

Princetown, May 17th, 1778

Dear Sir:

Give me leave once more to recommend to your patronage and friendship Dr. James Finley. You know all the weaknesses as well as virtues of his heart. He is now a Surgeon to Col. Bigelow's regiment of the Massachussets Bay forces. I have no doubt of his knowledge in his business, and he will not want industry, and humanity, but I wish you would add as much as possible to his reputation and weight with his regiment by visiting his patients with him, and giving him in every respect such directions as you think proper. You cannot confer a greater obligation upon me than by your good offices to him. You know that I have always felt for him the tenderness of a father, and he has deserved it by behaving upon all occasions to me with the duty and affection of a child.

While I am forced by the violence and weight of Dr. Shippen's friends into retirement, it gives me pleasure to see one whom I had any hand in education filling an honourable and useful post in the line of his profession in the army. May you continue to merit the esteem of your friends, and the approbation of your country. I hope no man will relax in his zeal and industry in serving his country by contemplating my fate. I enjoy the reward of all my labors in the approbation of my own conscience. Virtue is no shadow - tho' Brutus pronounced it so. I have found it a substance and would not exchange the pleasures I have derived from it, for a fortune made by the sale of hospital wines and cigars, nor for the first honors....in the gift of our congress.

I congratulate you upon our alliance with France. It is preferable for many reasons to an alliance with England. Men should rise now in the estimation of their country in proportion to the cordiality of their hatred to the British nation. Individuals may forgive each other, because their (sic) is a power in magistrates to prevent a repetition of injuries, but States being amenable to no laws can do themselves justice only by revenge and retaliating (sic) injuries.

Adieu my Dear Sir, and be assured of the friendship of yrs

Dr. B. Rush (signed)

Address on last page: Dr. James McHenry, Senior Surgeon of the Flying Hospital,
Camp Valley Forge.