

Dear Sir

Robinebuk Nov^r 17-1812

I received yours this morning. am glad to hear a little from you - my family and I - have impressed my labours and attention so that I have not visited Dear Mr Washington Clinton since I returned from Exeter where I saw you. he was very weak - I hope to see him in a few days - My family have had a tedious season of affliction - my labours have been great - we have a good revival of religion on this Circuit about 20 - have professed to be converted - But the greatest cause for rejoicing is the solemn steadfast engagedness of the members - Notwithstanding wars and rumours of wars, the Lord Jesus has not left us. We hope he will continue with us through all this trouble. I preached on Psalms 110 - 2-3 - and I considered that part of the text emphatical which says. But thou in the midst of thine enemies thy willing people - in the beauties of holiness - on the day of thy Power. I laboured to show that the day of Power spoken of was the judgement of God upon our nation and the nations of the earth. And the judgements we as a nation have to deplore, are the earthquakes, Pestilence, and war that has come upon us - I informed the necessity of praying God to - rule - in the midst of his enemies - his people in these times of sore evil - It appears to have a good effect - I view the present war a judgement from God, and I wish it may prove a necessary &c. - Notwithstanding the great good done by preaching the Gospel and the moral institutions in Church and State. Richedness has abounded, and corrupted many, so that party spirit has done much like. But I think times and administrations are about to alter - I said three years ago that the Hon^{ble} De Witt Clinton would be the next President I say so still. some have asked me my reason for such a Prediction. I cite the case of Jacob - and Esau - Jacob and Esau's Policy never prospered - it was a violation of Gods order - so when Mr Madison was nominated over Mr Clinton it was a violation of Gods order, and will produce the curse

The Virginia Politicks are of the same stamp as Nebuchadnezzar and Jacob's notion of bringing about God's purpose. They manifested a principle that it was honorable to lie for God. So I fear Virginia Policy has led some to lie. And if it is not checked very soon it will most certainly produce a dismemberment of the Union - I hope better things though I thus speak -

The news in these parts is pretty much of great defeats and little conquests. Generals - Hull and Dearborn. from the best accounts, are given too much to wine and women for successful commanders. Our Gen. Dearborn had an expedition from Albany to Staughtsborough not long since to celebrate the Anniversary of a young lady's Birth day at Gov. Lewis where I am informed he was so engaged in dancing Pigeon wing as they call it that he mist of the passage in the steam boat and had to get a passage with the Mail-drover in a one horse waggon. It is quite a mortification to some here that a gentleman who wears a 500 dollar coat should be so unfortunate when he goes to see the Ladies. But I tell them it was his own fault. He ought not to be so engaged in dancing Pigeon wing.

I dispare of any great things being done till Gov. Harrison goes forward - he's the man - In his hands I think the fortune of war will turn. The unprepared state of our country for war is a very painful evil - and as the evil might have been prevented if our wise men had been a little wiser, but as they did not make due preparation it renders our Policy very unpleasant.

I wrote a petition (stating my self think well) to the Gov. & assembly of this State for an institution to organize a military school stiled a volunteer corps. of the Militia to be supported by a tax of first 14th from each one that pleads exemption from military duty for (conscience sake) 2^d - 10 dollars from those who only plead (conscience) 3^d 14 dollars from every fiddler - 4th 10th - for license to hold a fiddling clamor in any house 5th 30 cents and 25th for the highest & lowest seat in a theatre each at 2c - and 14th - for license of each actor per year - 6th 25th for each profane oath that a gentleman shall utter. and 3^d for each profane oath uttered by a clown - And I found on a moderate calculation that if there was no profane swearing or cursing. we should realize the sum of near 900-000 \$ per year & and this would educate at least 30-000 volunteers for service and pay them well -

I sent it to a printer. he said he liked it well - but he was afraid to print it. least he should lose the good graces of the ladies so it is not published. If you think the general government could do any thing to organize such a school I would send you the petition in that form you would inscribe. Either to be presented to Congress or printed in some newspaper to agitate some talk upon the subject.

Whatever measures Congress shall adopt to carry on the war and defend the Nation - let us practice that old though much neglected method of pray to God - I feel very happy in prayer for my country and my friends and especially that the present judgements may be blis to us.

My family enjoy better health now than for some time past. My belly expresses an anxious desire that the N York Candidate for President should succeed in the election. For which and for the blessing of God to attend you and all in authority I add my fervent prayer. and subscribe my self Yours respectfully

Billy Hibbard

Please to send such of the documents as you can spare and you will much oblige your friend.

BCH

Wm. M. M. M.

John
Robert
George
Edward
Stephen
Henry

True
Hon. Pierre Van Cortlandt
Member of Congress
City Washington -
D