

1801, June 22

New-York, June 22 1801.



I do myself the honor to return
 herewith the Chronological & Historical Table, which
 you were so good as to send me last Autumn. It contains
 a large portion of important matter, & I beg you
 to accept of my grateful acknowledgments
 for the communication of it.

You suggest the idea of sending this
 collection of facts, after it shall have been returned
 to you, to the Historical Society of Massachusetts. I
 am persuaded that Society would receive it with
 pleasure & gratitude. There was not long since
 a time when these feelings, on receiving such
 a communication might not have been the
 most plausible: — but New England people
 are the Scotchmen of America. They will,
 probably, hereafter, be polite enough —

In attempting to exhibit something
 of the progress of Science, Arts & Literature, during
 the Eighteenth Century, it is my wish to present
 a brief, but distinct view of the gradual
 advancement of learning in the United
 States — It is also my wish in this view, to

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give the names of those individuals in our country, who have distinguished themselves as promoters of useful knowledge; or to whom any considerable portion of our progress in any particular department of science or literature may be justly attributed. With respect to these objects of enquiry, so far as they concern the middle states, I have some knowledge; and with reference to the Southern States, I have with the prospect of obtaining information. Concerning the Southern part of our country, I am altogether at a loss, being wholly unacquainted with the names of those persons, who at the beginning, or during the first 70 years of the century, were conspicuous for their acquirements, or for the promotion of knowledge, in the State of Virginia, particularly in general in the states south of the Potomac.

If I do not mistake during the former half of the eighteenth century, it was customary through a great part of our Southern country, to send young gentlemen to Europe for education. How far this circumstance might have a

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tendency to keep up a taste for classic literature, in the Southern States, which began very early to decline in New England, & which is now very low there I am ignorant. It is my particular wish to be able to form some comparative estimates of this kind; & with facts to give, as far as possible, their causes.

In the State of Pennsylvania, that degree of acquaintance with the ancient Latin & Greek authors, which, some years ago, distinguished her literati, may be ascribed, I believe, to two or three men, & to none more than to the Rev. Dr. Francis Allison, - an instructor in the College of Philad. for a number of years. - Probably a similar remark might be made on many of the other States.

I am sensible, Sir, that asking information from you, on the topics of enquiry hinted at above, would be a presumptuous, & very improper intrusion on your numerous & much more important official engagements. But if you could take the trouble to favor me

Miller Sam^l New York. June 22. 1801.

June 25.

to keep up a tale for...
with any intimation to whom...
might be, with propriety, of...
directed, I should...
highly obliged and honored...
with great respect

Yours humble servant
Sam^l Miller.
I am sensible, in that...
information from you, on the...
copying...
in your...
important...
you would take the trouble to...