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Title: Letters from John Dickinson to Benjamin Rush

**Date:** 1786-1803

**Location:** MC 2001.13

### **Contact:**

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leaster,

armitione of hearter that the able from to committee of the latter, I hearter defice to Nidet le lection as to the Salary, those who are lest informed, are lestable to judge? The Lortor apprehends, that should be declare limited familiate comother be decled, those might be able from to comply with the promises of paying his fraginge some. Sincly person of well, truely respectable Thananter, as those comorned, can rever dust an Blea of that hind. Sam permaded, your street forts will be excled to extraguish it, if the Suntion arms.

in the Opinion Shows ever ontestained Carpressed concerning the Saite of the College. He says - The public Works would afford anound of the Continent.

Reyond de South, they and alarge Stent of from anoung them, would be now fewered, guerry Inconvenience removed Cosper heer planted — the theory improved to the lech advantage — and Imagination comprovedy inggotamore delightful z convenient to be for the Mine:

This

This is the just the great the beautiful plan, that should be instantly adopted - Then Carlisla The college will flourist together-and there is Receion to believe - Pavente Numine - in an aminist Manner - If any other plan is pursued, both will reffer\_ and Porterity will with Indignation condomn their amentos, who pormitted fuch Buldring, to fall usales into Acing before theirles, Zouch vait advantages to offer thermalies without being aupter. ho answer has yet been returned by the Trustees torny proposal, concerning my plantation. another year's Cent of another year's Inland will four become due; and if the proposal are not another in lay, Committaines wile obligable to commider the hon moptance is allefusal. I shall often it a kinding if you will obtain a Decision on their point, with many oprefusion of Pespect on my part. Myanneaving Informities and Impossibility of attendance, inducelle again carnicky torequest, that fourville prevail on the board at their not Meeting, to druss another porron Cherident in my Race. Sampine mind holomony 2-1786

[Wilmington, February 27, 1786]

Dear Sir,

Upon the satisfaction I have received in reading General Armstrong's Letter, I heartily desire Dr. Nisbet's ReElection-as to the salary, those who are best informed, are best able to judge.

The Doctor apprehends, that should he declare himself a Candidate & another be elected there might be a Refusal to comply with the promises of paying his passage Home. Surely persons of such truely respectable Character as those concerned, can never adopt an Idea of that kind. I am persuaded your utmost Efforts will be exerted to extinguish it, if the Question arises.

His Letter confirms Me in the opinion I have ever entertained & expressed concerning the Scite of the College. He says-The public Works would afford Accomodations for a College, perhaps not to be equalled on the Continent.

Beyond all Doubt, they and a large Extent of Ground around them, should be now secured, & every Inconvenience removed Proper Trees planted-the streams improved to the best advantage-and Imagination can scarcely suggest a more delightful & convenient abode for the Muses.

This

[Page Break]

This is the just-the great-the beautiful plan, that should be instantly adopted-Then Carlisle & the College will flourish together-and there is Reason to believe-Favente Numine-in an eminent Manner-If any other plan is pursued, both will suffer-and Posterity will with Indignation condemn their Ancestors who permitted such Buildings to fall useless into Ruins before their Eyes, & such vast Advantages to offer themselves without being accepted.

No Answer has yet been returned by the Trustees to my proposal, concerning my plantation. Another Year's Rent & another Year's Interest will soon become due; and if the proposals are not accepted in May, Circumstances will oblige Me to consider the Non Acceptance as a Refusal. I shall esteem it a Kindness, if you will obtain a Decision on this point, with every Expression of Respect on my part.

My increasing Infirmities and Impossibility of Attendance, induce Me again earnestly to request, that You will prevail on the Board at their next Meeting, to chuse another President in my Place.

I am Sir, Your Sincere Friend

John Dickinson

Wilmington February 27th 1786

Dr. Rush

Deather.

fromise the for afhort Prine, that little freie which I composed for an amount ment of the Constitution of this Itale, when the Council of Cencor was niting here—

You will fractive arry favour the, if for will be pind as to lend it to the now, and would be of fractive arrive—

your affectionals

Hurrd ay august 9

Tohn Dukinisto

prawh

[Thursday, August 9, 1787?]

Dear Sir,

Some Weeks ago You were so kind as to promise Me for a short Time, that little piece which I composed for an amendment of the Constitution of this State, when the Council of Censors was sitting here-

You will particularly favour Me, if You will be so kind as to lend it to Me now, as it would be of particular Use -

Your affectionate

John Dickinson

Thursday August 9

Dr. Rush

Est: eff a letter from ugens, be please, my dear hiend, to anothing though, forthy havor of the with, and the Indonner. Imay safely say, allways afford the amusement and Benefit They either agreably source Information, or represent what was before known, is as to make a lucalier Inspection. Happings tohave the Mind contantly disposed to heat of useful Subject, because good may be done to others, and that, certainly is the lest purpose for which Life can be employed, The Phopeets of public holicity mud communicates Solight to every worthy steen. Minny ardent With, that the People of The United States may make argreat a reformation in Manners and beitoms, as they have made in government. Why thould the Habit of herope, base in their origin, and debacing in their Continuance, become Laws to the Som of Incedom. 4 11 If there is a Fruth

in coory thing, and an Morrance of that Frith is required by our Cereator, with an Observance is the Suty of a Nation posessing Liberty of action. Thou should be a simplicity in the whole. Wi in it, hatwe productive of advantages. Imale Matter lead to serious Consequences.

Let 11 not weakly, and meanly, and treasherously, and improverly neglect the opportunity given to be by God, of heaving by our hample to our hollowcitizen of the world, how meemon ought to live. 11 Jam thy finerely affortionate Thrend Tohn buck invoys Wilmington Ortober 21-1790 Ir Ruch Auladolphia - And Thave ust seen Keehard

which you commend so highly, Importance of religions opinions, and theofore donot know, how he treat the hilyest. We find from the Eporione of Montind, "the Importance of Moutind, great leal of troor, What must be the the of the Christian Lystem, directed of the Creeds of Orgot, and of the Reveries of Enthusiait. Reason would then nolonger be displaced to make Way for haith, nor the Gestimony of Nature be degraded by the loidence of Nevelation. Unharmonious Relationship among all the geft of Heaven would be seen, sou fest, and felt. Mea attom of then would be influenced by their Belief, because their Belief would be firm; and their actions would be proper, because their Solies would be right. What Infidelity has been coused by attempty to make Men believe too much - What Confusion by the Ufotts of Leal without hunwledge.

[Wilmington, October 21, 1790]

Ext: off a letter from a gent in Wilmington

Be pleased, my dear Friend, to accept my Thanks for thy Favor of the ninth, and the inclosures.

My Writings, I think I may safely say, allways afford me amusement and Benefit. They either agreably convey Information, or represent what was before known, so as to make a livelier Impression.

It is a great Happiness to have the Mind constantly disposed to treat of useful subjects, because good may be done to others, and that certainly is the best purpose for which Life can be employed.

"The Prospects of public Felicity must communicate Delight to every worthy Man. It is my ardent Wish, that the People of the United States may make as great a Reformation in Manners and Customs, as they have made in Government. Why should the Habits of Europe, base in their origin, and debasing in their Continuance, become Laws to the Sons of Freedom."

"If there is a Truth in

[Page Break]

in every Thing, and an Observance of that Truth is required by our Creator, such an Observance is the Duty of a Nation possessing Liberty of Action. There should be a Simplicity in the whole. It is in its Nature productive of Advantages. Small Matters lead to serious Consequences."

"Let us not weakly, and meanly, and treacherously, and impiously neglect the opportunity given to us by God, of showing by our Example to our Fellow citizens of the World, how Free Men ought to live."

I am thy sincerely affectionate Friend

John Dickinson

Wilmington October 21st 1790

Dr. Rush Philadelphia -

[word started, expunged] "I have not seen Reckar's

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Importance of religious Opinions," which you commend so highly, and therefore do not know, how he treats the Subject.

We find from the Experience of Mankind, "the Importance of religious opinions," even when mix'd with a great Deal of Error. What must be the Effects of the Christian System, divested of the Creeds of Bigots and of the Reveries of Enthusiasts. Beacon would then no

longer be displaced to make Way for Faith, nor the Testimony of Nature be degraded by the Evidence of Revelation. An harmonious Relationship among all the Gifts of Heaven, would be seen, confest, and felt. The actions of Men would be influenced by their Belief, because their Belief would be firm; and their Actions would be proper, because their Belief would be right. What Infidelity has been caused by Attempts to make Men believe too much - What Confusion by the Efforts of Zeal without Knowledge."

Mydear Mind,

a young Man whois a Melation of inme intends to the by toleysich, and I with him to do it under they leave. In the first Haves & hnow the Interest they Senevolence generously takes in the well fare of fourth and particularly of those who look up to theofor Inthuctions formate Allen treeto themselves and uno ful to their hellow beatines; and in the next Have, I am well arguainted with the just Interprise of they mind, that without des pring the hormdation laid by the great Mon who have laboured before thee in they projection, and without fericle ashering to the words of any Mouter, done to believe, that much yet remains to be discovered, and moderally derion to think, that Patiere addals a with pare Intention has Newards yet to leather on hernespelful, deligent The young Man defines to hmow, whether it will fuit thee to

Mydear Grand the Charge of him, and what are the Terms. An hather is not aillan of affluence, and has feveral Children. for the Lappines of thisself and they am able hamily I am our thought for the long been they affectionate mich with which with the wind the winds desprise the Rom Baleon law by the great How White house leterine N's please to inform me immediately on the receipt of this letter whether it will muityou Totale him Di Auch Alilade Mua

[Wilmington, October 4, 1792]

My dear Friend,

A young man who is a Relation of mine intends to study Physick, and I wish him to do it under thy Care.

In the first Places I know the Interest thy Benevolence generously takes in the Welfare of Youth, and particularly of those who look up to thee for Instructions for rendering them true to themselves and useful to their Fellow Creatures; and in the next Place, I am well acquainted with the just Enterprize of thy mind, that without despising the Foundation laid by the great Men who have laboured before thee in thy profession, and without servilely adhering to the Words of any Master, dares to believe, that much yet remains to be discovered, and modestly [word started, expunged] presumes to think, that Nature address'd with pure [u added] Intentions has Rewards yet to bestow on her respectful, diligent [one word illegible]

The young Man desires to know, whether it will suit thee to take

[Page Break]

the Charge of him, and what are the Terms. His Father is not a Man of Affluence, and has several Children.

With many & hearty Wishes for the Happiness of thyself and thy amiable Family, I am, as I have long been thy affectionate Friend

John Dickinson

Wilmington October 4th 1792

NB please to inform me immediately on the receipt of this letter whether it will suit you to take him

Dr. Rush

Philadelphia

My dear miens,

My Letter of the 26 instant is This Morneret received; and Jam much obliged by they attention to the Author of the Famphlet. To begges with When I wrote to the laitor; Trould not for bear thining out the form mondation, pointed them. fromted them. that Sendency, the Effect may be humbly waited for. Hyoung persons that be induced to think, that it exhibit any have of imprejudiced fudgment, Theofuly of Spirit, Saite for polite & devalue, and ardsur in the Cause of Liberty, perhaps they may be benefited by being they reminded that - These are reconcileable with a form Belief in Cleuce ation. To please

and inform, anable to convince. Inely, a higher bank is never to be graan of par desperate. have lately been lathing a love of part transaction in ner eventful age, and it affords Meagreat Seal of fatisfaction to know-that though I newer aimed at the Character of an luthor, yet, whenever peculiar birumtancy have compelled the by a fense of Duty to publish my fentiment, ell my Labors have been deducated to the Interior to of Liberty Their alleways imply a Commection with Virtue and Viety. These were my Objects, alleast arearly as the 24 of May 1764, when opposing as a Member of Openbly the then meditated Change of forement, Jeized the sphotunity Hornding an alarm to my minorant confiding Country, gamit the affel and dangerous Machination of British The farme Objects have fine been uniformly attended to, Comiderations on "The late Regulations of including

the tampach, in 1765 - in the "dore to the Committeed Carrespondence of in 1766 \_ in the harments Letter, in 1767. in the Convention of Fermy warned \_ in the Congressional Wieses I composed and in afmall trait withoutons hame, in 1700, recommending the adoption of the hoseral Comite tution, approved in the thongest Termsly Several Washington, and concerning which I shall communicate forme currous particulars when the on this Petropet I do not resollect a fingle Line I should he anxious to skilerate, which can only be owing, inde, Providence, to the feellence of the fubject, and the Privity of Intention. The present oración. My Wife's Health is beller this year, than it was for a comiderable Period before. The therefore delines bleeding. Sthorwise, I believe, they advice would be followed, for which Wereturn our Thanks. Tam fine couls Wilmington Swember 29-1196 18 mouhmeon I. Ruch Ohiladelphia

[Wilmington, December 29, 1796]

My dear Friend,

Thy Letter of the 26th instant is this Moment received, and I am much obliged by thy Attention to the Publication of the Pamphlet.

When I wrote to the Editor, I could not forbear striking out the Commendations dictated by Friendship, and the Information that directly pointed them.

My Wish is to do good; and if the Treatise has that Tendency the Effect may be humbly waited for. If young persons shall be induced to think, that it exhibits any Traces of unprejudiced Judgment, Cheerfulness of Spirit, Taste for polite Literature, and ardour in the Cause of Liberty, perhaps they may be benefited by being thus reminded that-these are reconcileable with a firm Belief in Revelation.

To please and

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and inform, enable to convince.

If-"de <u>republica</u> nil desperandum est"-surely, a higher Cause is never to be given up as desperate.

I have lately been taking a Review of past Transaction in our eventful Age, and it affords Me a great Deal of Satisfaction to know-that though I never aimed at the Character of an Author, yet whenever peculiar Circumstances have compelled Me by a Sense of Duty, to publish my Sentiments, all my Labors have been dedicated to the Interests of Liberty-which, always imply a Connection with Virtue and Piety.

These were my Objects, at least as early as the 24th of May 1764, when opposing as a Member of Assembly the then meditated Change of Government, I seized the Opportunity of sounding an Alarm to my innocent confiding Country, against the artful and dangerous Machinations of British Policy.

The same Objects have since been uniformly attended to, In Considerations on "The late Regulations of Including the

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the Stamp Act, in 1765-in the "Address to the Committee of Correspondence of" in 1766-in the Farmer's Letter, in 1767-in the first Convention of Pennsylvania-in the Congressional [word started, expunged] I composed-and in a small Tract without my Name, in 1788, recommending the Adoption of the Federal Constitution, approved in the Strongest Terms by General Washington, and concerning which I shall communicate some curious particulars when We meet.

On this Retrospect I do not recollect a single Line I should be anxious to obliterate, which can only be owing, under Providence, to the Excellence of the Subject, and the Purity of Intention.

This is some Encouragement to Me on the present Occasion.

My Wife's Health is better this Year, than it was for a considerable Period before. She therefore declines bleeding. Otherwise, I believe, thy advice would be followed, for which We return our Thanks.

I am sincerely thy affectionate Friend

John Dickinson

Wilmington, December 29<u>th</u> 1796 Dr. Rush Philadelphia My dear horiend,

Infulse quainto my Mind, by the demost to my Heart, ale involved in the Hame of Country. Laden with fear full of Information attanged from public lagargaments for atterforme Weaknofred, Jones again have wentweed to take a Van nitomy transling Shauewitten repidly contact the protect of francis to some H. hwith, and it appeared in his Daper of the twelfth. Theget and they howardship for the if my automptitat proced formit me with full besorvations or even Senit, as in they opinion may be price the full for make the best tise of them I can be full good willety to make the best tise of them I can be fully affection at horizing to present their affection at horizing to present the formal has a full produced by the formal produced to formal produced to the fill pro

[Wilmington, April 15, 1797]

My dear Friend,

The situation of public Affairs has for Some Time distressed Me. The Call of Congress roused Me. I could not resist the Impulse given to my Mind, by Objects the dearest to my Heart, all involved in the Name of Country.

Laden with Years, full of Infirmities, estranged from public Engagements, sensible of my Weaknesses, I once again have ventured to take a Pen into my trembling Hand. I wish'd to consult thee, but Time would not permit. I have written rapidly. Critise [Criticise?] like a Friend, that is freely, as probably, taken [one word illegible] will appear in a Pamphlet. I sent a piece under the Signature of Fabius to Samuel H. Smith, and it appeared in his Paper of the twelfth, are in Forwardness.

As I know thy Affection for they fellow Citizens and thy Friendship for Me, if my Attempt is approved, furnish Me with such Observations or even Hints, as in thy Opinion may be judged serviceable. I will try to make the best Use of them I can.

I am thy affectionate Friend

John Dickinson

Do excuse this scrawl The Bearer waits

Wilmington April 15th 1797

Dr. Rush

My dear hriend,

Inclosed is alopy of habitist Letters in 1700 and 1797, of which Shegthy anefitance. It is much more correct, than the publications in the paper. Some particular Consideration induce the very earneitly to with, that they may be republished in hrance after a postuble; and in that lave Sapprehend, it may be useful to have it openly declared, whois the author and what we the public Hations he has fell'd , or alleast forme of them.

Befogood as to favour Me with the fontiments on this fubject, and to inform be whether Mon or any of they hereind, can facilitate ( The Convey anne of two or three Copies by defferent befrel. Ithis isn'te done, I Mall immediately fend up the Copies. as our fontiment and Wither so entirely worker frond on the great point, relating to the Happings of our hellow (reating, I know the trouble fine will be excused, tho my Mosts may not do as much good as I defie. of the present pluation & know not how loke flent; and yet what can flags

That God may blef thy Lear in lo Myself , to they hamily , and to they Country, ii The frequent, feraent Chayery Wim Suhmon Deprington deprington Wilmington September 30 agy Dr. Ruch Aliladelphia

[Wilmington, September 30, 1797]

My dear Friend,

Inclosed is a copy of Fabius's Letters in 1788 and 1797, of which I beg thy Acceptance. It is much more correct, than the publication in the Papers.

Some particular Considerations induce Me very earnestly to wish, that they may be republished in France as soon as possible; and in that Case I apprehend, it may be useful to have it openly declared, who is the Author and what are the public stations he has fill'd, or at least some of them.

Be

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Be so good as to favour Me with thy Sentiments on the Subject, and to inform Me whether thou or any of thy Friends can facilitate the Conveyance of two or three Copies by different Vessels. If this can be done, I shall immediately send up the Copies.

As our Sentiments and Wishes so entirely correspond on the great points relating to the Happiness of our Fellow Creatures, I know the Trouble I give will be excused, tho my Efforts may not do as much Good as I desire.

Of thy present situation I know not how to be silent; and yet what can I say? May

[Page Break]

That God may bless thy [torn, one word illegible] to thyself, to thy Family, and to thy Country, is the frequent, fervent Prayer of thy truly affectionate Friend

John Dickinson

Wilmington September 30th 1797

Wilmington September 30th 1797

Dr. Rush Philadelphia

My dear horand, halfwith the ments with some for the strings when forthy detter of the descritte initarit. I have a find in our popular of he color house our vie now feut; and forme Memor anduxus are inclised, of which those will make furk use armay be finds Thomas steerne & with Greef, but without furfrige, the atronous attaches on they Reputation. Unecedous ofour hellow weature, and an ardent Sofne to promoto their Welfare, the dearest purity of Intention and the student Integrity of Conduct, cannot prevent the most hortile aggregary.

I speak from Sperience, as well as from leftertion. early youth dedicating lyself, to apost and maintain the Right, and Interest of my holowatizens, and throughout my whole Life feeling, telly seeking their good in my various preblic hundrons, and greatly raparing intead of improving my holling in their ferone, yet what Loads of Obloquey mix'd with the ranket-Malignity house been thrown whom the? Though Imoience and Sencostence commot exempt from with Maulti as these, Hoy are Helmet and flucto for renting them; and when "the whole armour" recommended by the aportle is added, feelers the one, the may heable to flow against the Mule sof The Dark not of this world! In the mount and the late affecting Dispensation, have wounded the an willy

devoting theself for My Country, and generousky exoting the gift, bestowed upon thee, for the Genefit of others.
But \_ What Notwinhave been made? "Dabit Down his que que finein. More canke no doubt, but that they politicas Thingly have provoted these outrage. ai Jame capable of judging it feems to the that "alying spirit" hatte gone out from "the Mouths ofown prophets, and many are "onticed"; but, I trust in the mighty prower of Frutto. Mitimately it will prevais, for it is of god. Whether woner or later, We know not; but let lu, my horand, oneway ourieon, be faithful to the faired Cause. Matthe may be endued with thought fromortight to personere, without Soult and without taken, whee fervent prayer of they trucky affectionate mind, Wiemington Orlotar 17-1797 Com Buch ming Dr Ruch

[Wilmington, October 17, 1797]

My dear Friend,

I am much obliged to thee for thy Letter of the eleventh instant.

The Copies mentioned are now sent; and some Memorandums are inclosed, of which thou will make such use as may be judged proper.

I have observed with Grief, but without Surprize, the atrocious Attacks on thy Reputation. A sincere Love of our Fellow creatures and an ardent Desire to promote their Wellfare, the clearest purity of Intention and the strictest Integrity of Conduct, cannot prevent the most hostile Aggressions.

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I speak from Experience, as well as from Reflection.

From early Youth dedicating Myself, to assert and maintain the Rights and Interests of my Fellow citizens, and throughout my whole Life Seeking, solely seeking their Good in my various public Functions, and greatly impairing instead of improving my Fortune in their Service, yet what Loads of Obloquy mix'd with the rankest Malignity have been thrown upon Me. Though Innocence and Benevolence cannot exempt from such Assaults as these, they are Helmet and Shield for resisting them; and when "the whole armour" recommended by the Apostle is added, feeble as we are, We, "may be able to stand against the Rulers of the Darkness of this World."

In the present and the late afflicting Dispensations, I have considered thee as nobly devoting

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devoting thyself for My Country, and generously exerting the Gifts bestowed upon thee, for the Benefit of others. But-What Returns have been made?

"Dabit Deus his quo que finem.

There can be no doubt, but thy political Principles have provoked these Outrages.

As far as I am capable of judging it seems to Me, that "a lying Spirit" hath gone out from "the Mouths of our prophets," and many are "enticed"; but, I trust in the mighty power of Truth. Ultimately It will prevail for-it is of God.

Whether sooner or later, We know not; but, let us, my Friend, on every occasion, be faithful to the sacred Cause. That We may be endued with Strength from on High to persevere, without Doubt and Without [word started, expunged] ation [hesitation?] in the fervent prayer of thy truely affectionate Friend,

John Dickinson

Wilmington October 17th 1797 Dr. Rush

Mydear Friend, to the form of him the same The Letter of the word without came tomy Hand Getterday. In son one would have thought, that after wading through How to Copublicaning, that the would have been untented with own dit, especially after the discordant Vicios of the ferenally had been worthed up by the last poleral Convention, into a fightern is harmondour and econculing as our present Constitution, with ample provision to for the admission of fuch other Improvement, a, that quat Incitrof of hipe, typerience; thould But if fam not mitation, Mullelider ?

nowlooking towards a Change, and not toward an amendment of our political litablishment -a project, which of it is attempted to execute, well fly the nito de por balamitie, handle fuffered in the late Obevolution and Sand Sand Word sured bloom on. In thost there is purha Coulies Informallinds, and fuch a Mindighen others, that The capricion, Effect of their feveral Infaturations are incalar Cable: I has brown it all rolly plining month of the Confunction Mat single produced, it will be our buty telepartice nost intimately connected. al for these, who in theer menocaning and for teligion, would duit the fore mor of the Umoerse, and forfipore in profibility of advancing it by

Vicenson Respectability of their Character ques us fanction to Micharte; and He are long function red from Clarendon, that infall Mostal, fruit persons take the word leques of lancon affairs. Mat no part will be in any Manner communica Repet, to thee and they hamily. The please loads Men Prose of the truely affectionate homend Chn Sich imor Valenington Vouember 8th 0797 on the 22? Alast Mouth, I sent to the 3 Cofner of Robins To the left My agent for the Widow Catherine Ploker to no a yor two after another Copy for De Chicikey, as Make fulles for I chould be glad of a Line fast to inform the of heir hoing received, [Wilmington, November 6, 1797]

My dear Friend,

Thy Letter of the second instant came to my Hands Yesterday.

One would have thought, that, after wading through Blood to Republicanism, that We should have been contented with our Lot, especially after the discordant Views of the Several States had been work'd up by the last federal Convention, into a System so harmonious and reconciling as our present Constitution, with ample provision too for the Admission of such other Improvements, as that great Directress of Life, Experience, should recommend.

But, if I am not mistaken, Multitudes are

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now looking towards a <u>Change</u>, and not towards an <u>Amendment</u> of our political Establishment-a project, which if it is attempted to execute, will plunge Us into deeper Calamities than We suffered in the late Revolution.

In short, there is such a Revulsion in some Minds, and such a Blindness in others, that the capricious Effects of their several Infatuations are incalculable.

However, amidst it all the Confusions that may be produced, it will be our Duty to be faithful to the Interests of Liberty and Religion, for they are most intimately connected.

As for those, who In their overweening Zeal for Religion would direct the Governor of the Universe and suppose a possibility of advancing it by

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injuring the Cause of Liberty, I lament their Error. The Respectability of their Character gives no sanction to Mistakes; and I have long since learned from Clarendon that "of all Mortals, such persons take the worst Measures of human Affairs."

I write in Haste-but in Confidence, that no part will be in any Manner communicated to others.

My Wife and Daughters present their best Respects to thee and thy Family. Be please to add to them those of thy truely affectionate Friend

John Dickinson

Wilmington November 6th 1797

On the 22d. of last Month I sent to thee 3 Copies of Fabiuses Letters, by Robert McMin, agent for the Widow Catherine Roberts, and a day or two after another Copy for Dr. Priestley, as a Matter of my Respect-I should be glad of a Line just to inform Me of their being received, before I set off for Kent, as I propose to do tomorrow week

That in hus provide med y perfect Rengration.

That be buty of rational breatmer.

The feparation

behvean thee and Myself, which is mentioned by thee

with so kind a legael, all ways was dishessing to lo Me, as il removed the from a Number of monds, whose Interiourse would have been very graleful lotte. Uwas thoufore my With to recide in Olicad elphia; but, the shattened Metoretice. As lo Phyself and the Brother in franticular, I allways feet, on if We were designed lo love one another. Thave Reason to believe, That this fendation has been reciprocaled on your front; and the Selief in greatly pleasing. Be assured, that I continue thy affectionale briend, Wienington Wilmouth the lo of he o Month behoven thee and Mayelf (white it me & DO) the P. Rush

## [Wilmington, August 10, 1803]

Accept, my dear Friend, my acknowledgement for the tender Expression of thy Sympathy with my afflicted Mind.

My heart is indeed deeply wounded-She is gone, who gave to Life its highest Value.

Yet, when I contemplate her Excellences so well known to Me by our union for thirty three Years, her piety unceasingly engaging her to do the Will of her Maker, "the Hope of Glory" enlightens even "the Valley of the Shadow of Death"-

I mourn as a Man. I will strive to endure as a Christian. Thanks be to God, that in his providential Government of the World I have been taught, that perfect Resignation is the Duty of rational Creatures.

The separation between thee and Myself, which is mentioned by thee with

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with so kind a Regret, always was distressing to Me, as it removed Me from a Number of Friends, whose Intercourse would have been very grateful to Me. It was therefore my Wish to reside in Philadelphia; but, the shattered situation of my affairs after the War compelled Me to retire.

As to thyself and thy Brother in particular, I allways felt, as if We were designed to love one another. I have Reason to believe, that this sensation has been reciprocated on your part; and the Belief is greatly pleasing.

Be assured that I continue

thy affectionate Friend,

John Dickinson

Wilmington the 10th of the 8th Month 1803

Dr. Rush