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James B. Finley Letters

11-24-1720

Letter from Benjamin Colman to Samuel Shute, Esq.

Benjamin Colman

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Sir, so far I had wrote in the Morning, when the
Bell called to Church. I think yr. Lecture we had does abund-
antly justify yr. Caution I here use in a well directed Zeal.
I confess my self at a loss to say what a prudent zeal would
dictate in the case before us. If fear an improvement to
clamour & evil, I question yr. attaining yr. good one would
desire.

The Postscript & its author are already known to many.
Possibly a copy taken by some friend, & privately shown, might
have all yr. good Influence we wish. Or if only yr. former
part of yr. Postscript be printed so far as when I have drawn
a line. I beseech Your Excellency to forgive me my
great folly in troubling You as I have here done, if it be
not prudent to write as I do.

I am

Sir

Your very humble & Obedient
Servant,

Boston. Novem. 24.

1720.

Benjamin Colman

willingly venture that, if yr. Service of your Excellency & my
Country require it. Only I will confess to your Excellency my
own Opinion, which seems different from Mr. Hoar's, vizt,
That a Speaker being chosen yr. House should abide by
their choice.

But Sir there are many Reasons occur to me why
I ought to yield to yr. publishing yr. Postscript, if yr. reasons
above given do not forbid it.

First from the Love & Duty I owe to my Country, ac-
counting in my Conscience that the things wrote are of great
weight & do greatly import the well of it.

Secondly, Because it speaks fully my own known & declared
affection to yr. present Government.

Thirdly, To let others see the sense which our best Friends
on both sides yr. Water have of our true Interest,

Fourthly, Because what my Friend writes is in terms so
modest & inoffensive, & at yr. same time breathes so much
a Love to us, that it ought not in yr. least to offend any.

Lastly, Because the hopes of me, & of the rest of yr. Ministers
to use all our Interest to make the Government wise: to do which
withier they nor I need to be asked twice.

Sir

(83)

I have just now received your Excellency's desire of a copy of Mr. Neal's Postscript to me; which comes inclosed. But I beg your Excellency leave to give you my tho'ts about the publishing of it, & then I shall submit it entirely to your Wisdom & pleasure.

First Mr. Neal seems to forbid any such thing in his last words to me, which are — but those things be only between our selves.

Secondly, It carries a very severe Reflection upon the late Assembly, & will doubtless anger Dr. Cook & others not a little; now I consider that my Friend may reasonably expect the Thanks of yr. House for his History, if no more, & may think that I have exposed him to their displeasure by the resentment of a prevailing party.

Thirdly, your Excellency is yr. best Judge whether what is so freely told of my Lord Barrington will be pleasing to Him to have published; & whether what is said of the Dissenters will be pleasing to that Body; Whether it does not expose our Weakness & their to yr. Enemy.

I will not make a reason of Mr. Cook or Dr. Hoyer their displeasure which may arise against me, but most

For the Excellency
James
Shute Esq
Boston.
Good Night