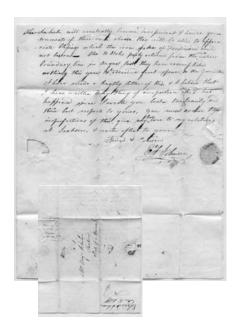
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## Burlington Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 1819

## Dear Cousin

Your favor of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept was duly received the perusing of it gave me much pleasure. Our family are all in usual health; Eliza and myself are studying the French language, the other children attend school at the academy; in general is very dull. The legislature pose about a fortnight since, after experiencing many dark days and much strife. The Steamboat Phoenix was consumed by fire about six weeks since, nearly opposite this place and seven persons out of forty eight were lost. The Canal from White-Hall at the head of the Lake to fort Edwards on the Hudson is finished and boats are now passing and reposing with ease and facility. We have now a water communication to N York, and before another year has passed there will probably be water communication from here to Quebec. We have received the Constitution of the State of Maine as adopted by the convention at Portland. It is excellent and purely republican. I hope that your State will prosper & flourish under the new administration and that t will lose nothing of its republican strength in being detached from Massachusetts. Our Gristmill is completed and a finer one is no where to be found in this country. It has 3 run of stones & room for a fourth if found necessary we can grind upon an average upward of 300 bushels of grain in 24 hours without injuring the flour. We have much news from abroad and many rumours are in circulation concerning our affairs with Spain which appear to be still unsettled. I think if they do not occasion an open rupture, they will at least lean to serious consequences. The Florida treaty from the latest accounts has not been ratified and when it will be (if ever) time alone can determine; delay succeeds delay and hope weary & exhausted has fallen asleep. –

What more could have been expected from a foolish, weak, effeminate & faithless tyrant. The constant dupe of his own caprices and of a detectable priest-craft who excite

his fears and fatten on his crimes who under the sacred garb of religion have polluted all that was sacred and cankered all that was happy. -- Ferdinand cannot possibly be so foolish & insane as to declare war against the United States in the present enfeebled state of his finances without expecting the cooperation of some one of the powers of Europe. – No person would ever sympathise in the downfall of this tyrant of the human race and in the extinpation [?] of one of the most foul courts of Errope & an inquisition where very name thrills the feeling heart with horror and whose hellish barbarities have withered that once fruitful realm as it were into a gloomy desert. Humanity would rejoice and nature would triumph in the change.

If we look to England the eye finds but little relief there we see a loyal people oppressed and almost starved, their ministers of State and a Nobility living in all the splendour of Splendour itself, appear to despires the complaints of the suffering population. – A revolution will probably be the consequence if no means are taken to alleviate their general distress – When a government is so far dead to its own interests and the welfare of its subjects as to grind the face of the labourer even to death, and to cause the soldiery to dispose at the point of the bayonet an apemblage of the people peaceably collected together for the purpose of petitions and seeking redress for their grievances, & when a government has become so extravagant as to force the last mouthful from suffering poverty to pamper a Nobility the curse of Nations & of men whose very manes excite our detertation & contempt & who are obliged to keep a standing army to protect & defend them from the rage & resentment of an injured and oppressed people – I say, that when a Government has come to this!! It ought & will cease to exist. – The Patriots of S. America still continue to excot [?] their utmost in the support of their just rights and the cause of mankind, the weak condition of Spain & the perile & indecisive character of Ferdinand will not be able to check their progress to Freedom. – The Inhabitants of all S America will eventually become independent & governments of their own choice they will be able to appreciate blessings which the iron yoke of Ferdinand could not bestow. The U States \_\_\_\_\_ returned from the North Eastern boundary line in August last. They have accomplished nothing this year & have occasioned great expence to the Government. I have made a lengthy letter of this & I believe that I have written every thing of importance that has happened since I wrote you last. Our family send their best respects to yours. You must excise the imperfections of this. Give my best love to my relations at Jackson & write often to you

Friend & Cousin E.F. Johnson