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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from William Bingham to John Montgomery

**Date:** August 10, 1783

**Location:** RG 1/1 - 3.2.1.2

### 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)

W. Livingston College  
Copy  
J. M. Montgomery Esq. London August 10th 1783

Dear Sir

I have paid particular Attention to your Request on the Subject of making Enquiries how far the Institution of a Seminary on the Western Side of the Susquehanna, would meet with Encouragement from the People of this Country -

Policy, dictating the Necessity of cultivating a Direct Commercial Connection with the United States, has in View the immediate Advantages to be derived therefrom - - Thus far, we may place Dependence on their professional Attachment -

To what Extent they are desirous of promoting our Prosperity in any other Line, former Experience must evince -

At present the British are smarting under the Wounds that the Seizure of so great a Part of their Empire, with an Accumulation of an immense Debt has inflicted -

Nevertheless in so large a Community, composed of Persons of various Pursuits & Dispositions, there may probably be found many, who would wish to encourage our Undertaking - Men of pure & liberal Principles, - Citizens of the World, who carry their Ideas beyond the contracted Limits of their own Society, & look on all Mankind as their Brethren -

Such Persons will contribute from a benevolence of Heart - from a View of dignifying the human Species, by expanding the Light of Knowledge amongst them - To such Characters Applications may be made with a Prospect of Success - I hope the Progress of this Business will

be great

be great & rapid, & that the Encouragement it will meet with from our Legislature & the worthy Citizens of Pennsylvania, will independent of foreign Success insure its Success.

It can encounter no Opposition, but from Men of designing Views, who are so lost to Liberality of Sentiment, as to wish to make the Cultivation & Extension of Science, yield to their partial narrow System of Politics.

The great Number of Representatives in Assembly, that this immense western Country will furnish, increasing in a Ratio with its Population, makes it an Object of the most serious Importance, to establish a Seminary of Learning amongst them.

To make Laws, Regulations & Ordinances for a young Country — to take in all circumstances, physical & moral, necessary & relative, — passing & permanent, & ably combine them to the Service of the public Weal, — to encourage Population, Arts, Manufactures, & Commerce, — is a Business that requires the utmost Extent of human Knowledge, & cultivated Genius.

With what Appearance of Reason & Propriety then, can an Institution, formed for the Purpose of procuring Advantages, so essential to those who are to be employed in legislating for an Infant Republic, meet with Opposition? I hope the Attempt will be as unsuccessful as it is disreputable, —

If dwelling my Residence

Am

how, or my Excursion thro any other Country, it  
Should be in my Power to promote its Success, by  
rendering it Service, I shall esteem my Time  
& Attention peculiarly well employed -

Yours  
James

When I have space

Mr. B. B. B. B.  
June 6, 1847

Copy

London August 10th 1783

Jno Montgomery Esq.

Dear Sir/

I have paid particular attention to your Request on the subject of making Enquiries how far the Institution of a Seminary on the western Side of the Susquehannah, would meet with encouragement from the People of this Country.

Policy dictating the Necessity of Cultivating a Great Commercial Connection with the United States, has in view the immediate advantages to be derived therefrom -- thus far, we --- may place Dependance, on their professional attachment.

To what Extent they are desirous of promoting our Prosperity in any other Line, Time & Experience must evince..

At present the British are smarting under the wounds that the Secession of So great a Part of their Empire, with an Accumulation of an immense Debt has inflicted.

Nevertheless in so large a Community, composed of persons of various Pursuits & Dispositions, there may probably be found many, who would wish to encourage our undertaking -- Men of pure & liberal Principles, -- Citizens of the World, who carry their Ideas beyond the contracted limits of their own Society & look on all Mankind as their Brothers.

Such Persons will contribute from a Benevolence of Heart - from a View of dignifying the human Species, by expanding the light of Knowledge amongst them -- To Such Character[s], application may be made with a Prospect of Success.

I hope the Progress of this Business will be great & rapid, of that the Encouragement it will meet with from our Legislature of the worthy Citizens of Pennsylvania, will independent of foreign Succo<sup>r</sup> insure its Success.

William Bingham to Jno Montgomery Esq. (Page 2)

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With what appearance of Reason & Propriety then, can an Institution, formed for the Purpose of procuring Advantages, So essential to those who are to be employed in legislating for an Infant Republic, meet with Opposition? -- I hope the attempt will be as <sup>UN</sup>successful as it is disreputable, --- If during my residence here, or my Excursion thro any other Country, it should be in my Power to promote its Success by rendering it Services, I shall esteem my Time & attention peculiarly well employed --

I am sc?

(On verso) Wm Bingham to Jno Montgomery