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Title: Letter from William Bingham to Benjamin Rush

**Date:** January 1, 1784

**Location:** MC 2001.13, B1, F6

#### **Contact:**

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162 London Jany 1. 1784. You have been be Janquene, my good Freind, in your Expedations of Jucup, on the Subject of my proceeding Contributions to the Support of Decker son folling Contributions to the Surfaces for an Enumeration of the Causes, that occasion the Disappointment; Doct Price and with whom I am or Ferms of friendly Intercount writer you by this Opportunity, & I have no doubt will confirm to you the Propertity of withholdery all Solicitations; at least for the However, I comole myself well the Reflection that the Friends of this Institution in Pinnyliamia an dady increasing in Nume ber, & that their Evertions will be Sufficient to establish it on a Stable fremament Footing you give of the facerable asterns at the Election grantemplate with People the pleasing Pros. Such of a Change of fon Melection: Nothing else is wanting to rouse Pennsylvania to the med destinguished lank amongst he fester States The abdication of fangress in a levere Oflow a the Interest of Whilacely hear. It would be Some Reparation for the elles fateene, of they would fine theer fadical Town on the Banks of the

Delaware; But Jam confident that great Efforts well be made to retarn them a Maryland Sweether allester of light lative form Descrip will become a Serious Matter of light lative form Devation, as it must eventually very deeply affect the Welfare of Pennsylvania I west you would enform me, when it is whow long their Reliberations of the latter well last, foreverent, being fully determined on The fountry is at foresent in great for fureon, of whileto every Mark of approaching Troubles Timilar to theory which took palmer in the Bugo of Charles the first the Beneath of making a Radical Reformation into the Office of the East India Company, a profised a Believe the Perspece by a Majordy of 119 By the personal Interference of Influence of the Hong, who became apprehensive of its creating a Rower to be evented by the ellemeters, which exceed render them about the Contract of his authority, at was rejected ; unmediately taken from the Menesteer of the respective Departments, & delevere ente the Hands of those who were the Scoret adverser of the Hing on this Occasion However, it is respected that the latter well not be able to retour three Seals, as the House of, Cornmons have petitioned the Fling against a Depoletion of Tarleament, of a large Majorety of this are opposed to the new administrations annot their factions Struggle for Vower, in the leading Character of the fourtry, in order to

I have the Emoluments of Office, the public Offaces are ento a fonvulsion; The Stocks have fallen amozingly, & there ageneral apprehension of Still cained to the lank of first lood of the Tocarry of honcellor of the Eschagar; The perhaps well astonish Some fentlemen, who were of opinion that a Conon was incompetent to the descharge of the Duties of problect lefe in Pennsylvania, at the age of Therty Whelest the Mends of Politicians are acutaled with the dreamy orospect of public affaces, the altertion of the literary world is entirely lesten up well the froprove ment of the act Prolloons you doubtly have already heard of the recent Experiments of Mone Mond offer of others, who by felling then halloon with inflammable der, have undered them Sucefically comuch lighter than the common atmorphen, as to arcend any given Height By increasing their Typ, they have been made capable of inpresting the Weight of Several Persons who have been riefrended thereto, of who have trown ased the Distance of Forty Mile in the Degrons of Bullion By carrying up approacates proper for the urpore of qualifying this common Bur, lo as to forma continue Supply, they can increase their floot when they are undertaking long Journeer of by differing of to arcape, they can let themselves down whenever they Haink peroper I onprovements that well be made of the Discovery of the eneful Presposes to which they may her

has the biraliments of converted i By the agristance of Small air Prubosis, attached to different parts of the hearn an Body, that will be wantly refficient to Keeps a kegging and it wishes did in der in equilibris, a with the help of a Pair of Wings, what can prevent its making a Progress there the dir with great Facility? Well not this be a cheap of easy Method of Fravelling Various Conjectures are formed of the falure advantages a Disadvantages of these Jonprove ments, with regard to the Peace of Happenets of Jocety Indoneyoua Pamphlet which I com metted to the Prefs in a Hourry, in order to counter act the Influence of contain Openions, that were very prevalent here; operating to the Deractiven tage of our Commercial Gottents; At has bun attended with much greater Effect, than expected from which a harty Informance, who contributed to imprefe on the People of the lounty a peroper Tenne of the Value of the Brancar well be and to long neh - It would grieve me if her Mame Mould be again held up to public Notice, by his Party, as it was last year, for this appointment, & south Day of Election, be hamifully directed; atheir chosen Mand so the dest of fandedates; - Such Soharren must wound the receings of a clan of the least Semibelety; - for the Conduct of houranders or public Life, hould bear an severe a Seresting, as in theres

#### London Jany 1 1784

You have been too Sanguine, my good Friend, in your Expectations of Success, on the Subject of my procuring Contributions to the Support of Dickinson College

I refer you to a Letter addressed to the Trustees for an Enumeration of the Causes, that occasion the Disappointment; Doctr Price, with whom I am on Terms of friendly Intercourse, writes you by this Opportunity, & I have no doubt will confirm to you the Propriety of withholding all Solicitations; at least for the present

However I console myself with the Reflection, that the Friends of their Institution in Pennsylvania are daily increasing in Number, & that their Erections will be Sufficient to establish it, on a Stable & permanent Footing

I am extremely flattered with the Accounts you give of the favorable Returns at the Election, & contemplate with Rapture, the pleasing Prospects of a Change of Constitution;-Nothing she is wanting, to raise Pennsylvania to the most distinguished Rank, amongst her Sister States

The Abdication of Congress is a Severe Blow on the Interests of Philadelphia;-It would be Some Reparation for the Misfortune, if they would fire their fœderal Sown on the Banks of the Delaware

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Delaware; But I am confident that great Efforts will be made to retain them in Maryland, & without attentive Care to prevent it, probably with Success.

I hope this Business will become a Serious Matter of legislative Consideration , as it must eventually very deeply affect the Welfare of Pennsylvania

I wish you would inform me, when not as expected the Council of [Canrons?] will call a Convention, & how long their Deliberations of the latter will last, precious to the Constitution & Form of Government, being fully determined on

This Country is at present in great Confusion, & conflict every Mark of approaching Troubles Similar to those, which took place in the Reign of Charles the first.

The House of Commons had entered into the Business of making a Radical Reformation in the Affairs of the East India Company, & passes a Rule for this Purpose, by a Majority of 119. By this personal Interference & Influence of the King, who became apprehensive of its creating a Power, to be exerted by the Ministers, which would render them above the Constraint of his Authority, it was rejected in the House of Lords;

The Seats were immediately taken from the Ministers of the respective Departments, & delivered into the Hands of those, who were the Secret Admirers of the King, on this occasion-

However, it is expected that the latter will not be able to retain their Seats as the House of Commons have predetermined the Kings against a Dissolution of Parliament, & a large Majority of them are opposed to the new Administration

Amidst this factious Struggle for Power, in the leading Characters of the Country, in order to Share

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Share the Emoluments of Office, the public Affairs are suspended, its Credit Suffering, & the whole Nation thrown into a Convulsion; The Stocks have fallen amazingly, & there is a general apprehension of Still greater Distress-

Mr Patt, a young Man of 27 Years of Age, is raised to the Rank of first Lord of the Treasury, & Chancellor of the Exchequer; This perhaps well astonish Some Gentlemen, who were of opinion that a Person was incompetent to the Discharge of the Duties of public life in Pennsylvania, at the Age of Thirty.

Whilst the attends of Politicians are agitated with dreary Prospect of public Affairs, the Attention of the literary world is entirely taken up with the Improvement of the Air Balloons You doubtless have already heard of the recent Experiments of Mons Montgolfier & others, who by filling these Balloons with inflammable Air, have rendered them Specifically So much lighter than the common Atmosphere, as to ascend any given Height

By increasing their , they have been made capable of Supporting the Weight of Several Persons, who have been Suspended thereto, & who have traversed the Distance of Forty Miles in the Regions of the Air

By carrying up apparatus proper for the Purpose of qualifying this common air, So as to form a continuous Supply, they can increase their Stock when they are undertaking long Journies; & by Suffering at to escape, they can let themselves down whenever they think proper.

Great Expectations are formed of im the Improvements that will be made of this Discovery, & of the useful Purposes to which they may be converted.

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#### converted.

By the Assistance of Small Air Balloons, attached to different parts of the human Body, that will be exactly Sufficient to keep a human it Suspended in Air, in equilibrio, & with the help of a Pair of Wings, what can prevent its making a Progress thro the Air with great Facility? Will not this be a cheap & easy Method of travelling?

Various Conjectures are formed of the future Advantages & Disadvantages of these Improvements, with regard to the Peace & Happiness of Society

I enclose you a Pamphlet which I committed to the Press in a Hurry, in order to counter act the Influence of certain Openness, that were very prevalent here, operating to the Diradian tags of our Commercial Interests;

It has been attended with much greater Effect, than I expected from Such a hasty Performance, & has contributed to impress on the People of the Country a proper Sense of the Value of the American Commerce

I am happy to find that our Friend Cad Morris will be Sent to Congress-It would grieve me if his Name Should be again held up to public Notice, by his Party, as it was last Year, for this Appointment, & on the Day of Election, be a Shamefully directed; & others chosen by intriguery Interests, who were never expected to Stand on the List of Candidates; Such Bohaerous [?] must wound the Feelings of a Man of the brash Sensibility-for the Conduct of Characters in public Life, Should bear as Sever a Scrutiny as in their private Concerns

I am with truth & Sincerity Yours affectionately

P.S. I enclose one of the Pamphlets for the President

Jan 1. 1784