

SUNDAY, 27 JUNE 1790

Warm (Johnson)

Fisher Ames to Thomas Dwight

Your favour of the 24th. tho ~~not~~ [*lined out*] I expected the connection between our friend [*Mary Worthington*] & Mr. B. [*Jonathan Bliss*] wd. be soon formed, has rather surprised me—I was not prepared for so much haste, and yet, as they are agreed, & have no time to lose why should they delay—You will believe me that my esteem for M[*ary*]. makes me feel a sensible regret for her removal to N. Brunswick [*Canada*]—The loss of the society of so excellent a woman is scarcely to be compensated. ~~except~~ to her, the event is not formidable—for the merit & good sense of Mr. B. as you paint him will make that foggy region more than tolerable to our friend—You reproach your & my tardiness—but Mr. B. by making a business of it, has done more courting in two months than I have done in a year—I leave your own affair to your conscience—If F. [*Frances Worthington*] thought half as well of me as Hh. [*Hannah Worthington*] does of you, there would be some reason for your remark—In the actual state of things, my *conscience* is the most at ease of all my rational faculties—while I am shut up here in this pigsty, smelling the perfumes from wharves, and the raking of gutters, I long for the air & company of Springfield [*Massachusetts*]—while Maria [*Mary Worthington*] is just upon the wing I am impatient to see her—because I expect it will be a long while before we enjoy that pleasure again—The parting will be hard—Some fine eyes will be rub'd till they are red—and the old Gentleman¹ too with all his firmness will suffer greatly at the thought of (possibly) a final adieu—That peaceful house so long the seat of tranquility & good order will be disturbed by unusual emotions—Their very joy will have a sadness in it, because it will quicken the sense of what they are going to lose—At this time, my visit wd. not afford me the usual pleasure—but the sympathy I shd. feel with them wd. upon the whole make it a most interesting visit—and I cannot think with any moderation upon the delay of my journey till M[*ari*]a. shall be gone—If business shd. be in a state to make it barely possible to leave it, I will see you next week.

Your fears are strong that we shall lose the assumption mine have been so, as I have often signified in my letters—Now, I am pretty confident of a better issue to this long contest—conviction seems at last to have its way to men whose prejudices seemed to have bar'd up the passage—we hear no more about the injustice of the assumption at last, it is tacitly allowed that it will promote justice, & it is asked, let it rest till the next session, & then we shall doubtless assume—This looks like coming over—Besides

consequences are feared—The N. Engd. states demand it as a debt of justice with a tone so loud & threat'ning, that they fear the convulsions whh. wd. probably ensue—Further they are going to fix the residence permanently on the Potowmac, & by the apostacy of Pennsylva. will do it—removing however immediately to Phila. & staying there ten Years—Two such injuries wd. be too much. They dare not, I trust, carry Congress so far south, & leave the debts upon us—R. Morris too is really warm for the assumpn. & as he is the *Fac-totum* in the business he will not fail to insist upon the original friends of it, & who have ever been a majority, voting for it—with five pensylvns., our former aid from that delegation, we can carry it—or at least obtain four fifths of the debts, to be assumed—Accordingly, they begin to say, these violent feuds must be composed—too much is hazarded to break up in this temper, Maryland is the most alarmed, as well as, next to Virginia, most anxious for the Potowmac. I am beginning to be sanguine in the hope of success—This week may decide If so, the next will carry me to Springfield—But while such immense objects are depending, at the very crisis too, you will see that I cannot desert, without being chargeable with a breach of duty, & taking a risk of consequences & a weight of reproach that I ought not to bear—with my own consent—Please to give me your opinion upon these circumstances—and if you think with me, pray intimate to my friends & particularly to Maria, the force of that necessity which may detain me—for perhaps this week & next may be employed here in the business—we shall adjourn soon, The impatience to get to Phila. will make it tedious to stay in N. York—& others wish to see their families—Poor Dalton suffers the pains of a public man—I cannot think that G. Cabot² will serve—Dear friend, I am in haste—going to spend the day abroad—and at the hazard of writing nonsense I have scabbled what I wished you to know without delay.

ALS, Ames Papers, MDedHi. Place to which addressed not indicated.