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Title: Letters from John Dickinson to Benjamin Rush

Date: 1786-1803

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Contact:

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

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Dear Sir,

Upon the satisfaction I have received in reading several
 arduous Letters, I heartily desire Dr. Nibet's Election — 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
 promise of paying him passage home. Surely persons of un-
 usually respectable Character, as those concerned, can never admit
 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
 Site of the College. He says — The public Works would afford
 Room in addition 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 more
 delightful & convenient Ways for the Mines.

Yours

This is the just — the great — the beautiful plan, that should be
unanimously adopted — When Carlisle & the College will flourish together —
and there is Reason to believe — *Provento 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 proposals,
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 binding, if you will obtain a decision on this point, with every
Expression of Respect on my part.

My unceasing Infirmitie, and
Impossibility of attendance, induce me again earnestly to request, that
you will prevail on the Board at their next Meeting, to choose another
person Resident in my Place.

I am Sir,

your sincere Friend
Wm. Duckinwoth

Wilmington
February 27 - 1786
D. P. Bush

[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 truly 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

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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

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 send it to Me now, as it would be of particular use —

Thursday August 9

Your affectionate

Wm Dickinson

Dr. Rush

[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

Ext: of a letter from a gent
in Wilmington

Be pleas'd, my dear Friend, to accept my Thanks
for thy Favor of the 11th, and the Enclosures.

My Writings, I think
I may safely say, always afford Me Amusement and Benefit. They
either agreeably convey Information, or represent what was before
known, so as to make a clearer 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 a great and
Reformation in Manners and Customs, as they have
made in Government. Why should the Habits of Europe,
vicious in their origin, and debasing in their Continuance,
become Laws to the Sons of Freedom. ¶

¶ If there is a Truth
in

in every thing, and an observance of that Truth is required
by our Creator, such an observance is the Duty of a Nation
professing Liberty of action. There should be a simplicity
in the whole. It is in its Nature productive of Advantages. In due
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 freemen
ought to live. 11

I am thy sincerely affectionate Friend

John Dickinson

Wilmington
October 21 - 1790

Dr. Rush

(Philadelphia)

~~Dr.~~ Have not seen Keegan's

which you commended so highly,
"Importance of religious Opinions," 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 Angels and of the Reveries
of Enthusiasm. Reason 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 Attempt
to make Men believe too much - What Confusion by the
Efforts of Zeal without Knowledge.

[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 agreeably 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

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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

[Page Break]

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."

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 Place, I know the Interest thy Benevolence generously takes in the Welfare of Justice, and particularly of those who look up to thee for Instructions for a more ^{useful} than true to themselves, and useful to their fellow Creatures; and in the next Place, I am well acquainted with the just Interference 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, does to believe, that much yet remains to be discovered, and modestly ^{presumes} to think, that Nature address'd with pure Intention has Awards yet to bestow on her respectful, diligent
P. P. P.

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

My dear Mother

the charge of him, and what are the Terms. His Father is not a Man
of affluence, and has several children.

With many of hearty Wishes

for the Happiness of Myself and thy amiable Family, I
am as I have long been thy affectionate Friend

Yr M^d D^r Wm M^r

Wilmington October 25th 1792

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

Dr. Such

Philadelphia

[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 Friend,

My Letter of the 28th 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 justified 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, Sheersfulness 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 reconcilable with a firm Belief in Revelation.

To please
and

and inform, enable to convince.

88
Of "de re publica nil desperandum est"
surely, a higher Cause is never to be given up as desperate.

I
have lately been taking a Review of past Transactions 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 Interest 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
unmeditated 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,
Consideration on "The late Regulations & including
the

the Stamp Act, in 1765 — in the "Address to the Committee of
Correspondence &c" in 1766 — in the ~~harmoni~~ Letters, in 1767
in the ^{first} Convention of Pennsylvania — in the Congressional
Papers 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 Subject 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

Wm Dickinson

Wilmington December 29th 1796

J. Rush Philadelphia

[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 reconcilable with a firm Belief in Revelation.

To please and

[Page Break]

and inform, enable to convince.

If—"de republica 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 29th 1796
Dr. Rush Philadelphia

My dear Friend,

The situation of public Affairs has for some time distressed Me. The call of Congress seized Me. I could not resist the impulse given to my Mind, by the duty the nearest to my Heart, all involved in the flame of Country.

Laden with fears, full of inferiorities, estranged from public engagements, sensible of my weakness, I once again have ventured to take a Pan-victory trembling ground. I wish to consult thee, but I'mie would not permit. I sent a piece under the signature of Francis to Samuel H. Smith, and it appeared in his Paper of the twelfth. I recet
It was written rapidly. I can't see it again. I had it made by a friend and I was afraid to send it.

and I know thy affection for thy fellow citizens and thy friendship for Me, if my attempt is approved, furnish Me with such observations or comments, as in thy opinion may be judged ^{useful} ~~good~~ will try to make the best use of them I can.

Thy affectionate Friend
Wilmington
June 15th 1797
J. M. Dickinson
Does not see this from the Rev. as usual

The will of the people is a Paramount Right

[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 Friend,

Inclosed is a Copy of Habius's
 Letters in 1788 and 1797, of which I beg they
 acceptance. It is much more correct, than the
 publications 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 publick stations
 he has fill'd, or at least some of them.

Be

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

As our sentiments and Wishes entirely
correspond on the great point, 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

That God may bless thy Letter to
Myself, to thy Family, and to thy
Country, is the frequent, fervent Prayer of
thy truly affectionate Friend

Wm Dickinson

Wilmington
Sept. 30th 1797

Wilmington September 30th 1797

Dr. Rush

Philadelphia



[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

[Page Break]

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 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 wilt make such use as may be judged
proper.

I have observed with Grief, but without surprize, the
atrocious Attacks on thy Reputation. As since Love of our
Fellow creatures and an ardent Desire to promote their Welfare,
the dearest purity of Intention and the strictest Integrity of
Conduct, cannot prevent the most hostile Aggressions.

48

I speak from Experience, as well as from Reflection.

From
early Youth, dedicating Myself, to a just and maintain the
Rights and Interest of my Fellow Citizens, and throughout
my whole Life seeking, & fully seeking their Good
in my various public Functions, and greatly improving
instead of improving my Posture in their service, yet
what Loads of Oblivious mix'd with the ranket-Malignity
have been thrown upon Me? Though Innocence
and Benevolence cannot exempt from such
Assaults as these, they are Helmet and shield for
reuniting them; and when "the whole armour"
recommended by the apostle is added, feeble as we
are, we may be able to stand against the Rules of
the Darkness of this world!

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

devoting myself for my Country, and generously exerting
the gifts bestowed upon thee, for the Benefit of others.
But ——— What Return have been made?

"Dabit Deus his quoque finem."

There can be no doubt, but that 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 ~~distraction~~ ^{distraction},
is the fervent prayer of thy truly affectionate Friend,

Wilmington October 17th 1797

Dr. Bush

John Dickinson

[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 Welfare, the clearest purity of Intention and the strictest Integrity of Conduct, cannot prevent the most hostile Aggressions.

[Page Break]

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 truly affectionate Friend,

John Dickinson

Wilmington October 17th 1797
Dr. Rush

My dear Friend,

My letter of the ~~word~~ instant
came to my hands Yesterday.

One would have thought,
that, after wading through Flood to Republicanism,
that we should have been contented with our Lot,
especially after the discordant Vices of the former State,
had been worked up by the last Federal Convention,
into a System so harmonious and wonderful as
our present Constitution, with ample provision too
for the admission of such other Improvements,
as that great Treasures of Life, Experience, should
recommend.

But, if I am not mistaken, Multitudes

now looking towards a Change, and not towards
an amendment 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 Revolution
in some Minds, and such a Kindness in others,
that the capricious Effects of their several Opinions
are incalculable.

However, and at 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
reasoning are for Religion, would suit the Governor of
the Universe, and suppose a possibility of advancing it by

L. C. C.
W. C.
C. C. C.
C. C. C.

MS. A. 9. 2. 11. 11. 11.

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 Secret - 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
return those of thy truly affectionate Friend

John Dickinson

Wilmington
November 8th 1797

On the 22^d of last Month, I sent to thee 3 Copies of *Trabucius*
by Robert McMin, agent for the Widow Catherine Pickett, and
two after another Copy for Dr. Mitchell, as attested by Respect.
I should be glad of a line just to inform Me of their being received,
before I get off for Kent, as I purpose to do tomorrow week

[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

[Page Break]

now looking towards a Change, and not towards an Amendment 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 truly 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

Accept, my dear friend, my acknowledgements
for the tender expressions of My 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 sufferings 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" enlighten 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 Renunciation
is the Duty of rational Creatures.

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

with so kind a Regret, allways, was disheping to
to Me, as it removed Me from a Number of
Friends, whose Interourse 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 Myself and thy Brother in
particular, I always 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 Relief is greatly pleasing.

Be assured, that I continue

thy affectionate Friend,

Wm Dickinson

Wilmington
the 10th of Nov^r 1780

1003

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