If you should republish your observations, it may be worth while to revise them for the purpose of condensing them: But I do not know that this can be done without injuring them: On the contrary, you may find it best to extend them.

As to Dr. Priestly, his conduct in this affair is wholly unpardonable. I once thought him a persecuted Christian: but I am now satisfied that ambition influences him, like the mass of seditious, turbulent democrats; and that no government which human wisdom could devise would ever make them contented, unless they were placed at its head. I am sorry that Cooper like Priestly has not remained an alien. The indecency in these strangers thus meddling with our government, merits a severe animedversion: I hope besides that ~~Mr.~~^{Mr.} Rawle will prosecute both.

If you reprint, send me a few copies. I am with sincere esteem and respect
Dr. Sir your obt. servant

L. Pickering.

Charles Hall, Esq.

T. [unclear]