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Samuel Baird to John Nicholson Norristown, Pa., 13 November 1787

I received your favor by Mr. [William] Irvin but was sorry to find it dated so early as the 12th. I can readily excuse you as the hurry you must be in is certainly great.

I observe a John Black from York returned as a member of Convention. Pray is this our old master?¹ And is the clergy going to turn politicians? The blending them has had effects sufficiently terrible to make us avoid it. But this good little man (if it should be him) I am sure will be an exception. Confined to their closets and mixing but little with the vicious part of mankind for whom government is formed (or at best, mankind assuming, generally speaking, a more virtuous turn in their company) few of them have notions extensive enough to make good politicians. I could have wished an answer to mine of the 13th but make no doubt your situation was such as to make it inconvenient. If you print the state of the finances I will thank you for one.

1. The Reverend John Black, pastor of the Upper Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church, voted for ratification.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. II: Pennsylvania (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1976), 258.