

John Jay to Richard Price, 27 September 1785

Dr Sr.

New York 27 Sep 1785

I have ^had^ the Pleasure of recieving the Letter of the 9 July last which you wrote me by Mr. Curtauld. Your Recommendation will be of great use to him and you may rely on my Readiness to do him any friendly offices in my Power.

His ^being^ unacquainted with the Business of Husbandry is an unfavorable Circumstance; and to obviate the Inconveniences which must result from it, I have advised him to postpone settling on a Farm for the present, and to spend at least one Season in the Family of some able Farmer. He seems a little sanguine, and ^is^ rather inclined to set himself to work at once— If that shd be the Case, I fear his Ignorance of the Business, , of our Customs, Wages, Prices & Markets will ^for a while^ expose him to ^mistakes &^ Impositions—I shall deal candidly & plainly with him, and he shall have my best Advice on every occasion—

I hope my Letter in answer to the one ^which^ inclosed a number of your valuable Pamphlets has reached you by this Time I do not recollect ^the^ Date, but it went in one of the last Vessels. The Cause of Liberty like most other good Causes, will have its Difficulties and sometimes its Persecutions to struggle with—It has advanced more ^rapidly^ in this than other Countr^ies^, but ^all its objects are not yet attained^ and I much doubt whether ^they^ ever will ^be^ in this or any other terrestrial State. That Men should pray and fight for their own Freedom & yet keep others in Slavery is certainly ^acting a very^ inconsistant as well as unjust & perhaps impious ^part^—but the History of Mankind is filled with Instances of human Improprieties—The Wise and the Good never form the Majority of any large Society and it seldom happens that ^^ ^their Measures are uniformly adopted or that they can always^ [] prevent being overborne ^themselves^ by the strong and almost never ceasing union of the wicked & the weak.^ These ^circumstances^ ^tell us to be patient^ & ^moderate^ those Sanguine Expectations, which warm & good Hearts often ^mis^lead ^even^ wise Heads to entertain on these Subjects— ^All that the best Men can do is^ to persevere in doing ^their^ Duty to ^their^ Country, & leave the Consequences to him who made it ^their^ Duty; being ^neither^ elated by Success ^however great^ nor ^discouraged^ by Disappointments however frequent or mortifying. With sincere Esteem & Regard I am Dr. Sr your most obt Servt
The Revd Doctr. Price