

April 7 - 1804 -

Dr Sir

Yours of the 31st of March is now before me & shall as a friend
~~who has always been in the habit of mutual confidence~~ endeavour to
answer - You mention that you are the second time likely to become a
sacrifice by Thomas. To what you allude I am ignorant unless E. Thomas
had promised you that he would oppose the nomination of Judge Gurdy
which you say he left home with intent to do, until he came to Bradsy
& found the northern part of the County would not support Gen^l Thomas
if Gurdy was discarded, That he then was ^{in favour of} Gurdy's nomination,
and that there were 44 who opposed it - & the reasons assigned for this op=
position are. That he voted with R. Hatfield for the turnpike road thro the
White Plains - The appointment of his Son Eben as master in Chancery -
Mr Swanton as a rotary Public And Mr Ludlow as Justice of the
Justice's Court in New York: With respect to the turnpike. If Judge
Gurdy did vote for it, under the impression of its being beneficial, he
certainly was right, for whether the law was improper or not, yet if
he conceived it right no blame ought to be attached to him for that vote
and the ^{great} objection to it is that ^{it} left the Court House half a mile East
which may be an improper lot, but it strikes me it would curtail
the distance very considerably, whether it is the most eligible place
I cannot tell; With respect to the appointment of his Son, I believe
that Judge Gurdy had very little to say in that appointment - Mr
Swanton I know nothing about. But as to Mr Ludlow, I have un=
derstood in a young Gentleman of handsome Talents & of excellent
moral Character. ^{and also} It is true that his Father was a Judge or an Officer
in the British Army, & ^{who} very probable procured a Commission for his
Son. This has been done by many Others - The present Recorder of New
York whose father died a British Officer during the war, had if I am
rightly informed a Commission in the British Army obtained through
the instrumentality of Col Burr just after Peace, but which he
sold or resigned at the time he took license in the Supreme Court of
this State as an Attorney, which I presume was the case with Mr
Ludlow. So that his case exactly answers with Mr Ludlow's, besides
Mr Ludlow had been a rotary Public a long time & lately made
one of the Justices upon the promotion of Mr Cutting as master in
Chancery - ^{alleged against Judge Gurdy} So that these reasons appear to me futile when compared
with his uniform steady conduct in the Senate & Council of Ap=
pointment - But since he has been nominated it is now too
late to recall what has been done, and your opposing him cannot
answer any other purpose whatever ^{than} creating a division

among Republicans & perhaps by that means gett a Federalist elected
in his room, which I am convinced is not your wish - But it may
have that tendency if you persist in your Opposition. At so momen-
tous a Crisis as the present every private Consideration ought to give
place to the public Good, and every Exertion ought to be used to keep
a Man from the helm of this State whom the Republicans in the
Union have discarded & who is viewed by every honest Man with
detestation; Two Senators were given to this Country with a view to
heal every division which was like to take place after the Nomina-
tion of Gen. Thomas at North Castle, & it would now be ex-
tremely mortifying to the Southern members that the very evil
which they were so anxious to avoid, was like to take place
from the opposition to Judge Gurdy; ~~Do~~ Let me therefore
intreat of you to reflect seriously upon the Consequence
of your Opposition, and if you cannot vote for him, do
not oppose him - Do not let it be said that your dislike
to an Individual, ^{prompted} ~~urged~~ you to forsake your Old friends
and the Cause of Republicanism;

& no doubt I think that the Piece in Chatham paper is ~~low~~ & servile and
~~abusive~~, written by one of your Personal Enemies, & ~~from the whole~~
~~conjecture and not at a loss to conjecture its Author, but which~~
~~may be counteracted~~; and which it is your duty you owe yourself
and your Old friends
to counteract, & make no doubt but Chatham will tell you the source
from whence he obtained the Information, it originates -

The Fair yesterday I should certainly have been at Boston this Day agreeable
to my ^{promise} ~~letter~~, but the fair yesterday and ~~the weather not fair yet not~~
being very well, ^{this day} the weather ~~very~~ unsettled think it would not be prudent
for me to venture down here. Therefore as I shall be disappointed
in seeing you ^{before the meeting in Monday next} have thought it advisable to write you my Opinion --

Long letter to General
Bellevue dated 7-1004-
interesting letter -