

Quomack Oct. 30. 1800.

Dear Sir,

Your kind favour of Aug. 24 from Alexandria came to hand: it found me however labouring under a fall fever, which has attacked me, after small intermissions, three times. I do not recollect to have had so much of sickness in my family & the neighbourhood generally, as we have experienced this season. I am not at present entirely relieved of its consequences, I hope however to be with you at the day appointed. Immediately after the receipt of yours I wrote to Mr. Donner informing him of what had been done, he was however at the same time on his way to my neighbourhood & I wiped the letter till his return, but coming to see me, I shewed him yours & he expressed himself to be under obligations to you for your attention: he says, he shall not be able to come on for perhaps the first week or ten days, but wishes to retain his station among us & those whom you mentioned.

We now approach the important day of choosing electors: I suppose the prejudices of a majority of our fellow-citizens, & the unprincipled mode of the election, will wholly silence or at least render inef-

-fectual, the sentiments & wishes of a respectable portion of the people of Ver^y. — It is an experiment perfectly in the Jacobinical style, rendering laws, when passed, perfectly inefficacious, if not aided by a central committee, who create & direct the affiliated committees throughout the Country. Gov^t, if such measures may be so called, thus becomes the property of a few daring characters, whilst ancient forms for a while remain, tho' they cannot possibly be more than forms.

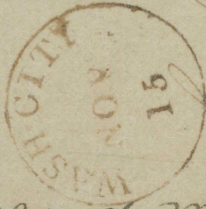
The indignation of the people hereaway is considerable at the attack thus made upon the vital principle of republicanism — the right of suffrage itself. Instead of the Gov^t resting upon the virtue & intelligence of the people, they find that right so modified, as to render those qualities perfectly useless: if they could be exercised, it is to be presumed, the result would appear generally in the selection of characters worthy of their choosers. So sensible seem those who advocate the present mode for excluding the use of those qualities, ^{of this consequence} that it has been solemnly stated by one of its champions — that "Talents are not necessary, & experience is not required" in an Elector; for why, he acts as a puppet of a set of self-created Directors, who have nominated him & prescribed his election to the people. The idle & the ingenious have often amused themselves with sailing ploughs, — carriages to be moved by springs — Doves

wings to elevate man among the feathered creation; but from the days of Dædalus to those of Montgolfier no great advantage has been derived from ~~these inventions~~ ^{their ingenuity}: the former lost his son & the latter, or at least some of his coadjutors, their lives by ^{their} extraneous inventions. It seems probable, as intelligence & experience are now declared to be impertinent in an elector, we shall soon have other discoveries of a similar nature: religion itself & a belief in the immortality of the soul, which makes of man, otherwise the most ferocious, a social being, may possibly be discarded as an idle fiction, — churches are little more than heaps of bricks & stones, but sufficient for him who was born in a manger — & virtue itself may soon perhaps be declared to be nothing more than a name. But what shall we gain by this? — Why! Post-boys & lacquies will soon be able to discharge all the most important Military, Political & Civil functions — Your Washington, your Adams, & such characters will be no longer necessary, — Human affairs will go on without the expence of virtue or talents — & the Golden Age will return, when man shall have again to fight the tuskey Boar for his scanty pittance of acorns. —

To laugh were want of goodness & of grace
And to be grave exceeds all power of face.

But enough of this!

7 Penn at 30. 1870



Colo. Leven Towell
near at Wasing County
London
Virginia

Washington via force 20