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Title: Letter from Charles Nisbet to Jonathan Ingham

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I was favoured with your of Nov. I'd only this Day. Mr. Willow under whole lover I received it informs me that it was to liqued to have ben tent by him, when he was here takely, but how it came to linger in his Cuflody till the 8th of this profest Months, I do not know. Such Delays are not without Example in the Regulbic of Letters. To reply to all the particulars of yours, would require a Volume . In the prefent age we have few literary Enthustaffs, especially in this Country. Our Houth in general are los nouch in hafte to be men to take line enough to be promiting Boys, & los much atraid of Labour to acquire any tolerable acquaintance with anticul Learning, to that they readily acquire in the Opinion of those ignorant Quacks & Orojectors in Education, who let thom that the Study of Languages & Cloffical Learning is whelefor & that on may understand the English Language, without understanding nine levels of the Mords releved it is composed, vis. the dalin & Greek Languages. An as these Projectors themselves can not read one Word of the Classics our young Men in general have great Reliance on their Judgment on Account of its Impartiality. But this general Reglect of orthing at Classical dearning has many bad lossequences, both with Regard to the youth in particular I to the public in general. The fouth are accustomed to acquisfee in indistrised Ideas, to confound different things with each other, & to make William where there is no Difference, & to blunder, without being ferfible of it, in the Me of all the Jerms they make Ufe of . And the public are mifled and in poled on by vague & undefined Expressions, which renders them an early Oray to Demagagues, & enables them to frances the groffell defenders For as the Ideas of the People are but few & confided, the Demagague's locabulary needs not be a large one. Give him but the Words "februty " Shitopoply . Toloration , livilitation , Liberality of Sentiment , Rights of Man & perhaps a few more , & he will ving the Change upon them, with he has get all the People of his Hech, who Have at leion & confider him as an tracle. And while Power & Influence can be attained by as thefe, it is no wonder that young Men are averte de thoje Studies which are forourable to clear Conception & just Responing & which

THE PARTY OF THE P Study of the ancient Authors, contributes to Claration of Sentiment, justines in Reasoning & Propriety & Dignit of action that they are to us the "mell favourable dide of human Habure. But theje are not the things that are valued or fought for in our line Money, longer at Influence with the Scople being the only things now in Request. And as it is proposed that in a Republic notited to the turn mate the Fortunes by Speaking met young Men are ambilion of Hudying Phetorie , but they are to much in halle to learn this Ad. that they were neither take time to learn the Language in which they propose to speak, nor to again any knowledge of the things that they will be propose to speak, nor to again any knowledge of the things that they will be of The Love of Glory, which daggled & milled Mon in former Ages , is now becaused by the love of Money & the Making of Lower & lo Hilutions is as much a Mechanical & lucrative Irade, as the Making of Shoes, Cloather, or Books. Morality is in a great Meafaire out. Fathion , the' its Rame, as well as that of Virtue & Religion has Will a favourable Sound , it is pretended to by many who are Strange to the things themselves. But as fashionable Scepticifus has now laught to many to effect winy Sort of Doction & land indifferent to propose that every Man', Conduct is authorised by his Confeience, altho' all agree in commending Religion. Virtue & Morality, there are scarcely any two of them that mean the fame thing, except these who torns their Rolions of Virtue & Morality from the Walance things & the Unifian Revelation. Markind have now got to many Rights, & to much Liberty & Independency, that they will fear admit that they one any Inties, either to God or Man, or that they can be under any Obligations whatfower, except to far to long as they please. In Juch a State of the public Mind, it is a discouraging Talk, to indeavour to introduce a Table for ancient Learning or found Morality office ally when youth are unwilling to frend as much time in these Studies, as may enable them to judge of their Excellency & Upfulness. Ochage all that can be done in the prefent age, is to drop a few Seeds of found Inflored which may possibly thool & appear above Ground in a Julie age, & to endeavour at least to them the Current of Synorance & Das barily & to deliver a few Elements & leading Principles, which if property understood & digetted, may lead those who will be at the Expense of thinking, to just Motions of Virtue & of human Mature. Ignorant Politicians can only have falle & imperfect Views things to that all their Capacity extends only to temporary Expedients . Toyurficial Pullialives of multic toils, & weekend Continuous in authoriting as Whitelade of greater but, in when the present a life, on for fecuring a life for it Il Engree & dat for form of greater ones. But perhaps it may be reckened Hospy to talk in this Manners in an age in which every Man is convinced that he is born a Politician, & that all Men are equally qualified to judge of their political Interests, & to fell every Station in a State. It is Pily that that Elevation & Elasticity which the Minds of the People of this Country acquired by the lake Revolution, was to food damped & edinguifhed, by the mean & Rafeally Contrivances of Depretiation & Speculation, a favourite Production of their poblical deaders, which they have combined to turn to their own private asvantage. the to the unspeakable dops of Publiships & public Spiril. For as form as it was discovered that these who had combibiled to emancipate their Country, were not only to bede prived of their deferved Honours, for lear of introducing Asiptocratical Diffindions, but likewife of the precuriary Kewards of their Services. It that they believed to bransfer their Claims to the Leaders of the People, before they could be allowed a to of any Bonefil to the Moller: When it was dispovered that other Persons were to receive the Kowards of the public Gelilors & Benefactors of the Comma. nity. the honest & well-dipoled Part of the libsons were afterished at fuch Iniquity & Ingralitude, & america lost many Free ? & dimiren beyond the Allantic. But as the dealers contitued to have the Coy of the Ocopie on their side, & to make them believe that they alone were the Friends of their diberty who wither to affront of defrand the real Benefactors of bedilors of the public, il is no wonder that they prevailed, & private Interest became the Object of the Majority line that time . But that the Oublie might not be aware of the Trick that was put upon them, I that it might be out of their Power to deled the Proceedings of Their deaders, it has been made a Rule in all Makles of Finance fince that time, to make every thing as complicated, con Juled & unintelligible as possible. From this originaled the various Donominations, Gradations & Divisions of public Securities as well as the Transfer of Obligations from Congrets to the individual States, & from the individual States the Com greps, and what might be prepared to be a more Romance. The handing of ordering Payment of Interest of the

Exclosed whereof has not as got been affigued. Throwing naturally reforbs to Secrecy & Myllery for Conceatined, but had it not been that multic Main look this amazing Jum, & had not avance & Selfishnop laken the Guife of Patrichips, wen before the Revolution was compliated. but effecially lince the Peace, it was natural for the Friends of Marshind to expect that a Country which had gained to much Renown in Arm. I in the Defence of its diberty, would have acquired no less in the field of acquiflation & Political arrange mente Il was natural in Speculation to propole. that those who had been to sealons in defending their Liberties, would have thosen no les Wildow & Activity, in improving them for the public Good. & adding the Reputation of Civil Wildow & Integrity to the fame that they had acquired in the War. But all Expedations of this Hind have been quite disappointed, of the Golden age of america, if il over arriver, well be put of to force diffant age. & God only knows have many Revolutions & public Conversions it must fuffer before that Time. Abready it may be faid had we are in a declining State of that the Burthons of the Community, compared with its ability to been them, are little Short of those of Great Britain, litty years after its Revolution, the own is of a more recent Date, & a Scheme of beneving , funding & Mock-jobbing is to effectually Ablithed, & incorporated into our Government . That there is no toparating the one from the other way the Bufinch of Ligitation appears to be entirely provided to that of Speculation. And if the Example of a colain Ration flould prevail which has hitherto been very precepted in propagating its Fashions, Public Convulsions. Perjunes Watterer will be adopted as the thortest & most effectual, the not the most regulable Ways of discharging public Incumbrances, of railing Fortunes for fuch as want them. And in all public Revolutions the last of thefen is much more attended to Toll We we now begane a Mation of Slock jobben & must continue fuch till our increased Incumbrances produce an Solven of long and or a ser . wears will be negotiated , to pay the went be diffed towards the Increasing & immortalising the Deth of the public. Expensive & about Project will be merryaged, to from Duff in the Eyes of the Reple, & to raile their Expedations. To build a new City, which Semirania In fartine & Poler the first found to be a Talk that they could hardly accomplish, by all the Exertions of arbitrary wer is now supposed to be a Mables of mere assuspensent, which an indebted Republic of Stack jobben may capity complish by Interprise. I the aid of a few Loans from Holland. In thort, on account of the entire Innovation political Syllem at the Peace, no lure feems now practicable, as the People are contented with their deaders, and per of them partake in their Gains. The People like all other Sovereigns, are ignorant, weak & cafily leduced by Herry , & their deaven lake lave to give them enough of it, to that they have nothing to fear from their Refort. and As long as they are told that America is the freel Mations in the World that its Government is the Wonder the Morte, & its propperity awied by all other Mations. The People will let them do what they pleafe, & proposity to very Inconvenience except Jaxes. I think you are right in Supposing that the Introduction of the Stock jobbing Typhen, & the Encouragement that it this much with, are the bue lantes of the Decline of America, but the Ose. indices that have been infused into the public Mind by the arts of Demagagues . I the absent Methods of Rea. lawing on all public Mallers, which they have brought into Voque have contributed in no lep a Degree, to the fame Effect. Our Affairs are conducted only on the Supposition that we that lovever enjoy Deace, but it a loving War were to take Olace, which is the lafe often in every other Mation, the whole of our profent Sythem would be at a land, a the words be as much sat a lop at healt for a contiderable time, as at the Beginning of the late war with this addition. that the Expedients which were then preceptul, could not be tried a Second Time. He Mortal would accept of longrep Money in Payment for his Goods, nor bruft a focund time to Most faills, which has become proverbial to the Ends of the Earth. Nock-jobbers would refuse to take the field, Officer of Menil I lagracity would not be willing to expose their diver at the Head of an undisciplined & unwilling Militia, Truidly as they know that the Stock jobben & not Manfelves, would receive the Reward of their Services. I acknowledge that I am an unfit Person to write on Finances & Political Deconomy, but it would be imposited that wall be of any Use little for a Person of the greatest Abilities, to give Advices, to a Government destribute of Authority, & unprovided with a Conflithismal force to put its own Laws in Excelsion, as that would amount to the Abfurdity of accomplishing an End without adequate Means. The Sundary of the Treatury has given Proof of his abilities by propoling Eight years Jaxes for bearing the Charge of a billing & unfrecepful War with have or three humbred Indians, but Eight hundred year Jaxes would not be Inflicient for relitting any of the Haval -Jowes of Europe, at the Jame Rate. Befides as almost the whole Revenue of our General Government depends on a minous Apportation, which the very Sufficient of a War with England would reduce to not . The Sources of nor Revenue would be dry, of a line when we had the greatest theed

of them, but what would be rechand work than all this, the Trade of Stocks would be nimed, & the Speculators. by the failure of the Impost, would lok their Interest. Every Government at all times contains the Seeds of its own Diffolution, & in the Order of Malure. the Elements contribute to proport our Liver, without any Defign on their Part, and Governors Danagogues & Slock-jobben may contribute to our civil Security in the very Jame Manner. They man only their own Affairs, but they can not min themselves at the fame time. God reigns over all the North of he can explene us by Fools as effectually as by wife Men. An Individual is nothing in a Republic, in which the Deston of the greateft Abilities & Virtue is only on a Level with the meanest I diet. & only such as make a Trade of Politics, & subjett by descriping the People , can have any Influence. For a Republic is not in Reality a Government of the People, who can not be Governor & governed at the fame time, but an arbitrary Government in the Perfor who from line to live can be notfeel enough to impose on the People. & Mallith theinscher by their Interest. We may talk in private , of Learning , Vista & good Take, as the Sources of political Happines, & endeavour to differninate thom among a few, who are in our Keach but it would be folly to expect that they could ever be relished by ignorant & felfith Politicians, who find by Experience that they can to without them. It is therefore the Duly of private poculative Politicians who form heir Molicips from Le Antigolo, Le heer them to thunslelves or the more ical the state of tak of comes weaten Am to the public, as be People will hear nothing but their own Prailes at Encours Leaders I have expected my fell by freely communicating my opinions on the Subjects mental in your alcter, but I cannot believe that a Verlin who tellifies buch an Elleun for learning, as you do , can either have to little Omderice , as the communicate these Opinions to the Mullitude, which have not colentated for the Meridian of their Understanding, nor to much Malice as to express an inso. cent Stranger No the Vengeance & St. will of a People, who are intoxicated by Hallery, & capatte of the will beages to those who will it states them. Hour Vertien of the Epilaph on Hipponas the Soil needs procession in the danguage & Particle for in the second line, is placed not at the ginning, as it night to be in English , but after another Word, as in Greek & dalin . The thingled in the this is los difflet. The lorn enformed In the fourth, is not supported by Cuffern, & does not colore with the arms of Death, immediately following. In the found Stanza, the term imprep it is in properly joined with Consolity. To in sulge clear, in the fourth Stanza, is incheront - One theapen why we ought to they the ancient Longuages in because their Beauties can not be made appear in a Translation. The Evernovins with it one of his hell Performances & contains sol only the best Victure of antient Manners, but likewife the only Fraces of that we to be found among the Caffies, except the excelengalofis of Sencea. It soliments of the anciente for addly, when branslated into English , because their Manner of Briting & Speaking was to very deferent brown ours , to that we are obliqued a nife them, before they are intelligible. How monting a larger Onched, which you fun you intended. As you may find many opportunity Philadelphic my thing directed for me to the Mr. William Young . Bookfeller in Jeann's Street lorner of Chester Street . me without Trouble, as Pollage is dear in this townby; altho I am pofficionly occupied with the Trust file to lind time & Means to answer any Lucies that may be put to me, by any Outon who is defines of Information with Regularity interesting Subjects. But I carefully avoid the proformen Verlyns, who can hear nothing with Patience, except their com & Juch Projudices as are infufed into them by their deaders. Private Men may be informed, influeled & convinced, but & the Man who attempts to inflored the Mullitude, as he will never fucued, if he has their Interest in View, this he may eafe make them Jooks, to fere his own . A Small Mumber of Perfore in any Country, who proffels good Sinfe, Distre & Jafle, mis be of confiderable Confequence in any Country. the least of all in a Republic, because the look being not only always the most noily . but likewife the Majority , must carry all things as they would have them . It is tome Contolation to these few to hea of one another. It to communicate their thought, unknown to the Mullitude. For the Brefs being reflecined among in, by puts Orejudices , as effectually as it could be by any Laws or licenting Acts, almost nothing but Montante can be expected from it. & no every kind of Montente either, but only luch as happens to be in Voque for the Jime. I am.

your verty humble Servant,

Chai Hisbel.

The make the Just 2 19 1/1 1

Sir,

I was favoured with yours of Novr. 1st only this Day. Mr. Wilson. under whose cover I received it informs me that it was designed to have been sent by him, when he was here lately, but how it came to linger in his Custody till the 8th of this present Month, I do not know. Such Delays are not without Example in the Republic of Letters. To reply to all the particulars of yours, would require a Volume. In the present Age we have few literary Enthusiasts, especially in this Country. Our Youth in general are too much in haste to be men, to take time enough to be promising Boys, & too much afraid of Labour to acquire any tolerable Acquaintance with antient Learning, so that they readily acquiesce in the Opinion of those ignorant Quakks & Projectors in Education, who tell them that the Study of Languages & Classical Learning is useless, & that one may understand the English Language without understanding nine tenths of the Words whereof it is composed. viz. the Latin & Greek Languages. And as these Projectors themselves can not read one Word of the Classics, our young Men in in general have great Reliance on their Judgment on Account of its Impartiality. But this general Neglect of antient & Classical Learing has many bad Consequences, both with Regard to the Youth in particular & to the public in general. The Youth are accustomed to acquiesce in indistinct Ideas, to confound different things with each other, & to make Distinctions where there is no Difference, & to blunder without being sensible of it, in the Use of the Terms they make Use of. And the public are misled and imposed on by vague & undefined Expressions, which renders them an easy Prey to Demagogues, & enables them to swallow the grossest absurdities. For as the Ideas of the People are but few & confused, the Demagogue's Vocabulary need not be a large one. Give him but the Words "Liberty, Philosophy, Toleration, Civilisation, Liberality of Sentiment, Rights of Man, & perhaps a

few more, & he will ring the Changes upon them, till he has got all the People at his Heels, who stare at him and consider him as an Oracle. And while Power & Influence can be attained by (such) acts as these, it is no wonder that young Men are averse to those Studies which are favourable to clear Conception & just Reasoning, & whi (Line illegible)

Study of the ancient Authors, contributes to Elevation of Sentiment, justness in Reasoning, & Propriety & Dignity of Action, & that they to us the most favourable Side of human Nature. But these are not the things that are valued or sought for in our time, Money, Consequence & Influence with the People being the only things now in Request. And it is supposed that in a Republic, political Adventurers make their Fortunes by speaking, most young Men are ambitious of studying Rhetoric, but they are so much in haste to learn this Art, that they will neither take time to learn the Language in which they propose to speak, nor to acquire any Knowledge of the things that they will speak of. The Love of Glory, which dazzled and misled Men in former Ages, is now succeeded by the love of Money, & the Making of Laws & Constitutions is as much a Mechanical & lucrative Trade, as the Making of Shoes, Cloaths, or Books. Morality is in a great Measure out of Fashion, tho' its Name, as well as that of Virtue & Religion, has still a favourable Sound, & is pretended to by many who are Strangers to the things But as fashionable Scepticism has now taught so many to esteem every themselves. sort of Doctrine & Conduct indifferent, to suppose that every Man's Conduct is authorised by his Conscience, altho' all agree in commending Religion, Virtue & Morality. there are scarcely any two of them that mean the same thing, except those who form their Notions of Virtue & Morality from the Nature of things & the Christian Revelation. Mankind have now got so many Rights, & so much Liberty & Independency, that they will scarcely admit that they owe any Duties, either to God or Mam, or that they can be under any Obligations whatsoever, except so far

& so long as they please. In such a State of the public Mind, it is a discouraging Task, to endeavor to introduce a Taste for ancient Learning, or sound Morality, especially when Youth are unwilling to spend as much time in these Studies, as may enable them to judge of their Excellency & Usefulness. Perhaps all that can be done in the present Age, is to drop a few Seeds of sound Instruction which may possibly shoot & appear above Ground in a future Age, & to endeavor at least to stem the current of Ignorance & Barbarity, & to deliver a few Elements & leading Principles, which if properly understood & digested, may lead those who will be at the Expence of thinking, to just Notions of Virtue & human Nature. Ignorant Politicians can only have false & imperfect Views of things, so that all their Capacity extends only to temporary Expedients, supeficial Palliatives of public Evils, & wretched Contrivances, authorising a Multitude of greater Evils, in order to prevent a lesser, or for securing a lesser Good at the Expence & Loss of a

Manner, in an Age in which every Man is convinced that he is a born Politician, & that all men are equally qualified to judge of their political Interests, & to fill every Station in a State. It is a Pity that that Elevation & Elasticity which the Minds of the People of this Country acquired by the late Revolution, was so soon damped & extinguished by the mean & rascally Contrivances of Depreciation & Speculation, a favourite Production of their political Leaders, which they have contrived to turn to their private Advantage, the to the unspeakable loss of Patriotism & public Spirit. For so soon as it was discovered that those who had contributed to emancipate their Country, were not only to be deprived of their deserved Honours, for fear of introducing Aristocratical Distinctions, but likewise of the pecuniary Rewards of their Services, & that they behaved to transfer their claims to the Leaders of the People, before they could be allowed, or be of any

Benefit to the Holders: When it was discovered that other Persons were to receive the Rewards of the public Creditors & Benefactors of the Community, the honest & well-disposed Part of the Citizens were astonished at such Iniquity & Ingratitude, & America lost many Friends & Admirers beyond the Atlantic. But as the Leaders contrived to have the Cry of the People on their Side, & to make them believe that they alone were the Friends of their Liberty, who wished to affront & defraud the real Benefactors & Creditors of the public, it is no wonder that they prevailed, & that private Interest became the Object of the Majority since that time. But that the Public might not be aware of the Trick that was put upon them, & that it might be out of their Power to detect the Proceedings of their Leaders, it has been made a Rule in all Matters of Finance since that time, to make every thing as complicated, confused & unintelligible as possible. From this originated the various Denominations, Gradations & Divisions of public securities as well as the Transfer of Obligations from Congress to the individual States, & from the individual States to the Congress, and what might be supposed to be a mere Romance, the funding & ordering Payment of Interest, of Claims, the Extent whereof has not as yet been assigned. Knavery naturally resorts to Secrecy & Mystery for Concealment, but had it not been that public Affairs took this amazing Turn, & had not Avarice & Selfishness taken the Guise of Patriotism, even before the Revolution was compleated, but especially since the Peace, it was natural for the Friends of Mankind to expect that a Country which had gained so much Renown in Arms, & in the Defence of its Liberty, would have acquired no less in the field of Legislation & Political Arrangements. It was natural in Speculation to suppose that those who had been so zealous in defending their Liberties, would have shown no less Wisdom & Activity in improving them for the public Good, & adding the Reputation of Civil

Wisdom & Integrity to the same that they had acquired in the War. But all Expectations of this Kind have been quite disappointed, & the Golden Age of America, if it ever arrives, must be put off to some distant Age, & God only knows how many Revolutions & public Convulsions it must suffer before that Time. Already it may be said that we are in a declining State, & that the Burthens of the Community, compared with its Ability to bear them, are little short of those of Great Britain, fifty Years after its Revolution, tho' ours is of a more recent Date, & a Scheme of borrowing, funding & stock-jobbing is so effectually established, & incorporated into our Government, that there is no separating the one from the other, may the Business of Legislation appears to be entirely subordinate to that of Speculation. And if the Example of a certain Nation should prevail, which has hitherto been very successful in promoting its Fashions, Public Convulsions, Perjuries & Massacres will be adopted as the shortest & most effectual, tho' not the most repuatable Ways of discharging public Incumbrances, as well as of raising Fortunes for such as want them. And in all public Revolutions the last of these Objects is much more attended to than the first. We are now become a Nation of Stock-jobbers, & must continue such, till our increased Incumbrances produce a Revolution of some kind or other. as the Efforts of Politicians Loans will be negotiated, to pay may now be directed towards the Increasing & immortalising the Debts of the public. Expensive & absurd Projects will be incouraged, to throw Dust in the Eyes of the People, & to raise their Expectations. To build a new City, Which Semiramis Constantine & Peter the first found to be a Task that they could hardly accomplish, by all the Exertions of arbitrary Power, is now supposed to be a Matter of mere Amusement, which an indebted Republic of stock-jobbers may easily accomplish by Subscription, & the Aid of a few Loans from Holland. In short, on Account of the entire Innovation of our political System at the Peace, no Cure

seems now practicable, as the People are contented with their Leaders, and some of them partake in their Gains. The People, like all other Sovereigns, are ignorant, weak & easily seduced by Flattery, & their Leaders take Care to give them enough of it, so that they have nothing to fear from their Resentment. As long as they are told that America is the Freest Nation in the World, that its Government is the Worlder of the World, & its prosperity envied by all other Nations, the People will let them do what they please, & submit to every Inconvenience except Taxes. I think youngre right in supposing that the Introduction of the Stock-jobbing System, & the Encouragement that it still meets with, are the true Causes of the Decline of America, but the Prejudices that have been infused into the public Mind by the Acts of Demagogues, & the absurd Methods of Reasoning on all public Matters, which they have brought into Vogue have contributed in no less a Degree, to the same Effect. Our Affairs are conducted only on the Supposition that we shall forever enjoy Peace, but if a foreign War were to take Place, which is the Case often in every other Nation, the whole of our present System would be at an End, & we would be as much at a loss at least for a considerable time, as at the Beginning of the late War, with this Addition, that the Expedients which were then successful, could not be tried a second time. No Martal would accept of Congress Money in Payment for his Goods, not trust a second time to that faith, which has become proverbial to the Ends of the Earth. Stock-jobbers would refuse to take the field, Officers of Merit & Capacity would not be willing to expose their Lives at the Head of an undisciplined & unwilling Militia, especially as they know that the Stock-jobbers & not themselves, would receive the Reward of their Services. I acknowledge that I am an unfit Person to write on Finances & Political Occonomy, but it would be impossible for a Person of the greatest

"Importation" altered

Abilities, to give Advice that could be of any Use to a Government destitute of Authority, & unprovided with a Constitutional force to put its own Laws in Execution, as that would amount to the Absurdity of accomplishing an End without adequate Means. The Secretary of the Treasury has given proof of his Abilities by proposing Eight Years Taxes for bearing the Charge of a trifling & unsuccessful War with two or three hundred Indians, but Eight hundred Years Taxes would not be sufficient for resisting any of the Naval Powers of Europe, at the same Rate. Besides as almost the whole Revenue of our General Government depends on a ruinous Exportation, which the very Suspicion of a War with England would reduce to nothing, the sources of our Revenue would be dry, at a time when we had the greatest Need of them, but what would be reckoned worse than all this, the Trade of Stocks would be ruined, the Speculators, by the failure of the Impost, would lose their Interest. Every Government at all times contains the Seeds of its own Dissolution, & in the Order of Nature, the Elements contribute to support our Lives, without any Design on their Part, and Governors Demagogues & Stock-jobbers may contribute to our civil Security in the very same manner. The mind only their own Affairs, but they cannot ruin us without ruining themselves at the same time. God reigns over all the World, & he can preserve us by Facts as effectually as by wise Men. An Individual is nothing in a Republic, in which the Person of the greatest Abilities & Virtue is only on a Level with the meanest Idiot, & only such as make a Trade of Politics, & subsist by deceiving the People, can have any Influence. For a Republic is not in Reality a Government of the People, who can not be Governors & governed at the same time, but an arbitrary Government, in the Persons Who from time to time can be artful enough to impose on the People, & establish themselves by their Interest. We may talk in private, of Learning, Virtue & good Taste,

as the Sources of political Happiness, & endeavors to disseminate them among a few, who are in our Reach, but it would be folly to expect that they could ever be relished by ignorant & selfish Politicians, who find by Experience that they can do without them. It is therefore the Duty of private speculative Politicians who form their Notions from the Antients, to keep them to themselves, think of communicating (Half line illegible) them to the public, as the People will hear nothing but their own Praises & Encomiums (from) their Leaders. I have expressed myself by freely communicating my Opinions on the Subjects mentioned in your Letter, but I cannot believe that a Person who testifies such an Esteem for learning, as you do, can either have so little Prudence, as to communicate these Opinions to the Multitude, which are not calculated for the Meridian of their Understanding, nor so much Malice as to expose an innocent Stranger to the Vengeance & Ill-will of a People who are intoxicated by flattery, & capable of the vil(est ou)trages to those who will not flatter them. Your version of the Epitaph on Hipponax the Poet needs correction in the Language (. The) Particle "for," in the second line, is placed not at the beginning, as it ought to be in English, but after another Word, as in Greek & Latin. The thought in the third is too diffuse. "enshrouded" in the fourth is not supported by Custom, & does not cohere with the "Arms of Death," immediately following. In the second Stanza, the term "impress'd," is improperly joined with Curiosity. To indulge a tear, in the fourth Stanza, is incoherent. - One Reason why we ought to study the ancient Languages. is because their Beauties can not be made appear in a Translation. The Zucakov critus is one of his best Performances, & contains not only the best Picture of antient Manners, but likewise the only Traces of H that are to be found among the Classics, except the Apocolocyntosis of Seneca. The

sentiments of the ancients so(und) oddly, when translated into English, because their Manner of thinking & speaking was so very different from ours, so that we are obliged to (re)vise them, before they are intelligible. Yoummention a large Packer, which you say you intended. As you may find many Opportunities (for?) Philadelphia, any thing directed for me, to the Care of Mr. William Young, Bookseller in second Street, Corner of Chestnut Street,

me without Trouble, as Postage is dear in this Country. Altho! I am sufficiently occupied with the Duties of my Office Means to answer any Queries that may be put to me, by any Person who is desirous of Information with Regard to any interesting Subjects. But I carfully avoid the profanum vulgus, who can hear nothing with Patience, except their own Praises, & such Prejudices as are infused into them by their Leaders. Private Men may be informed, instructed & convinced, but wo be to the Man who attempts to instruct the Multitude, as he will never succeed, if he has their Interest in View, tho! he may easily make the Tools, to serve his own. small Number of Persons, in any Country, who profess good Sense, Virtue & Taste, may be of considerable Consequence tho' least of all in a Republic, because the fools being not only always the most noisy, but likewise the Majority, must carry all things as they would have them. It is some Consolation to these few to hear of one another, & to communicate their thoughts, unknown to the Multitude. For the Press being restrained among us, by public Prejudices, as effectually as it could be by any Laws or Licensing Acts, almost nothing but Nonsense can be expected from it, & not every kind of Nonsense either, but only such as happens to be in Vogue for the Time.

Sir, Your very humble servant, Chas. Nisbet.

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