

Synopsis of contents: Letter of Edmund Quincy to Ebenezer Parkman, 17 Jan. 1777

The letter contains many references to the progress of the American Revolution, for example: "Washington having Since defeated and destroyed or taken large numbers of Howe's best troops..." There are also references to war rumors: "we learn that a Great division of Sentiment, etc. has arose between the British Officers and the Hessians..." and that war between their respective nations was imminent. Quincy writes of the need for order at the war's end and the importance of governmental encouragement of "Industry, Economy...Manufactures," as well as the need for state laws and regulations promoting "the temporal and political growth of [the states]", but especially to advance their spiritual and eternal Welfare..." He later emphasizes the importance of developing economic self-sufficiency so that America will be on a par with Europe and able to command respect. Quincy comments on the ~~desire~~ desire for peace on the part of the British people due to the disruption in trade and the dependency of Northern Europe on American products.

Quincy believes that God is freeing America from the "coercive government of Great Britain," and that "Hancock, Adams, Bowdoin, and others" have saved the country from the spread of "British irreligion and vices." He provides a brief commentary on declining Monarchy in Europe and the advantages of a republic. There is some mention of the "intrigues of the French court" and the dangers of perverting "the minds of the North Americans to the Religion of France and Spain.'

Toward the end of the letter, Quincy offers a critique of "Sir William's Tracts" and his Consolatory Letter. The postscript contains rumors of George Washington's defeat of the British, capture of New York, and the death or imprisonment of 4,000 British troops, as well as the rumor that France has joined the war effort against England. (editor's note: all rumors in postscript were false.)

original:

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