

m. Hen. Alex. S. Dearborn Cambridge July 17. 1833

Dear Sir

I have read your three volumes of H.S. with deep interest and most parts of it with pleasant information. After reading your father's narrative of the battle of Bunker Hill I was persuaded that Putnam was not in the blaze of it, and what I have now read convinces me that he had no just claim as one of the heroes of it. Trumbull's story of Major Small is below contempt, and his picture is a painted lie.

You speak of Major Sherburne as a New Hampshire man. I knew him from his boyhood to manhood. He was born and bred in Newport N.H. Island. His father, Col. Henry Sherburne was born in New Hampshire, and left it in company with my father, and both settled down at the same time in Newport. Major Sherburne dined with your father in Milk-street, and there related his capture at the Cedars, so that the Major and I are suckers of a New Hampshire Pine, as you may see in Farmer's Genealogical dictionary —

You speak of Levicus — a Judge of Admiralty, & a friendly man in Quebec. Are you sure that was his name? Was it not Sidius? He is not mentioned in Knox's history of the French war in Canada. w. you have — In Dr Gordon's history of our Revolutionary war your father's name is spelled Durbin.

I wish you would favor me with the reading the other three volumes. Mrs. W. has read the three first with deep interest and wishes, with me, to see more. Several things in the history are new to me, and many more to her.

I made a point yesterday to talk very seriously with some ^{of the} A. of the Anti-masonic committee respecting the 9th Dist. and expressed my mind without reserve as to their inveteracy towards the in-amber, who was no mason &c. &c. — and gave my opinion of the impolicy of the unceasing attacks in their papers, as ungenerous; as I was pretty certain you had no respect for the childish Institution, and that they were treating you as they say the masons treat a seceder. I am sorry to find that E. Everett has injured himself in the opinion of many of his constituents by his late and ill-timed anti-masonic letter to the Middle committee. They laugh at Livingston's "dignified Silence", but there is safety in it. Jackson understood its importance and acted the part of a tarrier in turtle in Boston & here in Cambridge and ^{advised} ~~advised~~ up to the adage of "Vir sapit, qui pauca loquitur." Wash.

Washington himself owed much of his character for wisdom to his inflexible silence, even when ministers from foreign courts put direct & repeated questions to him, as reported by Mr Lister for the court of George 3.^d

Should occasion lead you to Mount Auburn, I hope you will call in, and should I pass through Brookline, as I may before long, I will leave your volumes and if you have no objection take the other three - I remain with esteem yours

Ben^l Waterhouse

Post - Waterhouse
To
July 17th 1783

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Post Office
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