1817

Dear Sir

On a long list of epistolary debts which I could not attend to, during the period of my public duties, is your favor containing explanations relating to "A Journal of a young man." I beg leave now to thank you for that mark of your attention. The reception given by the public to the work is the best evidence of its interesting character; and a perusal of a part of it only, a sufficient one of the advantage, which the materials derived from the hand which employed them. The publication has certainly made an extensive impression. The view given by the Reporter of what passed as to the conduct of a public agent in England, has been complained of by him, and a different view presented. I have not sufficiently investigated the case to be a perfect judge: but as mistakes might well happen, and the conduct of the agent was well vouched, he has been continued in the public confidence.

Being on the eve of my final departure from this public theatre

18

theatre, I have wished that the lapse of time since your favor came to hand, might not be construed into an appearance of diminished esteem, and respect.

James Madison

Washington. Mar. 1807.

1

Free James Madison
FREE

Doctor Benjamin Waterhouse

Cambridge

near
Boston

Dear Sir

Montpellier June 22. 1822

I have rec^d. your favor of the 9th. with a copy of your Lecture on Tobacco & ardent spirits. It is a powerful dissuasive from the pernicious use of such stimulants. I had read formerly the first Edition of the Lecture; but have read this last also, for the sake of the additions and Notes. Its foreign translations and its reaching a fifth Edition are encouraging evidences of its usefulness; however much it be feared that the listlessness of non-labourers, and the fatigues of hard labourers, will continue to plead for the relief of intoxicating liquors, or exhilirating plants; one or other of which seem to have been in use in every age & country. as far as the use of Tob^o. is a mere fashion or habit, commencing not only without but aga^st. a natural relish, & continued without the need of such a resort, your reasonings & warnings might reasonably be expected to be an overmatch for the pernicious indulgence. In every view your remedial efforts are highly meritorious, since they may check if they can not cure the evil, and since a partial success may excite co-operating efforts which will gradually make it compleat: and I join heartily in every wish that such may be the result.

At present Virginia is not much threatened with a speedy loss of her staple, whatever be the character really belonging, or ridiculously ascribed to it. Its culture is rather on the increase, than the decline; owing to the disposition in Europe, particularly G. B. to chew our Tob^o. rather than eat our Wheat. This is not the best state of things either for them or us.

I beg you to accept a renewed assurance of my esteem & friendly respects

James Madison

Dr. Waterhouse

19

Orange C.H. Va
June 25. 3

Free James Madison

Doc^r. Benjamin Waterhouse

Boston

Dear Sir

Montpellier Decr. 27. 1822

I have received your favor of the 12th instant, and with it the "Botanist." and the Sheets containing "Heads of a Course of Lectures".

A glance over them has satisfied me that the Volume on Botany, very happily opens the door to the subject, and gives enough of an Inside view to attract curiosity, and guide investigation. From the heads selected for the Lectures, they must have embraced a large field, which, I doubt not, became in your hands a fruitful one.

It is among the proofs of Mr. Adams' comprehensive patriotism, that he called the attention of his country, at so early a day, and in so impressive a mode, to the subject of Natural History, then so little an object of American Science; and you have done an act of Justice only, in the conspicuous notice you have taken of the fact.

I perceive by the newspaper paragraph you cite that more than justice is done to me in the notice taken of the proposed professorship of Agriculture in the University of Virginia. The printed sheet enclosed, shews that the resolution of the Agricultural Society 20

Society originated with General Cocke, a highly respectable member, and that I but executed an order of the Society, in preparing an address on the subject, to the other Societies in Virginia; taking the liberty only of bringing into view a small cultivated farm as a sort of apparatus to the professorship.

The principles of Agriculture have been sometimes embraced in other professorships, and are so, in that of Chemistry in the University of Virginia. The object of the Society of Albemarle was to give to Agriculture the importance as well as the advantage of a distinct professorship exclusively charged with it; which was not known to have been done in any other instance.

With much esteem & every good wish

James Madison

2

Doctor Waterhouse

To the President of the Agricultural Society of

October 21st, 1822.

Sir,

The enclosed Resolutions of the Agricultural Society of Albemarle, explain the wish of the Society to provide for Agriculture the advantage of a Professorship, to be incorporated in the University of Virginia; the means proposed for making the provision; and the hope entertained of a general co-operation in the scheme.

The present seems to be an important crisis in the Agriculture of Virginia. The portions of her soil first brought into cultivation, have, for the most part, been exhausted of its natural fertility, without being repaired by a meliorating system of husbandry; and much of what remains in forest and can be spared from the demands of fuel and other rural wants, will need improvement, on the first introduction of the plough.

These truths are now sufficiently impressed on the public attention; and have led to the establishment of the Agricultural Societies among us, which are so laudably promoting the work of reform.

As a further means of advancing the great object, it has occurred to the Albemarle Society, that a distinct Professorship in the University of the State, if sanctioned by the proper authority, might be advantageously appropriated to the instruction of such as might attend, in the theory and and practice of rural economy, in its several branches.

To the due success of agriculture, as of other arts, theory and practice are both requisite. They always reflect light on each other. If the former, without the test of the latter, be a vain science; the latter without the enlighting precepts of the former, is generally enslaved to ancient modes, however erroneous, or is at best but too tardy and partial in adopting salutary changes. In no instance, perhaps, is habit more unyielding, or irrational practice more prevalent, than among those who cultivate the earth. And this is the more to be lamented, as agriculture is still so far below the attainments to which it may fairly aspire.

A professorship of agriculture might derive special advantage from the lights thrown out from the chair of Chemistry in that Institution. This science is every day penetrating some of the hidden laws of nature, and tracing the useful purposes to which they may be made subservient. Agriculture is a field on which is has already begun to shed its rays, and on which it promises to do much towards unveiling the processes of nature to which the principles of agriculture are related. The professional lectures on chemistry, which are to embrace those principles, could not fail to be auxiliary to a professorship having lessons on agriculture for its essential charge.

The fund contemplated for the support of such a professorship, is to consist of a sum drawn from unexpended subscriptions, from special donations, and from a diffusive contribution not exceeding a dollar from an individual. It is hoped, that for a purpose of such general utility, the number of contributors will more than make up for the

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smallness of the respective sums; and that with the other resources, means may be gathered not only adequate to the immediate views entertained; but justifying an enlargement of them.

Should this prove to be the case, it will be an improvement of the plan of agricultural instruction, to provide and place under the superintendance of the Professor, a small farm in the vicinage, to be cultivated, partly as a pattern farm illustrating practically a system at once profitable and improving, partly as an experimental farm, not only bringing to the test new modes of culture and management but introducing new plants and animals deemed worthy of experiment. In obtaining these aid might be found in the patriotic attention of the public and private Naval Commanders, in their visits to foreign countries; and it might well happen that occasional success in rearing new species or varieties, of peculiar value, would yield in seeds and stocks a profit defraying the expences incurred on this head.

A farm exhibiting an instructive model, observed as it would be by occasional visitors, and understood as it would be in its principles and plans, by students returning to their dispersed homes, would tend to spread sound information on the subject of agriculture, and to cherish that spirit of imitation and emulation which is the source of improvement in every art and enterprize.

You will oblige, Sir, the Society of Albemarle, by laying this communication before that over which you preside; and by transmitting its sentiments thereon; which will afford particular pleasure, if they should accord with the views of this Society and promise so valuable a co-operation in carrying them into effect.

By order of the Society.

JAMES MADISON, *Pres't.*

Agricultural Society of Albemarle, October 7th, 1822

On the motion of Gen. JOHN H. COCKE, the following Preamble and Resolutions, were adopted :—

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Professorship of Agriculture, in one of the principal seminaries of learning in this State, is a measure eminently calculated to hasten and perpetuate the march of agricultural improvement, already so happily commenced; And whereas, there are grounds to believe that such an institution may be incorporated into the University of Virginia, a position at once the most advantageous and convenient to every part of the State: And whereas this Society could not make an appropriation of its funds more conducive to the permanent attainment of the primary objects of its institution—and as it is reasonable to expect that all the Agricultural Societies, the Farmers and Planters generally, will cheerfully contribute to an Establishment of such universal interest—Therefore

Resolved, That one thousand dollars of the sum, now in the hands of the Treasurer of this Society, be appropriated to the establishment of a Fund, the profits of which shall go to the support of a Professorship of Agriculture at the University of Virginia.

Resolved, For the furtherance of this design, that the President be requested to prepare an address to the other Agricultural Societies of this State, requesting their co-operation in this scheme—and further to promote the same object, and increase the said fund, that a committee be appointed to solicit donations not to exceed one dollar from individuals in every part of this Commonwealth.

Resolved, That the aforesaid appropriation, together with all that may accrue under the foregoing Resolutions, be loaned to individuals on good personal security, or to corporate Bodies; and that when the sum loaned to any one individual shall amount to one thousand dollars or upwards, landed security shall be required: That the interest shall be payable semi-annually, and shall be reinvested, untill the yearly profits of the Fund shall be sufficient to afford an income equal at least to a Professorship in the University.

Resolved. That the funds above referred to, together with donations of books, and property of any other description, be with the permission of the Legislature transferred to the Rector and Visitors of the University in their corporal capacity.

(Extract from the minutes.)

P. MINOR, *Sect'y.*

Dear Sir

Montpellier Mar. 12. 1829

I rec^d in due time, with your favor of the 14th. ult: a copy of your Inaugural Discourse prepared in early life. I was not at leisure till within a few days, to give it a perusal; and I ought not now to hazard a critique on the merits of its Latinity. If I were ever in any degree qualified for such a task, a recollection of my long separation from classical studies would arrest my pen. I am safe I believe in the remark that the language has less the aspect of being moulded in a modern Idiom than has been generally the case with the performances of modern Latinists

Another interview, which you despair of, would give me as much pleasure as it could you. The possibility of it must lie with you as the junior party. We should certainly be at no loss for topics, having lived thro' a long period filled with events as novel as various, and as interesting as novel. Our conversation would of course embrace the scenes you glance at, from which corners of the veil are already lifted. You probably know much of them that I do not, and both of us less than others, whose testimony has passed beyond the summons even of History. It might have been well if the truth yet in preservation could have instructed posterity without disturbing the quiet of the present generation. This seems now to have become impossible; and the sufferers will know on whom to charge the misfortune.

I return you, Sir, a full measure of the respect & good wishes expressed in your letter, and you will readily believe that Mr. Madison cordially joins in them.

James Madison

Doct. Waterhouse

22

Franklin Place
Mass No. 3

Free James Madison

Doctor Waterhouse

Cambridge

Massachusetts

Dear Sir

Montpellier May 27. 1831

I rec.d in due time your letter of the 9th and with it the Vol. on the authorship of "Junius". Altho' it found me but little at leisure & in crippled health, I felt too much respect for the writer, not to say curiosity for the subject also, not to give it an entire reading.

Whether you have untied the knot at which so many ingenious hands have tugged in vain, I will not make myself a Judge. I can say at least that you have done full justice to your hypothesis: and that you have garnished it moreover, with historical facts, individual portraits and vivid anecdotes that have improved the relish of the subject.

You will infer from these remarks that I could not hesitate a moment in giving the Vol. the destination which makes the University of Virginia a debtor to the politeness of the author. Be pleased to accept at the same time the acknowledgments due from myself, with the best wishes for a prolonged & happy life; in which Mr. Madison cordially joins me

James Madison

Doct. Waterhouse

23

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CAMBRIDGE
JUNE 7
MASS.

Orange Letter
May 29 3

[redacted]

1834

Doctor Waterhouse
New York

[redacted]

at the Rev Mr Pierces

Dear Sir

Montpellier June 21. 1833

Your letter of the 30th. ult. was duly rec. with the little volume to which it refers. The facts contained in this, are an acceptable appendix to the ~~fund~~ stock of information on a subject which has awakened much curiosity. The less wonder at the relish shewn for such a treat as you have provided, con-sidering the plums & the sauce you have added to the pudding.

Altho' the state of my eyes permits me to read but little, and my rheumatic fingers abhor the pen. I did not resist the attraction of your literary present, and I drop you a line to thank you for it. Mrs Madison's eyes being in the same state with mine, we found it con-venient to read in a sort of partnership; and you may consider her as a partner also in the thanks for it. Should you enlarge a new Edition, as you hint, by the introduction of a Pocahontas or two among the dramatis personæ, the redness of the skin would not in her eyes impair the merits it would cover. She offers a return of your kind remembrances, and joins me in the cordial respects & all good wishes which I pray you to accept.

James Madison

Doctor Waterhouse

24

Boston Mass Feb 20th

Mr. Mitchell Dear Sir

I received your letter of Aug 8th last, and should have answered it before, but I have been so much occupied with other matters that I have not had time to write. I am very sorry that you have had so much trouble about the Mass Hospital Life Ins Co. I hope that the Company will be able to pay the claim without any further difficulty. I know it must be very annoying to you, but I think it will be better for you to have the matter settled, even if it should be necessary to pay a little more than you think it is worth. I have not seen Mr Ellis since I received your letter, but I shall see him soon, and will do what I can to hasten the settlement. I shall be very glad to see you when you come to Boston, and hope that you will not forget your promise to visit us at our house in Pinckney St.

Yours truly

Charles W. Eliot

Mr Wadsworth

Mr Mr Blood's Hunter

Mr Mr Blood's Hunter

5

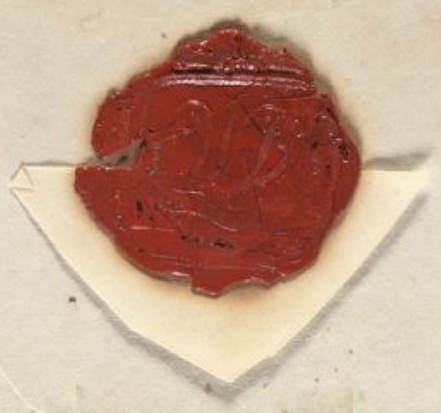
Orange C.t House
June 24th

Free James Madison

Doctor Waterhouse

Cambridge

Massachusetts



Dear Sir

private

Montpellier March 1st 1834.

I have rec.d your favor of the 20th ult. with a copy of your "Public Lecture". We have read it with pleasure; and Mrs M. I believe with profit, being herself among the Amateurs of the Snuff box. The Lecture is a good medicine for the bad habits which it paints in such warning colours.

The Temperance Societies appear to have had a salutary effect, in diminishing the use of Ardent Spirits, the worst of the poisons, because it is a moral as well as a physical one. I wish the Societies all the success they merit; but I am not in the honorable relation to either of them which you suppose.

I have not yet seen the "History of the Hartford Convention"; and such are the arrears in the reading, I have assigned to myself, that I am not sure, if I possessed the book that I should ever be able, with my waning strength and fading vision, to examine a work filling so many pages.

It will be fortunate for Historical truth, and for individual as well as political justice, if a chastising notice of its spurious contents, should fall within the scope of the masterly pen you refer to.

I am glad to find that your penmanship remains so perfect. My greater age, with its Rheumatic auxiliary, have so stiffened my fingers as to make writing laborious and clumsy. Hence the resort, you will perceive, to borrowed ones.

With cordial salutations

James Madison

Doc.r Waterhouse

25

9

Quincy
Mass

ORANGE-CH
MAR
6
Va.

FREE

Doctr. Waterhouse

Cambridge

near Boston

Dear Sir

Montpellier Nov.r 28. 1835.

Your letter on the subject of Mr. Pemberton has not passed into oblivion; but I am sensible that the lapse of time since it was received exposes it to that appearance. For my silence, I must plead my growing dislike to the pen, and the condition of my fingers, which imposes on me often, as in the present case, the unwelcome task of dictating to borrowed ones. Though I am aware of your junior age, and presume on your continued exemption from the infirmities added to mine, I may appeal, I doubt not, in aid of my apology, to an incipient experience by yourself of the effect of time in diminishing the alacrity with which you take hold of the ink-stand.

I well recollect Mr. Pemberton in the aspects which his character presented, when I was his pupil; and I readily conceive that your favorable picture is a good likeness of its developements in after life. He must at least have become an adept in the Classics. Being a good scholar at an early day, he could not fail in a long course of teaching others, to be a successful tutor to himself. I have no distinct recollection of the Latin address to him from his pupils including myself, nor of my share in the preparation of it, I suspect that its merit, if it has any, consists rather in the just and grateful feelings of the authors, than in the Latinity which conveys them, if otherwise the greater the merit of our Preceptor.

With the assurance of my continued esteem and regard I pray you to accept that of all my good wishes, in which Mrs Madison desires to join me.

James Madison

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ceptor Waterhouse

Free James Madison

FREE

Dr. Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse

~~Boston~~

Cambridge