

Benjamin Rush to John Adams, Philadelphia, 2 July 1788 (excerpts)

Permit an old friend to congratulate you upon your safe arrival in your native country. I rejoiced in reading, of the respectful manner in which you were received by your fellow Citizens.—you serve a grateful & enlight[e]ned people. May you long continue to enjoy their confidence, & may they long—very long continue to enjoy the benefits of your patriotism & knowledge.—

I have to thank you for many short letters during your Absence from America, but I owe more than I can express to you for your excellent Volumes upon Government. They shall be the Alcoran of my boys upon the great Subject of political happiness.—You have laid the world & posterity under great obligations by your researches. I am not more satisfied of the truth of the first axiom any one proposition in Euclid than I am of the truth of your leading propositions in Government.—Go on my dear friend in removing the rubbish of ignorance & prejudice from the Minds of your fellow Citizens. We live in an important *Æ*Era, and in a *new* Country. Much good may be done by individuals, & that too in a *short* time.

America has ever appeared to me to be the theatre on which human Nature will receive its greatest civil—literary—and religious honors.—*Now* is the time to sow the Seeds of each of them. Providence seems to have intended you to have a material hand in this business. Your labors for your country are only *beginning*. I hope—I expect—nay more—I am satisfied I shall see you in one of the first posts of the new government...

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