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 Goverment. 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 Goverment.—Go on my dear friend in removing the rubbish of ignorance & prejudice from the Minds of your fellow Citizens. We live in an important Æra, 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 goverment...