

26 Nov 1765

② ES to William Robertson

B

521

GEN MSS 1475
Box 13, Folder 1012
Ezra Stiles Papers
Series I. Correspondence

Robertson, William (1721-1793)
From ES, in Latin (copy, 2 of 2) / 1765 November 26

ms Vault
Stiles

Reverendo D. Gulielmo Robertson Primario, ceterisque
Professoribus doctissimis Academiae Jacobi Regis Edinburgicae,
Extra Muros Novae Angliae Americanae S.P.D.

Dignitas, ad quam me propevit benevolentia vestra,
Grates, quas ago maximas, optimo jure postulat. Eubesebam vero
missum summis academia celeberrima honoribus, sine ullis
meritis, sine ulla expectatione mea, amplificatum et ornatum
invenire. E nimis amore clarissimi viri Benjamin Franklini L.L.D.
litterisq. ejus commendatitius, de me ideam ultra ingenii vires
et studia nostra conceperis: illius judicio suffulti atq. freti
amplissimos contulistis honores. Memorem me semper esse
oportebit, quid haec in re, et Senatui academiae vestrae illustri, et
amicitiis franklinianae debeam. Vobis praesertim, eruditissimi Viri,
sum gratus et ero: exoptans uti ordinis Litteraturae supremi,
quo me ^{immortali} Diplomate honorifico vestro adscripsistis, ne dedecus forem,
sed ejusdem et amenitates, et confortia, et pietatem una
cum ^{dignitate} ~~honoribus~~ participarem.

In presbyterio pastoralis, cultus forma et doctrinae
theologicae, novae anglorum caelestis, vobiscum et antiquitate apos-
tolicam consentiunt. De auctoritate synodorum, sed minutis
quibusdam circa regimen ecclesiasticum varietas est. Attamen
vobis gratum fuerit, ^{atq. incognitum} ecclesiam quam univarsam vestram, caelestis
dissentientes in Angliam et Hiberniam, caelestis congregacionales
nostras, synodum pennsylvanicam-neo-carolinensem, cunctas denique
caelestis ejusdem similitudinis per universas Imperii Britannici
regiones, federe sociali quodam conjungi - saltem familiarissime
inter

2
inter se, earumque inter academias, amicitias et honores excoluisse?
Inde demum omnes Protestantium ecclesias charitate et benevolentia
generosissime amplectamur. Lites autem, dissidia, invidias, controversias
spernamus, praeiurii concordia evangelica ^{namque} permitti: — nullius
systematis politicae ratione capti vel adducti, quin illius, quo fideles
universos et honestos viros complectimur divina illa amicitia, qua
fidei catholicae Princeps caelestis optimum quemque probos piisque
amat et amari avebit.

3
Gratulatori Universitati Edinensi de celebritate fama, non
Theologiae edocenda tantum, verum Philologia, eruditione medica
iuris prudentia, historia, literis politicis, universisque optimarum artium
studis excolendis. Curam dum academiae egregie novas ferunt et
praestantissimas, quae indies panduntur, Scientiarum humanarum divi-
-narumque investigationes, ubi sum liberrime illa profecta coluntur
et efflorent. Cerevis est laudanda LIBERTAS ^{et} Veritas!
Sola sola colenda — "VERITAS magna est et prevalebit." ^{Est}
Deus O. M. Veritatis Patria, Virtutis, ut omnia iustarum Gentium
studia, ^{Scripturam} literaria, Divini Jussu gloria, et humani generis emolumento
eveniant. Viri reverendi et illustres, valete. Dabam Novi Eboracae
de Colonia Rhodia Novae Anglorum 26 Novembris Anno
Salutis M. DCC. LXXV.

Senatui academico Edinensi
1765.

To the reverend Dr William Robertson the principal, and to the other most learned professors of the Academy of King James of Edinburgh, Ezra Stiles, New England America, greets you.

Dignity to which your benevolence moves me demands the greatest thanks which I give most deservedly. Indeed, I was blushing that I found myself amplified and decorated by the highest honours of the most celebrated academy, without any merits and without any expectation on my part. Out of the extreme love of the most distinguished man Benjamin Franklin and his commendatory letters, you conceived an idea about me beyond my powers of genius and my studies: propped up by and relying on his judgement you have bestowed the most ample honours. It will be right that I always be mindful about what in this matter I owe both to your illustrious academic senate and to the friendship of Franklin. To you all especially, most erudite men, I am grateful and I will be grateful: desiring that I not be a discredit to the highest order of Letters with which you honoured me with the highest diplomatic honorific, but rather that I share in both its same amenities, and fellowships, and duty together with the dignity.

In the pastoral presbytery, the type of worship and the theological doctrines, the churches of New England consent with you all and with apostolic antiquity. Concerning the authority of the Synods and concerning certain ministers, there is a difference on the subject of ecclesiastical practice. Nevertheless it would be pleasing and pleasant that the church we venerate, your church, the churches dissenting in England and Scotland, our congregational churches, the synod of Pennsylvania of New York, finally all churches of the same sort throughout every region of imperial Britain to join them with some sort of social treaty, at least to have cultivated amongst themselves most familiarly among their academies friendships and honours. Then at least we will embrace all Protestant churches with charity and benevolence most generously. Quarrels, however, and dissension and useless

controversies, let us spurn them, struck by a flame for purer evangelical concord: captured or seduced by the rationale of no system or polity, but of that one by which we embrace all faithful and honest men with that divine friendship, with which the heavenly Leader of universal faith loves and seeks to love each best person because he is proven true and pious.

I congratulate Edinburgh University concerning the celebrity of their fame, not only the teaching of Theology, but also Philosophical erudition, medical jurisprudence, history, polite letters, and cultivating universal studies of the liberal arts. While very many academies poorly conduct new and most outstanding investigations of human and divine knowledge, which are opened day by day, with you most liberally these, now opened, are cultivated and flourish. Let your perennial LIBERTY always be praised! Let truth alone be that what is cultivated – “TRUTH is great and will prevail.” Let the God of truth, best and greatest, father of virtue make it such that all literary studies and inquiries of all nations happen for the glory of heavenly Jesus and for the benefit of the human race. Reverend and illustrious gentlemen, farewell. I send this from New Port, Rhode Island, New England on November 26, 1765.