

Boston April ^{May 1st} 1813

Dear Sir, Thomas Jefferson

I hope you will excuse my breaking in again upon your philosophical retirement. I believe it will be the last time. I little thought when I wrote ~~to~~ you last, that I should so soon have to lament the loss of my ^{revered} ~~amiable~~ friend & brother D Rush. By his death I feel as if one strand of the thread of my life was cut. It is a heavy, very heavy stroke to my venerable friend, Adams. They exchanged letters about once a fortnight. Mr Adams was expecting a letter from him when my letter arrived, ^{came this morn} containing an extract of a letter from my son, who has been under Rush the year past, with the particulars of his illness & last words. He told my son, not long before his death (for he was sensible to the very last) alluding to the persecution of his father — "I owe my enemies nothing but forgiveness," and he added — "they have it heartily." I hope I may be able to say so too, before I die; but the time is not yet come. "for their wrath has been cruel."

Upon the news of the death of the worthy D Rush my republican friends drew up & signed a paper addressed to the President recommending me to his notice for some appointment "comporting with ^{his} my years & rank in society," without saying what, but it was intended as successor to D Rush, as Treasurer of the Mint, & grounded on the idea of my removing to Philadelphia, & there probably filling some part of D R's professional stations.

It is upon this business that I wish to communicate to you my feelings, view & wishes, & I have been encouraged to it by the last paragraph in your friendly letter, where you say "They (the persecuting party) may force you to fly south of Connecticut, where no truth is feared, where science is honored, not reviled, & where you, as one of its sons, would always be received with cordiality!" — These sentiments, the death of Rush, & the strong desire of my son (who has already distinguished himself)

Federalist casts a friendly eye upon them. They must starve, or fall into the ranks with the enemies of the administration, as many of our young gentlemen of education have already done. The nets in which they are caught are these abominable Washington benevolent Societies, a refinement of the old Jacobin clubs. (See my opinion of them in the Chronicle ^{of this day} under the signature of a "Shepherd".)

It is seven years since the Junto circumvallated my Professorship. During this time they made their regular approaches, & minings, but have more than once countermined them, & several times sallied out, & filled up their trenches; but I have done more. I attacked their champion, the great leader of their Junto openly, in consequence of his secret attacks on me. I have called him by name, & cited him to the bar of the public. I have exposed his dishonest arts & malignant intentions; & have dragged ^{him} like Cacus in Virgil, from the midst of his fire & smoke, to light & punishment. After holding this influential man up to public view in the firm grasp of truth & resolution, can I expect ever to be forgiven, or that they will not visit the sins of the father upon his children? —

On these accounts I wish to quit Boston, & devote myself to the service of my country in some place, & office where I can be useful, beyond the power of this combination of professional rivals, & political bigots. It has been suggested to me, by some of our members in Congress that the Government were about establishing a Surgeon General (by which I presume was meant a Physician general, as the latter includes the former), & that I was spoken of at Washington in that connexion. On which I would observe, that I stand ready to obey the call, whenever it shall be uttered. I know very well that we suffer for want of some such arrangement, which arrangement should extend through the sea as well as the land service.

Federalist casts a friendly eye upon them. They must starve, or fall into the ranks with the enemies of the administration, as many of our young gentlemen of education have already done. The nets in which they are caught are these abominable Washington benevolent Societies, a refinement of the old Jacobin clubs. See my opinion of them in the Chronicle ^{of this day} under the signature of a "Shepherd".

It is seven years since the Junto circumvallated my Professorship. During this time they made their regular approaches, & minings, but have more than once countermined them; & several times sallied out, & filled up their trenches; but I have done more. I attacked their champion, the great leader of their Junto openly, in consequence of his secret attacks on me. I have called him by name, & cited him to the bar of the public. I have exposed his dishonest arts & malignant intentions; & have dragged ^{him} like Cacus in Virgil, from the midst of his fire & smoke, to light & punishment. After holding this influential man up to public view in the firm grasp of truth & resolution, can I expect ever to be forgiven, or that they will not visit the sins of the father upon his children? —

On these accounts I wish to quit Boston, & devote myself to the service of my country in some place, & office where I can be useful, beyond the power of this combination of professional rivals, & political bigots. It has been suggested to me, by some of our members in Congress that the Government were about establishing a Surgeon General (by which I presume was meant a Physician general, as the latter includes the former), & that I was spoken of at Washington in that connexion. On which I would observe, that I stand ready to obey the call, whenever it shall be uttered. I know very well that we suffer for want of some such arrangement, which arrangement should extend through the sea as well as the land service.

The officers & the Surgeon of the ^{frigate} *Guarriere*, made bitter complaints
to when their wounded men were brought into this port, I have
been frequently consulted by the head of the medical department
of our frontier army, whose path to usefulness is narrowed for
want of System. We never yet had a good medical system in any
of our camps, & yet we are now following our old customs. As I
have been broken up at Cambridge, & have been prevented from
doing any thing of consequence in Boston, I am more at liberty
for entering upon such a task as that of Physician General, than
any other medical man of my years & standing among us.

The paper which my Republican friends of Cambridge, Charle-
-town & Boston have drawn up among themselves is as follows.

"We the undersigned, having a high opinion of the
abilities, learning, professional knowledge & integrity of Dr.
Benjamin Waterhouse - take this method of recommending
him - to the notice of the President of the United States for
any office, in which the before mentioned qualities are
requisite; and which may comport with his years and
rank in Society!"

The second signer of this paper is Mr John Brazer, who
was the chairman of that committee who remonstrated to you against
your appointment of me to the hospital. It is signed by the col-
-lector & other officers of our custom house, by the District attorney,
& the Marshal, & by some others concerned in my removal from the
hospital. They one & all say they acted under misinformation,
and they all seem eager to repair the injury. They have seen
that my bitterest political & professional enemies have never
once reproached me for any misconduct in the hospital, because
my enemies, have themselves investigated it. — My