

**COLLECTED
LETTERS
of
William Peartree Smith
and
Elisha Boudinot**

**Committees of Correspondence in the
American War for Independence**

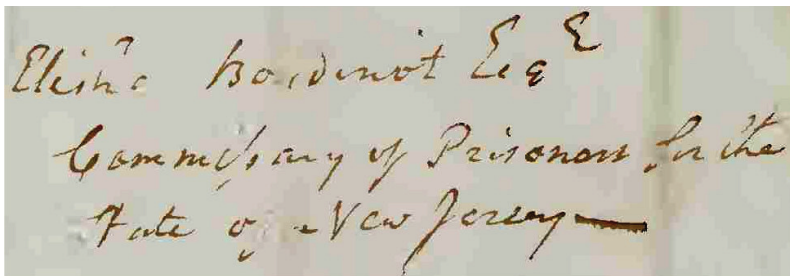
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Elisha Boudinot Esq
Commissary of Prisoners in the
Fate of New Jersey—

As one of eight people sitting in the governor's mansion at Elizabethtown on October 22, 1746, twenty-three year-old William Peartree Smith witnessed the College of New Jersey receive its first Royal corporate charter. Soon afterward, he began publishing political jeremiads against the colony's corrupt legal establishment as part of New York City's first newspaper propaganda wars, until Parliament's Stamp Act ended this bitter polemic over sectarian education. Seven year-old Elisha Boudinot was living right next-door to the college in Princeton when Nassau Hall, the largest academic structure in the American colonies, was consecrated. Through a classical liberal arts curriculum and strict attention to character, this earnest Presbyterian institution became midwife to a generation of ardent American patriots, many of whom

acknowledged Smith as a mentor. Despite long and intimate acquaintance with many luminaries of the eighteenth century religious movement known as the *Great Awakening*, he was not a member of any church.

At the mid-century of life, he had buried his dead and was raising his family among old friends and companions in pastoral Elizabethtown when Parliament passed its "Intolerable Acts," and his pursuit of philosophic solitude was interrupted. William Peartree Smith was elected to the Essex County Committee of Correspondence alongside Elisha's older brother, Elias. Within weeks, both were members of the Provincial Committee of Correspondence, a part of the network of wartime committees that created a framework for the revolutionary national government. After Lexington, Elisha was elected to Newark's Committee of Correspondence, and Smith rode to Philadelphia with Elias to confer with the Continental Congress.

New York City fell to the British in 1776.

The earth surrounding Elizabethtown and Newark was scorched by marauding Loyalist Tories, German Hessians, and New Jersey militiamen. During what Washington described as, the “Crucial Days,” Elisha Boudinot served as a prototypical secret agent in this no-man’s land, tracking down counterfeiters, kidnapping traitors, and reporting British troop movements directly to General Washington’s headquarters.

In a 1778 report to Elias, then a member of Congress in Philadelphia, Smith playfully hints that a romance has been growing between Elisha and his daughter, Kitty. Their auspicious wedding must have brightened the darkest period of the war, which continued to play out locally in repeated attacks on Smith’s home, including the capture of his youngest son, Belcher. The British Army’s inhumane treatment of prisoners (notably Elisha’s brother-in-law Richard Stockton, who was captured only months after signing the

Declaration of Independence) led both of the Boudinot brothers to support prisoner exchange efforts. William Peartree Smith's own cousin, Royal Chief Justice William Smith jr. was a well-known loyalist and his capture may have been a tit-for-tat demonstration of revolutionary resolve.

After Yorktown comes the celebration.

However, Smith's prescient ruminations on the fragility of victory foreshadowed an urgent letter from Elias, now President of the Continental Congress. When a rioting army of mutinous soldiers barricaded Independence Hall in Philadelphia, he was forced to remove the seat of the United States government to Nassau Hall, on the college campus founded by Smith and his partners decades earlier, with military support from Elisha.

Elisha's longstanding concern over slavery is evident in its inclusion as a part of the Newark Freeholders' proclamation. However, the road

to freedom for former slaves ran directly through the newly endorsed *Constitution of the United States of America*, which legalized slavery. Elisha's attempts to provide relief through this new system of laws encountered a wall. His 1797 argument, that Native Americans are *prima facie* free, did not win its day in court. For a time, the law of the land prevailed over justice.

From Kitty and Elisha's home in Newark, Smith continued encouraging faith in reason, while new and distinctively American institutions blossomed around him. Elisha's wartime correspondent and longtime friend, Alexander Hamilton, promoted the radical idea of using a contract of incorporation similar to those used to organize the non-conformist churches and schools that nurtured them in Elizabethtown, to establish a corporate body as the foundation for an industrial enterprise. Hamilton's "Society for the Establishment of Useful Manufactures" got off to a rough start; within weeks its director, William Duer was thrown into prison for debt. Elisha stepped

into the directorship, but the corporation's innovative textile factories, powered by the energy of Passaic Falls, proved slow to bring in returns. They were eventually retooled and began to manufacture railroad locomotives.

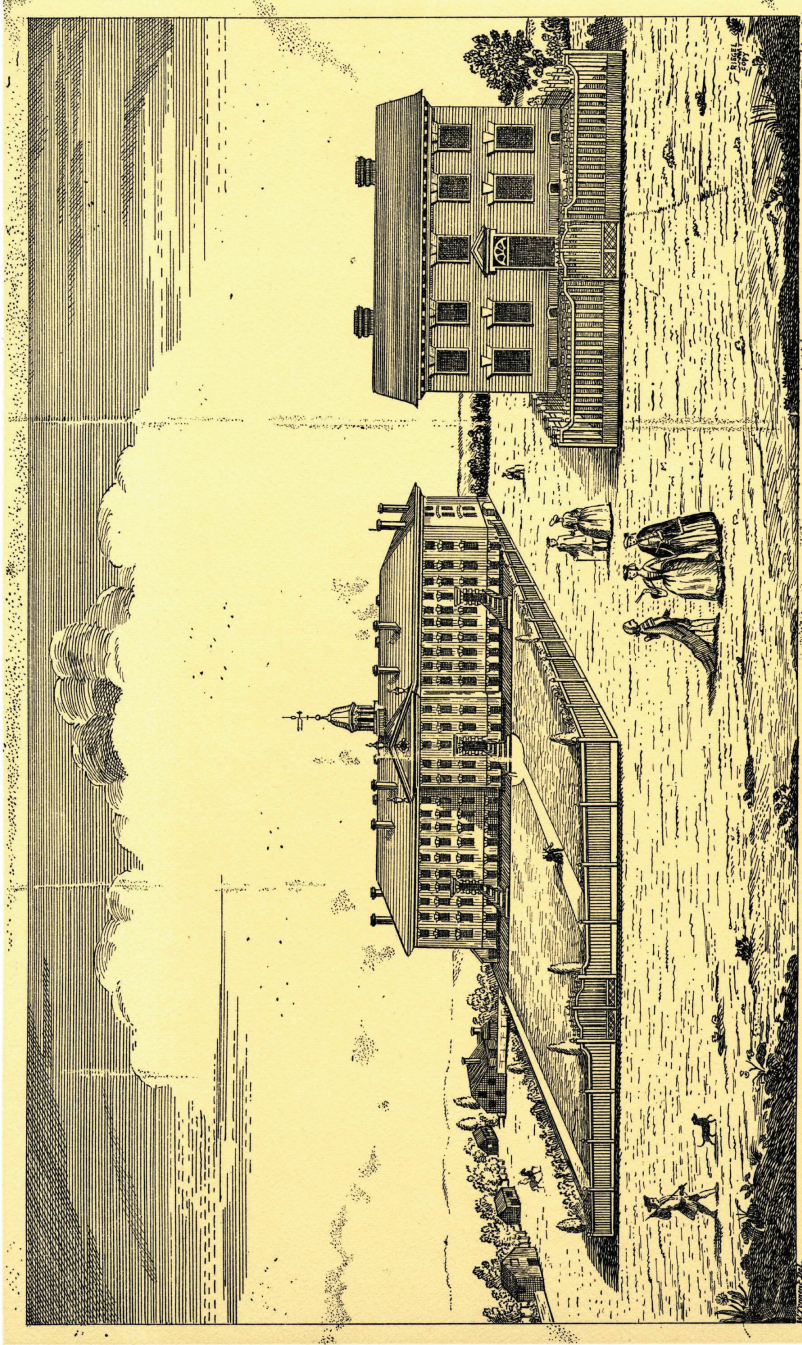
Shared associations with the Elizabethtown Academy, the college, and the legal profession, would have resulted in frequent encounters with Aaron Burr. Their relationship came to a crisis after Burr shot Hamilton in a duel, and Elisha presided over the Bergen County grand jury indictment of the sitting vice-president of the United States for murder.

Although he was an early advocate for smallpox vaccinations, it was yellow fever that claimed the life of Elisha's beloved Kitty and threatened his own. Recently bereft herself, Rachel Bradford nursed him back to health and then married him. [n.b. it's productive to contrast the theological ideas expressed by Elias in this letter with those of his old friend,

Smith] Elisha, a vigorous advocate for the emerging Federalist party, was serving his term in the New Jersey Supreme Court when his father-in-law and revolutionary co-conspirator, the Honorable William Peartree Smith, A.M., died.

Modeled after Hamilton's pet manufacturing enterprise, Elisha helped incorporate the "Associates of New Jersey" and contracted with Robert Fulton to run his newly-invented steamboats to Manhattan. Elisha's confidential missions during the war often took him across Powle's Hooke, which the corporation purchased to build staging terminals into New York. The Associates' property was subsequently reincorporated as the City of Jersey. On October 12 1819, Judge Elisha Boudinot died at his home on 74 Park Place in Newark.

Peter Dunbaugh Smith



A North-West Prospect of Nassau-Hall, with a Front View of the President's House, in New-Jersey.

The New-York Mercury

*Containing the freshest Advices
Foreign and Domestic*

Monday August 31, 1752

New-York: Printed by Hugh Gaines
Twelve Shillings per Annum

ABUSES IN PRACTICE OF LAW

Let them urge the Antiquity of Custom with all the Pomp of Eloquence, I will maintain against the whole Body of the Law, that any Attempt to puzzle an honest Witness with Questions foreign to the Purpose, till he is bewildered into inadvertent Contradictions, discovers more Front than Conscience, and greater Assurance than Love of Justice. But how unparallel'd the Effrontery, to urge to the Jury those very Contradictions into which he has drove the Witness by insidious Questions, as Arguments against his Veracity, and to invalidate his Testimony. Indeed, the aspersing a Man's Character in Court, because

it may be done with Impunity, is so mean and ungentleman-like a Practice, that I should not scruple to supply the Defect of the Law of the Land, by having Recourse to the Law of the Woods, and effect by the Oil of Hickory, what could not be done by the Verdict of my Peers.

Yours,

SHADRACH PLEBEIANUS

PeRTH-AMBoY, July 17, 1772.

On Tuesday departed this Life in the 78th Y' ear of his Age, Capt. William Bryant, and last Night his Remains were decently interr' d. He was not more remarkable for having been upwards of thirty Years a skilful and successful Navigator between the Ports of New-York and London, than for being in an eminent Degree possessed of the Virtues of Sincerity, Temperance, Integrity, and Benevolence, and of a true and unaffected Piety. A Friend to the deceased thinking the following a suitable Epitaph, desires it may be here inserted:

Tho' Neptune's Waves, and Boreas' Blasts,
Have toss' d me to and fro;
In spite of these, by God's Decrees,
I harbour here below.
Where safely I, at Anchor lie,
With many of our Fleet:
One Day we shall, again set sail,
Our Admiral Christ to meet.

NewArk, May 4, 1775

At a meeting of the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Township of Newark, in New Jersey, on Thursday the 4th day of May, A.D. 1775, Dr. William Burnett in the chair.

An association having been entered into and subscribed by the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of said Town, a motion was made and agreed to, that the same be read. The same was read and is as follows:

We, the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Township of Newark, having deliberately considered the openly avowed design of the Ministry of Great Britain to raise a revenue in America, being affected with horror at the bloody scene now acting in the Massachusetts Bay for carrying that arbitrary design into Execution; firmly convinced that the very existence of the rights and liberties of America can, under God, subsist on no other basis than the most animated and perfect union of its inhabitants: and being sensible of the necessity in the present exigency of preserving good

order and a due regulation in all public measures; with hearts perfectly abhorrent of slavery, do solemnly, under all the sacred ties of religion, honour and love to our country, associate and resolve that we will personally, and as far as our influence can extend, endeavor to support and carry into execution whatever measures may be recommended by the Continental Congress or agreed upon by the proposed convention of Deputies of this Province, for the purpose of preserving and fixing our constitution on a permanent basis, and opposing the execution of the several despotick and oppressive Acts of British Parliament, until the wished for reconciliation between Great Britain and America on constitutional principles can be obtained.

That a General Committee be chosen by this Town for the purposes aforesaid, and that we will be directed by, and support, them in all things respecting the 'common cause the preservation of peace, good order, the safety of individuals and private property.'

Voted, That Isaac Ogden, esquire, Captain Philip Van Cortland, Bethuel Pierson and

Caleb Camp be the deputies to represent said Township in the Provincial Congress referred to in the said association.

The General Committee also mentioned in the said association was then chosen, consisting of forty-four.

Agreed, that the powers delegated to the Deputies and General Committee continue until the expiration of five weeks after the rising of the next Continental Congress and no longer.

Agreed, That the General Committee have power to appoint one or more Sub-Committees, to act on any emergency.

Isaac Longworth, Town Clerk.

The General Committee immediately convened and elected Lewis Ogden, esquire, chairman, Doctor William Burnett, deputy chairman, and Elisha Boudinot, esquire, clerk of the said General Committee.

Agreed, that the above named Lewis Ogden, esquire. Dr. William Burnett, Elisha Boudinot, esquire, Isaac Ogden, esquire, and Mr. Isaac

Longworth, be a Committee of Correspondence
for said Town.

ELISHA BOUDINOT,

Clerk to Committee.



TO JOHN ADAMS
FROM ELISHA BOUDINOT

New York, March 2, 1776.

Dear Sir

I must beg the Liberty of introducing to your acquaintance, Capt. Harry G. Livingston of New York. He is a young Gentleman who has not been sparing of his Time nor fortune in the publick Service. He is recommended by the provincial Congress of New York as a Lieut. Colonel. There are few young Gentlemen better qualified than he is, as he has been indefatigable in acquiring the military Art since the commencement of these Troubles, and has brought his Company of Fuzileers equal to any in the Regular Service. As the Livingston family almost to a man have been foremost in the American Cause, and must be made Objects of Ministerial Vengeance if ever we are reduced; I think it is no more than a Debt of Generosity to encourage their laudable expectations. I must therefore beg your Interest in getting the nomination of the New York Congress confirmed to him.

The first Time I have the pleasure of seeing
you will apologize for this Freedom.

My Compliments to Mr. Saml. Adams and
believe me to be with Respect

Sir

Your oblidge Hble. Sevt.,

Elisha Boudinot

TO ELISHA BOUDINOT
FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON

Head Quarters Morris Town, March 19, 1777

Dear Sir

I recd yours of this day and am much obliged to you for the pains you have been at to obtain intelligence.

I highly approve of your plan to gain more, and enclose you a Sketch of such Matters as it will be proper for your Spy to report to deceive the Enemy. If he can do us no harm by reporting what is intrusted to him - You may add what you please, only taking care to keep a Copy and send it to me, that if any other person should go in upon the same Errand, he may carry the same Tale -

Inclosed you have a Blank Pass which you may fill up.

I am Sir Yr obliged humble Servt

Go: Washington

TO ROBERT LIVINGSTON
FROM ELISHA BOUDINOT

NewArk, Oct. 9th, 1777.

His Excellency Gov. Livingston

Sir

I received your favor yesterday relative to the appointment with which your Excellency and the Committee of Safety have honored me. The inadequate salary would not have been the obstacle against my accepting the office, as during the present distress of my country, I would freely devote my time to its service, and I should have immediately set out for Bordentown on the reception of your letter, had I not previous to this, received an office in the military department. I am in hopes, however, to get liberty to act as secretary for the short time you will set, which I suppose will be no longer than the meeting of the Legislature. I shall be able to determine this on Monday, which if it is according to my wishes, I will set out on Tuesday. If it should be otherwise, must beg your Excellency and

the Committee of Safety to accept of my
thanks for the polite offer and to be assured
that it is with the greatest reluctance, if I am
obliged to decline the appointment.

I have the honor to be your Excellency's
most ob' t and humble serv' t,

Elisha Boudinot

His Excellency Gov. Livingston

TO ELIAS BOUDINOT
FROM WILLIAM PEARTREE SMITH

Elizabeth Town, July 13, 1778.

My Dear Sir

I am extremely affected to hear of your illness, by a Letter just received from my Son. Until I can hear of your recovery, I shall daily feel myself constrained to implore the great Author of life to restore Health, not to an invaluable friend of mine only, (for that might be the meer effusion of partiality and self Love) but to a Friend & Benefactor to his Country & Mankind. As your fever is of the intermitting kind, and not uncommon at this season of the year, with a little care & due use of the Bark, I hope in God, you may be quickly raised to your wonted usefulness.

From the whole current and complection of the late papers it appears clearly to me, that the British Parliament will soon give up the American Contest - Indeed they cannot stand it, with a War in Europe on their hands at the same time - Very soon I expect to hear of

Propositions made you for declaring our Independence. But if War be *declared* on the part of France (which I have not yet heard) I think we cannot *now*, from the Articles of our Alliance, make a *separate* piece with them. Was the French fleet out of the way, I firmly believe we should soon hear of the Embarkation of their troops from N. York. But how can they get off now, without falling a prey? To use Ld Abington's words "like a parcel of Asses they are driven into a *pound*, out of which all their *Pounds*, shillings pence, cannot get them *impounded*." All their hopes lie in the speedy appearance of a superior English Squadron. Count D'Estaing appears to be under very little apprehension, and seems to think (as I am told,) that the English Fleet has been detained. How ever it is my Conjecture that the Count will not long remain in his present Situation - Should he slip off at once to the Eastward, all the British Ships of War & vessels at R. Island would immediately fall into his hands, did they not suspect such a maneuver in time to make an Escape. A few Capital Ships left to cruise on our Coast would cut off supplies this way and the passage thro' the Sound be effectually stopped, which I

suppose is now open to them, and can be kept so, (should the whole french fleet continue where they are) by the British Men of War to the Eastward - A little time will show whether my Conjecture would be well founded. - Three deserters who are just escaped from Staten Island assert, that the Enemy are reduced to half allowances. - In short, without relief they will soon be at their wit's end, and the show will soon be over - The Tories "all look aghast, while unforeseen destruction pours in upon them thus from every side" - Permit me now to trouble you with my thoughts on a private affair, and to request your influence in it. I am concerned to get my Son B. if not in a more lucrative, yet in a rather more reputable Station than he is at present. The Place of Dep. Secy of Congress, has, I am told, been long vacant. Perhaps it may be kept so, because it may be deemed unnecessary to fill it & perhaps to save some little expense. As my son is undoubtedly adequate to the Employment (for it requires no more of ability than the place he now has) he hath unquestionably the preferable claim whenever it is to be filled. If Congress should not think it expedient at present to distinguish

the occupant by any additional pay; (tho' a trifling addition, to distinguish, would seem proper) Yet the appointment, tho' barely nominal, I should look upon to be more honourable and reputable to him, than the character of a mere Scribe in the Office. He has drudged on in this way, in severe sedentary labour near two years, I fear to the injury of his health & with an allowance very inadequate to support. I think his irreproachable moral conduct and approved fidelity merit Notice, and if he cannot be rewarded in Substance, at least put this little Feather in his cap, & give him a more responsible Name. Tho' I own, I look upon this, as but an inconsiderable thing for him at present; yet I have in view - Futurity. I have hinted this matter to Dr W. I presume his friendship & good opinion of B. will lead him, (if you think it not inexpedient) to cooperate with you in accomplishing my wishes - I have opened my mind freely to you & leave the matter to your better Judgment & Conduct -

I will tell you a piece of secret intelligence, but you must not mention it, as it lies yet only in our suspicions & will reflect on the character of

a near relation - Your Brother visits here very frequently of late; and generally under some pretence or another, stays all night about the House - We really begin to suspect he has a mind to rob us; I have a certain piece of very valuable property, which Mrs S. & I together purchased at a very dear rate many years ago, and which no pecuniary Consideration would induce us to dispose of - Since our apprehensions of an Invasion we keep this Baggage wrapped up very tight carefully in Sheets & almost always under Lock & Keys and ready to be removed at a moments warning. This Baggage, we have taken notice, he always eyes, and narrowly observes wherever we deposit it; so that we have now all the reason in the world to suspect he is meditating some scheme how to plunder us of it before the Enemy comes. This account must astonish & shock you: For Heavens sake, keep it secret - tho' I fear it cannot be long so, for my neighbors who see him so often lurking abt the House so late at night, begin to express their suspicion of an intended Robbery. We shall all now be on the watch and as the Baggage is pretty weighty, he can' t, unless assisted, carry it off, without discovery.

I am Dr B

Most unfeign' dly yours,

W. P. S.

E. T. 23 July 1778.

Will you allow me to put my future Letters to
Belcher, under cover to you?

TO WILLIAM PEARTREE SMITH
FROM ELIAS BOUDINOT

Philadelphia, Aug 15, 1778.

My dear Sir

Your two several very Friendly & obliging Favours of the 23 d July & 9 last came safe to hand, the last I received at Princeton, since which have been again confined with a return of my fever but hope to get out as soon as the present rainy season passes over - I am so confined to Business here that a letter from a Friend is truly valuable as it is a very agreeable relaxation to the mind at the same time that it affords a satisfaction that is hard to express - We are on the tender Hooks of Anxious Expectation for News from Rhode Island - our hopes are raised to a high Pitch as we have certain Intelligence that Lord Howe had not sailed from the Hook on Sunday last so that the Count de Estang cannot be interrupted in the least - From the last accounts we have from England & especially from a publication sent us by a Friend, who informs that it was made under the immediate

patronage of Lord North, I conclude that England will acknowledge & settle this unhappy dispute ere many months - I have conferred with Belcher fully on the subject mentioned in your letter and if nothing better turns up in a very short time for him, will endeavour to accomplish what you propose as I think it highly reasonable - The Office I wrote you about is filled up and altho' another equally advantageous might be had, yet as it would require your personal and constant attendance in this City, I think it will not answer for the reason you mention - and I am clear that there is a Berth in our own State awaiting you that you will fill with credit and reputation and be of eminent public service while you may at the same time enjoy all your domestic comfort at Eliz-Town in which you know I am personally & greatly interested.

The Express that arrived from the commissioners brought nothing but a requisition for permission to send Transports for the convention Troops & & - Being really and truly interested in your welfare I am distressed for the many losses you have met with in these unhappy Times, and the only consolation

you can have is that it is a general evil & in a good cause but when these misfortunes happen from other means & in some measure arising from our own fault and do not answer so valuable purposes they are the more distressing - It is upon this account that I condole so much now with you, in the apprehension of your present danger, in the threatened Loss of your heavy Baggage especially as it is your all of this kind of property. I think you are in a good measure to blame - It becomes you without delay to swear the Peace ag' suspected Person and even if necessary to get an additional Man or two of the Militia to keep a Town watch especially in the Evening and so near as to afford the necessary assistance particularly by way of a retrograde movement - Whenever you think it for the publick advantage I can move Congress to pass some spirited resolutions agt attempts of this nature if not to make it high Treason even to the commission of Blood any former resolutions notwithstanding - It will give me great pleasure to forward your letters to Belcher and beg that you will always enclose them to me as by this means I shall hope to hear oftener from you. You must excuse my scrawl as I

write in pain my Breast being greatly affected
- My kindest love to D r ' & M rs Smith &
Miss Kitty and believe me to be with great
affection,

Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely

Elias Boudinot

To W" P" E Smith Esq'

TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON
FROM ELISHA BOUDINOT

Head Quarters, Aug. 29, 1778.

The person mentioned to you came over last night and informs me that Gen l Clinton with his whole Army has set off for Rhode Island. They are gone up the Sound and across the East end of Long Island there are only a small guard left in the City - not a canoe is suffered to pass up the East River least it should be known, they moved with the utmost secrecy - as it might be, you have not heard of this movement I send this by express

I am, with esteem

Yours as ever

Elisha Boudinot.

REPORTS AND DISPATCHES

The New Jersey Gazette, Feb. 10, 1778.

On Thursday night last the enemy, under the command of Generals Stirling and Skinner, visited Elizabeth Town entirely upon a plundering party. Among other houses they plundered Doctor Barnet's, Messrs. William P. Smith, William Herriman, Matthias Halsted, and Doctor Wynantz, the two former in a most barbarous manner. The house of Mr. Smith they searched throughout for Mr Elisha Boudinot, who they thought was concealed there, but fortunately both he and Mr. Smith lodged out of town. After terrifying the women and children, they heroically marched off with their plunder and five or six prisoners.

Dispatch to General Washington at Head
Quarters, from Major General Lord Stirling,
Elizabeth Town, October 16th 1778.

post script...here is a Grand Wedding of
Miss Smith to Mr Elisha Boudenot the Ladys
present their Compts to your Excy and family.

The Pennsylvania Packet, November 24, 1778.

Married, the 14th ult. Elisha Boudinot, Esq;
Counsellor at Law, to Miss Katy Smith,
daughter of Peartree Smith, Esq; a Lady
possessed of every qualification necessary to
render the connubial state happy.

The New Jersey Gazette, Jan. 1, 1779.

THE Legislature having appointed me
Commissary of Prisoners for this state, of New
Jersey, I do hereby request the friends of all
such persons who have had the misfortune to
fall into the power of the enemy, to furnish
me with their respective names, together with
the time and place of their capture, that I may
be enabled to negotiate their exchange as soon
as possible.

Elisha Boudinot,

Comm. Pris. for the State of New Jersey.
Elizabeth Town.

The New-York Royal Gazette, July 3, 1779.

On Wednesday night a party of rebels landed on Staten Island, and carried off Lt. Col. van Buskirk, and Mr. William Smith, of Woodbridge.

The Pennsylvania Packet, July 8, 1779.

William Smith was a prominent Loyalist, of Woodbridge, and his property was confiscated and sold by the State.

The New Jersey Gazette, Jan. 29, 1780.

The enemy paid us a visit here last Tuesday evening; they were in town between ten and eleven o'clock, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Buskirk of the new levies. The plan was well concerted and as well executed; they evaded our guards, and were in town before any one knew it. They have taken forty or fifty privates and several officers, with ten or

twelve of the inhabitants. Maj. Williamson and Capt. Gifford fell into their hands. Mr. Belcher Smith, son of William Peartree Smith, in attempting to escape was likewise taken. They burnt the Presbyterian Church and the court-house, plundered Jecamiah Smith, but no other houses of any consequence, as they were afraid to enter them, and stayed but a little time before they pushed off.

signed '*a gentleman at Elizabeth Town*'

New Jersey Journal, July 5, 1780.

On July 4th Mrs. Josiah Homblower was designated with Mrs. Governor Livingston, and Mrs. Elisha Boudinot and Mrs. William Burnet as a committee of Essex County ladies with others equally prominent throughout the State to receive subscriptions for the succor of the country's defenders in the field.

ODE ON THE THANKSGIVING OF 1781

To thee, great Sovereign of the skies.
This day, our grateful songs resound;
From every heart shall incense rise,
And praise through all thy temples abound.

Our land a tributary slave,
Doom'd to rebellion's awful fate.
When heav'n a pow'rful monarch gave
To aid new pillars of the state.

Rais'd and established by thy pow'r.
Firm props of the republick's laws;
Thy blessings on the people show'er,
Thine arm supports th' united cause.

Union 'tis God alone inspires,
Founded by heaven, the fabricks rise,
Th' astonish'd world the work admires,
And owns the council of the skies.

New empires never rise by chance,
No gales such high distinctions blow;
Th' all-ruling pow'r doth states advance,
And lays a tyrant kingdom low.

He forms our general prudent, brave,
Gives the young captain warlike skill;
Angelick shields our troops preserve.
Who scale proud tow'rs with breasts of steel.

No savage deed distains the sword.
While heav'n's taught chief directs the host;
Submission hears the joyous word,
Mercy; the christian eonqn'rer's boast!

The mem'ry of thy recent grace.
Afresh inspires them for the field;
The foe shall find renew'd disgrace
And fly our shores or fated, yield.

Our fertile fields thy favour shows;
With gifts, revolving noons appear;
Gifts, that in streams luxuriant flow;
Thy goodness crowns th' auspicious year.

Save us from fear's despondent sighs;
Now may our trust in God be strong,
Till full deliv'rance shall arise.
and heav'n horn PEACE resound the skies!

William Peartree Smith, NewArk, 1781

TO ELISHA BOUDINOT
FROM ELIAS BOUDINOT

Philadelphia, Nov. 14, 1782.

My dear Brother

Your affectionate letter of yesterday has been just handed me - I accept your congratulations with Pleasure and earnestly pray to God that I may go through my year to the advantage of my country & be so happy as to retire to private life at the end of it & with the pleasing reflection that American Independence was finally established in the year 1783 by an unequivocal, honorable & lasting Peace

... It is very late and I can only add that I should have been very glad to have seen you
My kind love to M r & M rs Smith Sister & all the family

Am my dear Brother

Yours affect'

Elias Boudinot

TO GEORGE WASHINGTON
FROM WILLIAM PEARTREE SMITH

NewArk, Jany 5, 1783.

Sir

The Necessity I am under of troubling your Excellency in an Affair of private Concern, but of great moment to a tender & Affectionate Mother is my only Apology for this Address - I have applyed to Lt Coll Cumming, imagining he had competent Authority for the discharge of a Private under his immediate Command; but he refers me to yr Excellency, as thro' the only Channel, it can be obtained.

The Case then Sr I would represent in as succinct a manner as possible is as follows. William Deane, a young Lad of abt 14 Years of Age, the Son of Mrs Deane a Widow & Sister to Mrs Smith, behaving himself undutifully to his Parent, went off abt 2 years ago, & in a frolic, pretending he was of the legal age, enlisted himself into the Army. His Mother, infinitely concerned, immediately with her two Sisters Mrs Smith & Woodruff made

precise Affidavits respecting his Age. These were presented by Mrs Deane to Coll Dayton & were deemed perfectly satisfactory & referd her to his immediate Officer for the Discharge. In the meantime all her Connections earnestly advised her to suffer her Son to remain, a Year or two, as we hoped the Discipline there might break an unruly Spirit, & be of service to him. This we have reason to think it has effected. He is now equally desirous as his Mother to obtain his Freedom & go to some useful Trade; And perhaps he is now as justly entitled to it, as at his first Enlistment, not being 16 until the End of this Month. I beg pardon for perhaps an unnecessary prolixity. & refer to Lt Coll Cummings who I think is well acquainted with the Affair. If You, Sir, think the Lad entitled to a Discharge, he will I am confident immediately be furnished with it, & the Heart of a Mother set at Ease: & if so, a Line from Yr Excellency signifying the same, will be an Honour done to one who is, with the highest Esteem & Respect Yr Excellency's Most Obedient & most humb. Servant

Wm P. Smith

TO GEORGE WASHINGTON
FROM ELISHA BOUDINOT

NewArk, April, 1783

Amidst that general joy which is diffused thro' the States on the establishment of our Independence, and a restoration of the blessings of peace; will your Excellency permit an individual, deeply interested in your happiness, to give vent, if possible to his feelings on this occasion ; and most sincerely to congratulate you on the final accomplishment of our most sanguine hopes -

The thought, that your Excellency has survived the contest, adds a pleasure to the enjoyment that no other event could possibly give - It has been my earnest prayer that Heaven would preserve your life to compleat the liberation of your country from tyranny, and see her safely secured in peace independence and happiness, and to receive the gratefull acknowledgments of a whole people - Nothing can afford a great Mind, more real pleasure than the Idea, of being the happy Instrument of giving birth to an empire, the

future nursery of every principle that can ennoble man, an asylum for the persecuted of all nations, and in fact rendering happiness to one quarter of the globe - It is a satisfaction that an Angel might aspire after, and which you Sir, are justly entitled to enjoy - I am confident that the idea of this has supported your Excellency in the Many distressing Scenes you have passed thro' to the final completion of our wishes - You have finished your part, it only remains that your Country should equal in gratitude the toils, the dangers and solicitude you have endured for them that they will do this collectively there is no doubt; but something still remains to perfect the reward; to convince you that every individual feels that real affection & gratitude for you, that they ought, to the Father and Deliverer of their country - this only can be done by the representation of private persons, which will I hope apologize for the intrusion - My publick business calls me into every county of this State, and a very general acquaintance with the inhabitants, and I am certain, I should do them the greatest injustice, did I not assure your Excellency, that there is scarcely a Man or Woman among them but what entertain

these sentiments, and but what have a Monument erected to you in their breasts, that can only be effaced with their lives - Was it possible for your Excellency to have a view of the whole country at once, and see the honest farmers around their fires, blessing your name, and teaching their children to lisp your praises; you would forget your toils & labours, and thank Heaven that you was born to bless a gratefull land.

When your Excellency is retiring from the field, will you indulge the Inhabitants of this State to spend a short time, as you are passing thro' free from care, where you have spent so much in distress and anxiety of mind; that they may have an opportunity of personally convincing you of their attachments?

I take the liberty to inclose, and beg your acceptance of an Ode written by my father-in-law Mr Smith on the present occasion -

Mrs Boudinot joins me in entreating that you will be kind enough to make our sincere congratulations acceptable to Mrs Washington, and to assure her that we participate in the joy

that she above all others must feel at this
time.

That you may both long, long enjoy that cup
of happiness which Providence has so
completely filled, is the fervent desire of him
Who is with the greatest respect

Your Excellency' s

Most hble & Ob Serv'

Elisha Boudinot.

His Ex. Genl Washington.

(Endorsed in Gen Washington' s hand...)
from Elisha Boudinot, Esq. Apl. 1783

AN ODE ON THE PEACE

Elizabeth Town, April, 1783.

Set to music.

At length war's sanguine scenes are o'er,
Her dire alarms are heard no more
Thro' all Columbia's plain :
Sweet peace descends with balmy wings,
And heaven-born independence brings
With freedom in her train.

Chorus.

Hail ! heaven descended guests, all hail !
Peace, independence, freedom, hail !

Ruler of Kings ! thy mandate shook
The fated Monarch's throne, and struck
The Jewels from his crown :
Thy wisdom the rude statesmen taught
With aid divine the soldier fought -
The weak an empire won.

Chorus.

Hail ! Sovereign wisdom, goodness, hail !
Peace, independence, freedom, hail !

Oh ! shed thy heavenly influence down !
Form the new States to high renown,
Far as the Orient's shore.
Let Justice lift aloft her hand !
Virtues, pure rob'd, patrol the land,
Till Suns revolve no more.

Chorus.

Hail ! train of heaven, bright-mantled, hail !
Peace, independence, freedom, hail !

Publick devotion - glorious flame !
That gave to Rome immortal fame,

Thy sacred ardors bring :
Religion chief, angelic Maid !
In ev'ry breast thy empire spread,
To purge corruption's spring.

Chorus.

Hail ! pure ethereal graces, hail !
Peace, independence, freedom, hail !

Her darling son, Columbia's boast !
Envy and dread of Albion's host !
His patriot Falchion sheaths,
Celestial meeds in ample flow
Crown the Deliverer ! bind his brow
With honors endless wreaths !

Chorus.

Hail! Washington! Deliverer hail !
Peace, independence, freedom, hail !

Prince of illustrious christian name !
Historic pens shall mark thy fame,
Till times long annals close.
Rous'd at oppressions general grief,
Thy god like arms extend relief
Then - give a world repose.

Chorus.

Hail ! christian king ! deliverer hail !
Peace, independence, freedom, hail !

Now let the loud shrill clarions play,
Triumphant peals proclaim the day,
Th' united States are free !
While round all cheering music floats

And echoing hills rebound the notes,
God's firm and just decree !

Chorus.

Hallelujah ! Hallelujah !
Hallelujah ! Hallelujah !

William Peartree Smith, 1783

TO ELISHA BOUDINOT
FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON

Newburgh, May 10th, 1783.

Sir: ~

Your letter of congratulation contains expressions of too friendly a nature not to affect me with the deepest sensibility. I beg therefore you will accept my acknowledgment for them, and that you will be persuaded I can never be insensible of the interest you are pleased to take in my personal happiness, as well as in the general felicity of the country. While I candidly confess I cannot be indifferent to the favourable sentiment, which you mention my fellow citizens entertain of my exertions in their service, I wish to express through you the particular obligations I feel myself under to Mr. Smith for the pleasure I have received from the perusal of his elegant ode on the peace. The accomplishment of the great object we had in view, in so short a time, and under such propitious circumstances, must I am confident, fill every bosom with the purest joy; and for my own part I will not

strive to conceal the pleasure I already anticipate from my approaching retirement to the placid walks of domestic life. Having no rewards to ask for myself, if I have been so happy as to obtain the approbation of my countrymen I shall be satisfied. But it still rests with them to complete my wishes by adopting such a system of policy, as will ensure the future reputation, tranquility, happiness and glory of this extensive' empire; to which I am much assured nothing can contribute so much as an inviolable adherence to the principles of the union, and a fixed resolution of building the national faith on the basis of public justice - without which all that has been done and suffered is in vain - to effect which therefore, the abilities of every true patriot, ought to be exerted with the greatest zeal and assiduity. I am as yet uncertain, at what time I shall be at liberty to return to Virginia, and consequently cannot inform you when I may be able to gratify my inclination of spending a little time with my friends in Jersey, as I pass through that state. I can only say that the friendship I have for a people, from whom I have often derived such essential aid, will strongly dispose me to it.

Mrs. Washington begs Mrs. Boudinot and yourself to accept her best compts., and thanks for your good wishes, and I must request the same favor, being with sentiments of esteem and regard,

Sir, Your most Obed. & most Hble. Servant,

Go. Washington.

To Elisha Boudinot, Esq.

TO ELIAS BOUDINOT
FROM WILLIAM PEARTREE SMITH

NewArk, April 1783.

My Dear Sir,

The glorious work is completed! I salute and congratulate you on the opening of this, I hope, auspicious day - a day which, with the name of my Friend will be recorded in the page of History, when his Spirit and mine, I trust in God, will be celebrating a Jubilee of eternal Peace and Harmony.

The fine air of this illustrious morning, you will find has set my silent bells into a little jingle; and the imperfect sounds are conveyed to your ears. They are very weak, I must confess. I am incapable of ringing the Grand and Noble Chimes of Triumph. They utter, however, very sincere joy and my ardent aspirations.

And now my dear Sir, all hands to work, to set all the parts of the Great acquired machine into some order, which I fear is all going to

Pieces, without sufficient force in the
Commanding Spring, (over which you now
preside) and which must be acquired. All the
inferior wheels will run into Confusion, and by
and bye, some Master Hand will seize it. So
did a Cromwell; and if this should become
necessary, as (*inter nos et sub rosa*) I think it
will, God grant it may be the man who merits
from the Country he has rescued -

a DIADEM!

I will detain you no longer, but finish my
Letter, only tagging a little laughing mocking
Picture at the End on't -

*The Conscious Tory hangs his humbled Head,
Or sneaks to Scotia with his axe and spade;
Reluctant - there to weep 'mid Fogs or Frost-
His Friends, his Family, his Country lost.
There toils and sweats beneath inclement skies,
Envies the once damn'd Rebel -*

curses George and dies.

April 22, 1783.

...I take it for granted that a Day of Gen Thanksgiving is already appointed, when with you I shall join in my hearty Amen to the universal Song, Reflection or two amid this general Burst of Joy. Tell me, O my Friend, of what avail is this most wonderful blessing of Independence to the poor Individual who has sacrificed his all generously to obtain it for his Country, and has now nothing to depend upon for his own support but the mere good Providence of Heaven: not the Justice of his Country; for all regard to this prime attribute of God seems to be vanished from these Rising States. Empires founded upon Trick and Injustice can never prosper. If no restitution be made to injured friends who risked every thing to uphold a desperate cause, Divine vengeance will be and by appear in some great unlooked-for & forcible Event. National Crimes, which cannot be punished in a future, must be nationally punished in this world, if there be a righteous God above. All past History verifies the truth of this Observation. And for abandoning the now wretched Loyalists, says Dr. Carlisle, ` We ought all to

be damned both in this world and ye world to come. Pardon, I write wth some feeling.

The other day I suddenly met wth a Freeman's journal in which was an acct of a late disturbance in the Army, & of our Great General's Conduct upon that Occasion - a Conduct truly admirable. Superior to what the common principles of Human Nature would have dictated to a Soaring Genius. To a Soul endued wth a spark of ambition, and pointing to Earthly Grandeur, the Opportunity then afforded was a fine one indeed! The writing dispersed among them was well done, shrewd, sensible, & artful, perfectly calculated to blow all up into a universal flame. Had an Oliver commanded a republican army at such a delicate and critical Juncture, his towering brain would have traced out instantaneously a very different Line of Conduct. But Washington is the Patriot of Patriots. Talk of your Catos, yr Brutus, & yr Cassius - they are all meer Fools to him. In short, he is too good for an ingrate, base, degenerate world. Verily, Verily, I don't know whether it would not have been best for us all, had he lain hold of the Helm; for I am confoundedly afraid the

Stupid Crew will sink the Ship, when escaped the Storm and got into safe Port. Words cannot express my Veneration for this Character, to which the late Action has given the finishing stroke. Each State ought to erect a Statue to him: and I would inscribe on the Pedestal: *Patriae Liberator. Humani Generis Amator. Humanistati Laudibusq Superior.* But alas, Alas! the God of this world has blinded their Eyes, and what they ought to do they know not.

It is truly very pious and very charitable in you, my very dear Friend, to talk as you do, of `trusting in the Almighty Protector of our grateful Country, that as he has brought us in sight of Jordan, &c.` As to this grateful Country, I, for my part, am grown so much of a Cynic of late, as to be filled with many uncharitable doubts abt the gratitude of this same grateful Country. And with respect to trusting in God, `tis a very pious Resolve; but here again I have so much of the Sceptic about me as to doubt whether the Almighty will help a People who refuse to put their own shoulders to the work. We know with respect to Individuals it is sd `Work out yr own

Salvation, because ' &c. Human Exertions and Divine Aid go together wth Nations as well as individuals. This is my Creed, & I believe yours. However, God may save us miraculously, for aught I know, for the sake of a few righteous - for the sake of the few good men we have at the Head of our great Counsil - at the Head of our Army, and I must presume at the Head of our Churches. But I detain you too long. Forgive me this Wrong, and all my impertinent effusions wth yr usual Candor: and be pleased to present my affecs and respectful Salutations to yr two daughters.

Ever my excellent Friend ' s

Most Entirely,

W.P.S.

TO ELISHA BOUDINOT
FROM ELIAS BOUDINOT

Philad a, June 23, 1783.

My dear Brother

I have only a moment to inform you that there has been a most dangerous Insurrection and meeting among a few Soldiers in the Barracks here about 3 or 400 surrounded Congress and the Supreme Executive Council, and kept us Prisoners in a manner near 3 hours, tho' they offered no insult personally - To my great mortification, not a citizen came to our assistance - The President and Council have not firmness enough to call out the Militia and allege as a reason that they would not obey them - In short the political manœuvres here, previous to the important Events of next October entirely unhinge Government - This handful of Mutineers continue still with Arms in their hands and are privately supported, and it is well if we are not all Prisoners in a short time - Congress will not meet here, but have authorized me to change their place of Residence - I mean to

adjourn to Princeton if the Inhabitants of
Jersey will protect us - I have wrote to the
Governor particularly - I wish you could get
your Troop of Horse to offer their aid and be
ready if necessary to meet us at Princeton on
Saturday or Sunday next if required - I would
not wish anything to be made more public
than is necessary for the above purpose - I
wish Jersey to show her readiness on this
occasion as it may fix Congress as to their
permanent residence - The Express will call for
an answer Am in great haste with love to all

Yours aff c,y

Elias Boudinot

Elisha Boudinot Esq'

Ædem banc amplissimam cultui
DIVINO dicatam ex animo religioso
et munificentia valde præclara
NOV-ARC habitantes, cura sub
pastorali rev. Alexandri
Macwhorter, S. T. D., primum qui
posuit saxum, construxerunt anno
salutis, 1787; Amcr. Reipub.
Fæderatæ 12. Auspicante Deo,
longum perduret in Ævum.

*The generous and pious residents of
NEWARK consecrate this great edifice
proscribed for DIVINE worship, under the
pastoral care of their rev. Alexander
Macwhorter, Doctor of Sacred Theology,
who laid the first stone in the auspicious
year, 1787; 12th of the American Federated
Republic, by Divine Providence, may it
endure for Æternity.*

STATE v. JOSHUA FARLEY

May Term, 1791.

On *Habeas Corpus* of Negro Joe claiming his Freedom.

THE said Joshua Farley having returned that the said Negro Joe in the Writ named, before the coming of the said Writ, was and still is, the Negro Slave of him the said Joshua Farley, and that he had, and still hath Right and Title to hold the said Joe a Slave during Life ; and thereof tendered an Issue to the Country, and prayed the Court that the said Issue so tendered might be tried by a Jury of his Country ; whereupon, The Court having heard Counsel, and taking the Matter into Consideration, are of Opinion that a Jury in this Case is improper, and therefore do refuse the same.

The Evidence both for and against the Claim of the said Negro Joe to be set at Liberty, being fully heard, and Counsel thereupon on both sides.

The Court do adjudge that the said Negro Joe is illegally detained in the Custody of the said Joshua Farley, and therefore do order him to be discharged from the said Custody and illegal Detention of him the said Joshua Farley, on the Motion of Elisha Boudinot.

STATE v. JOS. BEAVERS, JOHN
CLIFFORD, & JOHN MARTIN,
Administrators of EDW. CLIFFORD deceased.

May Term, 1791.

On *Habeas Corpus ad subjiciendum*, for the
Liberation of Negro Abraham Solomons, and
Negro Dolly his Wife.

The Attorney-General, Elisha Boudinot, and
Linn, Counsel for the Negroes. Leake and
Richard Stockton, Counsel for the said
Administrators.

THE Defendants having returned the Bodies
with the Cause &c. "That they are the Negro
Slaves of the said Defendants of the Estate of
their Intestate, and that they have Right to
hold them as such, during Life," and thereof
having tendered an Issue to the Country, and
prayed that the same might be tried by a Jury
of the Country.

The Court considering that this Point was
fully argued and determined by them in the
Case of the State against Joshua Farley,

November Term last, do refuse to hear any Argument thereupon, and do direct that the Cause be opened and heard before the Court in the usual Manner; whereupon, The Court having heard the Return filed and Evidence and Allegations of the Parties, do order, on Motion of Mr. Leake Attorney for the said Administrators, that the said Abraham and Dolly be remanded into the Custody of the said Administrators.

TO AARON BURR
FROM ELISHA BOUDINOT

New Ark June 18, 1789.

Sir, - Mr. Warmly has returned from Mr. Ogilvie who insists upon the Exclusion of Schoonmaker's being discharged first. Will you therefore be kind enough to send by Mr. Burnet a calculation of the debt and costs due on that execution, as they are to meet on Saturday to endeavor to settle it.

I am with esteem, Dear Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant,

Elisha Boudinot

Col. Burr, Counsellor-at-law, New York.
Favored by Mr. Burnet.

TO ELISHA BOUDINOT
FROM ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Philadelphia, July 12th, 1792.

Dear Sir:

I wrote to you, a day or two since, on the subject of the advertisement.

You recollect there is a power to borrow to be given to the Committee, under the seal of the Corporation. No time ought to be lost in preparing and executing the power, and making application for the loan. Not more than 30,000 dollars, in addition to the 10,000 already borrowed, need at first be asked for. I shall write to Mr. Seton by to-morrow's post.

Pray, my friend, let nothing slumber.

Yours,

A. Hamilton

TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON
FROM ELISHA BOUDINOT

NewArk, 13th Sept., 1792.

My Dear Sir:

There are great exertions making to get the people to petition against the incorporation; several persons are employed to go about with petitions, and the people are deceived by the most absurd false-hoods. The only mode I thought of to counteract them, was to have petitions drawn, and hire a person calculated for the purpose to go round with them, and I am in hopes it will answer the purpose effectually. We shall obtain numbers who signed the first, to sign ours, declaring they were imposed on. *So much for petitions.*

Will you sketch the substance of a law you wish with regard to apprentices - or the heading of it - and I will see it carried through the Legislature? Had you not better be up a day or two previous to the first Monday in October?

The Antis are making greater exertions than you perhaps are aware of, previous to the expected general election. Our Chief Justice says that a number from Philadelphia have been to the lower parts of West Jersey, informing the people that a strong party is forming in that city against the Secretary of the Treasury, requesting their aid, and that they will not choose a man who has supported his measures, especially Mr. Boudinot, &c. &c.

My brother showed me a letter last evening, received by the post, dated Norfolk, Virginia - only a few lines - inclosing a handbill for his information, signed "James Blanchard." This handbill is addressed to the Electors and Freeholders of New Jersey, setting forth the dangerous consequences of the measures of the Secretary, &c., the funding system, bank, &c.; then giving extracts of speeches made by Mr. Boudinot in support of them, &c., and warning the people to take care, &c., and says that pamphlets should be distributed amongst them previous to the election.

From these things it appears as if they meant to try their strength in every State. A young

gentleman of this town was lately at Philadelphia, and at his lodgings there was a gentleman from Virginia (whose name I do not at this moment recollect), very violent on the subject, and said he was going the middle and eastern States, to see what could be done with regard to displacing the Secretary of the Treasury; and, finding from the conversation of the other gentleman, that Mr. Madison was not a popular character, in Jersey at least, he asked if Mr. Morris would not be agreeable, &c. If the federalists sleep whilst their enemies are awake and vigilant, some mischief may be done.

I am, in haste, dear Sir,

With respect,

Yours sincerely,

Elisha Boudinot.

TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON
FROM ELISHA BOUDINOT

NewArk March 26, 1793.

Dear Sir

After passing through a fiery ordeal, I suppose you have a few moments to breathe a milder air. The part the Country in general take in your triumph over the envious and malicious, enemies to the Government as well as yourself; must convince you that the influence of these beings extend but a little way out of their own selfish narrow circle.

Mr Low has been over with me, and we have concluded to put off the meeting of the Directors till the 16th April, as then we should have a full board in all probability, and be more likely to have your attendance. In fact if you do not wish to forsake your child, it is absolutely necessary for you to attend at that time. Mr Low informed Major L'Enfant, Mr. Colt and myself that Col. Ogden would make an offer at that time to deliver the water at Vrelandts point, purchase the lands necessary

for the Canals for £20,000 and if he did he should be of opinion that it ought to be complied with. The Major then said he would not begin any part of his plan that was not in actual operation until then and they concluded to discharge the laborers that applied and give out that they would not be wanted till the 20th April. This will occasion a delay that I am sorry for. Mr Colt goes home and will return by the time of our meeting. He is I think every way qualified for the business and I have no doubt of its success under his management as soon as the works can be set in motion. He is very much pleased with Peirce & Marshall and they with him, and harmony is fully restored. Do not let these pompous, high minded, would be King's, though under the false garb of republicans - draw your attention from this great object - but look forward to those tranquil days when this child will be an Hercules, and you settled on the beautiful and peaceful banks of the Passaic, enjoying the fruits of your labor.

I am with respect Dr. Sir

Sincerely,

FROM ALEXANDER HAMILTON
TO ELIZABETH HAMILTON

Philadelphia, August 21, 1794

Your last letter, My beloved Eliza, gave me inexpressible pleasure. It tells me that my precious boy was fast recovering. Heaven Grant that the favourable appearances may have continued.

If you have not already left Albany write to me the precise day you will certainly leave it; so that I may meet you at New Ark. When you get to New York apply to Col Fish to make an arrangement for carrying you & the Child to New Ark & when there, go to Mr. Boudinot's till I come.

Philip & Alexander are gone to Trenton. Angelica is in good health.

Adieu my sweet. Love to all with you & best blessings on you & My dear boys.

H.

FROM ELIAS BOUDINOT
TO RACHEL BRADFORD.

NewArk, Oct 26. 1798.

My dear Rachel,

Your letter of Saturday was received yesterday morning and appeared to us as life from the dead, thus is the goodness of God ever exercised towards us & in the midst of judgment does he remember Mercy - The appearance of a recovery in our dear Brother has given real joy throughout this village, the Inhabitants of which have testified great feeling & sympathy in the interest they have manifested they had on this trying occasion - May God grant that lives thus spared by his condescending Mercy may hereafter be spent to his glory.

We are exceedingly obliged by your constant faithful account of my Brothers illness - It is a satisfaction to know that nothing is kept back and while we partake with him in all his danger & distress, we still place our confidence in that God who hath ever been our help &

support and has promised never to leave or forsake us.

I had anticipated your wishes in getting Gen l Cumming to look out for another house and to have the family moved before my Brother s return for this one is only calculated to produce every kind of disease & I despair of the family's restoration to health while they remain here. I expect to get Mr. James B. Smith's house which I believe is the only one to be had in the Town.

We are anxious to hear how you are, do take prudent care of yourself - I know you want me to watch you - we are very anxious for your next letter - In hopes to have a confirmation of the goodness of God to us.

Mrs Jones is better & has got about the house - Sally is better tho' weak, she has behaved exceedingly well since we have been here.

Phobe is always complaining - I fear much for my better half as she is often complaining but we are still in the hands of a Gracious God - Elias is tolerable - Remember us in the most

affectionate manner to our good Brother Mr & Mrs Hunter and our cousin Hunter & family - If Susan is with you give our love to her & send her to Princeton as soon as you can, as I think she is too predisposed to fever to remain in a damp atmosphere -

Mr. & Mrs Smith are much as usual but Elias continues in a dangerous situation: The Doctor has hitherto proved callous to all invitations to stopping of blood altho' he confesses the inundation of medicines he has produced has had no effect. I have just been at him and at last he has consented to bleed Elias in the next paroxysm of fever as well as blister him, tho' he says it will do him no good - If this succeeds I shall insist on the same process with Eliza who gives us much uneasiness.

As to myself, I am mending having got my feet to the ground tho' in a weak state. I mean to resign an attempt at moving on in a day or two

I am my dear Rachel,

Your very affet l y

Elias Boudinot.

Miss Bradford

at The Rev. Dr. Hunter' s, Near Trenton

NEW ARK

In memory of Catharine, Wife of Elisha Boudinot, who departed this life, 30 August, 1797, aged 47 years and eight months; also of their children, Anna Amelia, born, 11 February, 1789, and died, 9 August, 1793, aged 4 years and 6 months, William Alexander Hamilton, born, 20 February, 1795, and died, 15 September following, aged 6 months and 26 days; also of their grand children, Julia Gertrude Atterbury, born, 9 September, 1804, and died, 16 of the same month, aged 7 days, Catharine Atterbury, born, 21 March, 1808, and died, 5 September, 1809, aged 1 year and 5 months; also of Rachel, wife of Elisha Boudinot, who departed this life, 8 June, 1805, aged 41 years.

FROM ELISHA BOUDINOT
TO ISAAC TICHENOR

NewArk, Feb. 12, 1799.

Dear Sir

Mr. Chipman sent me the one hundred dollars you forwarded by him - as I propose to begin raising a house this spring, if it is in my power to raise the means - I shall esteem it as a particular favor if you will remit me the balance, either by the post or some private opportunity, as whether I get a house or not will in some measure depend on it and I have been so driven about from place to place that I long for a resting spot

I am sorry that your state have so disgraced themselves by sending again as their Representative the in-famous Lyon - but, we are in an age of excentricity! May we weather the storm!

Will you please to make my best respects acceptable to Mrs. Tichenor.

I am Dr Sir

Your most obd sert

Elisha Boudinot



William P. Smith A.M.