IN the Spring of 1754 William Smith arrived in Philadelphia, called by the Trustees of the Academy and Charitable School to become the head of this promising institution.¹ Born in Aberdeenshire and educated at the University of Aberdeen, he had already made a reputation for himself as an educator during his stay of more than two years in New York.² A voyage thereupon to England for ordination was followed by his immediate return to Philadelphia, where at the age of twenty-seven he began his long career of service as the head, promoter, administrator and principal professor in the school which was to develop into the University of Pennsylvania.

Under his personal instruction an advanced class was immediately added to the academy grades, and a year later, on May 14, 1755, a charter was obtained giving the institution the official title of "The College, Academy and Charitable School of Philadelphia," having a properly qualified faculty, of which he was named Provost.³ Having thus at its foundation a well developed lower school, the college was regarded from the outset with favor, as based upon a plan both logical and desirable. This favor expressed itself in material support, yet the insecurity of the early years of the French and Indian War made the raising of funds difficult, and the acquisition of an endowment sufficient to allow of expansion seemed beyond the reach of local resources. A visit to England in 1759 on a matter of private business had strength-

¹ William Smith's early career has been embodied in two other brief studies by the author. (Ed.)
² May, 1751-July, 1753. Supplementing his many articles written to advance the founding of King's College he published in April of 1735 A General Idea of the College of Mirania. On reading this plan, so admirably designed for a college in America, Benjamin Franklin and the Trustees of the Academy of Philadelphia decided to invite its author to become the head of that institution.
³ Horace W. Smith, Life and Correspondence of William Smith, I, 55.
ened the Provost's influence with the Church and the senior Proprietor, so that when an appeal to England for funds seemed imperative, he was chosen by the Trustees for this mission.\footnote{At a special meeting of the Trustees. See H. W. Smith, \textit{Life and Correspondence of William Smith}, I, 283.}

The record of his adventures while on this quest for funds has been preserved in the letters written to his good friend Richard Peters,\footnote{Richard Peters, 1704-1776, who came to America in 1735; he was Secretary of the Land Office 1737-1762; assistant minister of Christ Church 1736-1737; rector of the United Churches (Christ Church and St. Peter's) 1762-1776; Provincial Secretary and Clerk of the Council 1743-1762; Provincial Councillor 1749-1776.} better known as Mr. Secretary Peters. Like Smith, he was a clergyman of the Church of England, and this bond was doubtless the basis of their friendship, though Smith looked to the older man for advice in practical matters also. Their letters reflect the confidence of a trusted intimacy.\footnote{The letters upon which this study are based form a part of the collection of Smith manuscripts in the possession of Judge Jasper Y. Brinton, of the Mixed Court of Appeals, Alexandria, Egypt, whose kindness has made them accessible to the author.}

To avoid giving offense to any of the religious groups of Philadelphia, representatives from all of the more important ones at least were serving as Trustees of the college,\footnote{On obtaining the charter for the college the following were named as Trustees: Richard Peters, Esq., President of the Board, by annual election; the Honorable James Hamilton, Esq., Chief Justice; William Coleman, Esq., Third Judge of the Supreme Court; Alexander Stedman, Esq., First Judge of the Common Pleas; Edward Shippen, Esq., Judge of the Admiralty; Benjamin Chew, Esq., Attorney General; Benjamin Franklin, Esq., LL.D.; Joseph Turner, William Plumsted, Abram Taylor, William Coxe, Thomas Willing, Esqrs., Aldermen of the City of Philadelphia; Drs. Thomas Cadwallader, Thomas Bond, Phineas Bond, William Shippen, physicians; Messrs. John Inglis, Thomas Leech, Thomas White, Samuel McCall, Philip Syng, gentlemen; the Reverend Jacob Duché, one of the ministers of Christ Church. One seat was vacant. See H. W. Smith, \textit{Life and Correspondence of William Smith}, I, 61.} while the faculty members also were chosen as far as possible from different religious bodies.\footnote{The chief masters were William Smith, D.D., Provost of the Seminary and Professor of Natural Philosophy; Francis Alison, D.D., Vice Provost and Professor of Moral Philosophy; Ebenezer Kimmersley, M.A., Professor of Oratory; John Beveridge, M.A., Professor of Languages; Hugh Williamson, M.A., Professor of Mathematics. \textit{Ibid.}} Indeed Provost Smith was the only member of the Church of England on the teaching staff, and Mr. Peters seems to have actively represented that body of religious preference among the Trustees; for he writes to the latter as the protector of the church interest during his own absence.
At the time of his setting out, in February of 1762, Provost Smith was thirty-five years of age, tall, broadshouldered, arrestingly handsome with the blonde, ruddy color of the North, having the persuasive eloquence of the skilled orator, and a sufficient Scottish brogue to render his speech distinctive. He left in Philadelphia his lovely wife and three young children, entrusted to the oversight of his friend Peters. For the next two years enthusiasm for the cause he was promoting was to possess him utterly.

The first stage of his journey took him to New York where he visited his friend, the Reverend Samuel Johnson, among other reasons to make sure that the New York College\(^9\) was not contemplating an appeal to England for funds at this time. Being assured that there was no likelihood of such a move on their part, he set sail on February 18, 1762, and arrived in London on March 22, safely passing through the hazards of a winter crossing and capture by enemy ships.

He immediately visited the senior Proprietor, Thomas Penn, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Secker, both of whom were favorable to the project. Penn, in fact, subscribed £500, and the Archbishop gave counsel as to the best method of procedure, whether by public collection under a brief, or by private solicitation. "I told his Grace," writes Smith on the 5th of April, "that if a public collection should be considered as precluding all private applications and produce but little in the end, I thought it would not be best to risk it; more especially as by diligence in my solicitations, and his Grace's countenance, I hoped to get something considerable on the private plan. He then told me that on Easter Tuesday, April 14th, all the bishops, by stated course were to dine with him, and to converse together on matters of this sort, that he would therefore have me wait upon as many of them with a state of the case, as I could before that time. Now as it will be proper to open my list with his Grace's name, I am advised by Mr. Penn and others to wait the issue of the said meeting. In the meantime I am not idle in waiting on proper persons. . . .

Though I have the prospect of a most fatigueing time, you may assure yourself that I long to make a beginning. . . . I confess I do not yet see the impropriety of having a public collection and

\(^9\) Though officially named King's College, that institution was customarily referred to as New York College, in distinction to the College of Philadelphia.
then having a private one too. For I am sure many thousands might be applied to who could not put me off by saying that they had contributed before in church, as we might have pretty good certainty that they never went there to contribute.”

On May 22 he writes of the kind reception given him by the bishops, many of whom were personally known to him. “About the close of the week of May 7th, finding almost everybody sick of a reigning disorder called the influenza, or out of town for their better recovery, and being myself very much clouded with it, I took a ride to Oxford, as well to shake it off, as to find how my scheme might be received there. I staid six days, and have encouragement to return at a proper season.”

On July 10 he reports a sudden complication: “Dr. Jay from New York, which he left June 1st, has just called on me and told me that some business of his own calling him to England, the people of the College of New York had empowered him to solicit money for them. I have found the complaints in the city of London so strong of the continued application made to them, and the scarcity of money owing to its being all locked up in the Funds and stocks that my single application was much hurt thereby. But to have this double application at the same time will be so disgusting that I fear it will ruin both”. He laments that his fine prospects of assistance from the Duke of Newcastle should be put in jeopardy by this application from a royal government. “Had not this from New York appeared I could have been almost certain of working my way to a handsome gift from that quarter. . . . My chief view in going by way of New York was to be assured that they had no present design; and had I expected it I would not for any money have left my family; and it is in them very absurd and ill judged, to follow having me before them, and the addition of the Spanish war and also such domestic squabblings by the change in the administration. . . . Dr. Jay says the Archbishop is very ill pleased at their timing their application so soon upon ours.”

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10 Smith Papers (Brinton Collection).
11 Ibid.
12 In May of 1762 Lord Bute had supplanted the Duke of Newcastle at the Treasury when the government under Pitt fell over the question of prosecuting the Spanish War, in October, 1761.
13 Smith Papers (Brinton Collection).
Dr. Jay, a physician, and brother of John Jay well known to later history as the first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court and as the negotiator of the Jay Treaty, was five years younger than Provost Smith. Though his unexpected arrival in England was most disconcerting and upsetting to Provost Smith’s preliminary plans, the future course of the collection was determined by what seems to have been a purely fortuitous happening. Dr. Jay, under orders from the governors of the college of New York, immediately applied to the Archbishop for a brief authorizing a public collection. When his Grace made application to the King he apparently had in mind his conversations with Smith on the advisability of procuring a brief for the College of Philadelphia, and thus unwittingly substituted the name of the Pennsylvania institution for that of New York. As action on the brief proceeded, the mistake appeared.

“You may judge,” wrote Provost Smith, “I was surprised to hear all this was done without any application on my part, and soon began to suspect the mistake. I went immediately to Jay to know if he had made the application, telling him that he had been striving to steal a march of me, but that he would find himself vastly disappointed.” In the end a joint brief was decided upon, the colleges to share equally their funds raised thereupon, and the two men to work for the cause in partnership. The King, to show his countenance of the scheme, gave £200 to the College of Philadelphia, and £400 to King’s College, observing that as the Philadelphia college had a liberal benefactor in Mr. Penn, the distinction was quite just. While Lord Bute was well content with this solution, Lord Granville, President of the Council, objected, saying: “That he had never before heard of the New York college, and should not so readily have agreed to bestow any favors on them, as by letters now before the Council from General Amherst, more than a dozen of them had been concerned in such a trade with his Majesty’s enemies as deserved—I

Sir James Jay, 1732-1815. Born in New York City, he received the degree of M.D. at the University of Edinburgh in 1753. He remained in England from 1762 to 1778, when he returned to America to aid the cause of independence. When some attempted negotiations with the British caused him to be regarded by the Americans as a spy, he was allowed to return to England. The last years of his life, however, were spent in Springfield, New Jersey.
must not write what. With the aid of Mr. Penn, Lord Granville was placated and the business of issuing the briefs began.

Though Provost Smith had written in July that as yet no letters from America had reached him, their arrival soon after was no unmixed pleasure. It is evident that on his quitting America jealousy and political rivalry among the Trustees had become outspoken. On September 14 he declares, "Mrs. Smith writes me with great pain of mind the ill usage I am continually receiving from one quarter, in return for a series of the most faithful and uninterrupted services that ever were performed by any person to any set of men or public body. These things might provoke any man to quit all connection with such a people. But the honor I propose to myself in being a kind of Founder of our college, you may rest assured shall ever balance every other consideration. . . . I could have favor here, but nothing earthly shall direct me from my purpose for the good of our college."

Nor was this the only dissenting news from home. A society among the dissenters in the province had set up a collection shortly before his arrival in England, and he was openly accused of hindering their design to advance his own. Many pages were written at this juncture vindicating himself in this matter, and always with pain of heart that his fairness and integrity should be doubted. But the days soon grew too filled with work to...
allow many thoughts for anything outside the furtherance of the collection.

On September 29, having with Jay’s help signed and stamped 11,500 briefs, he set out on a tour to the north, while Jay went through the south of England. His route took him to Edinburgh where he enlisted the aid of the Scottish bishops who, though personally favorable, gave him little encouragement with respect to a public collection, since there had already been three collections for America within the past few years. He nevertheless left Scotland with a number of private subscriptions and the promise of more to follow. Both on the journey northward and on the return he stopped at any considerable place to meet the clergy and influential persons to whom he might have access, preaching on Sundays and also furnishing the clergy with a printed article relating to the college, which they might incorporate into their own sermons. Six weeks of travel brought him again to London where he met Jay, and together they went to Oxford, then visited the manufacturing towns of Gloucestershire and returned to London by the end of December. This journey on horseback of about 2,000 miles brought in over £650 in cash donations, but the main purpose was to advertise the briefs.

Their next care was to organize the campaign of brief collection in the churches of the metropolis, from which much was expected. But the weather turning unusually severe, a collection had to be senters. At the end of the collection he writes, “I find the dissenters have not contributed so much as I hoped, but many others have exceeded all hopes. The Quakers have returned all their briefs blank, but I do not find that they have tried much to dissuade others from giving, and so far we are obliged to them.”

A royal brief, authorizing a collection “from door to door” was obtained by presenting a petition to the King in Council. On the King’s signifying his pleasure that the petition be granted, a fiat for the brief was issued, setting forth the object of the collection, and authorizing the Lord High Chancellor to cause letters patent to be issued and passed under the Great Seal for the collection of the charity. The brief itself also named those authorized to appoint agents for the collection. In this case printed copies of the brief were sent to all the clergy, who were to make an appeal under it, each clergyman being responsible for the collection in his own parish, if necessary appointing assistants. The money was forwarded to some central point, in this case Stafford, and there turned over to the Brief Underwriters who passed it on to the agents most actively concerned. To avoid any possibility of error, Provost Smith had a list of all contributors published in the local paper of each community, and himself published a complete list at the final auditing of his accounts.

made through all the parishes for the relief of the poor. This delayed the briefs, and Provost Smith being confined with a severe cold, now took advantage of the lull to catch up with his correspondence, writing at this time an exceptionally full account to Peters of all that had been done, and at the same time inveighing against the Trustees for their negligence in not sending an address of thanks to the King, pointing out that New York missed no opportunity to address anyone whom they thought influential. He reported as collected for Philadelphia's share £1416, that much more was due on many of the briefs, and that the London collection would greatly increase the total.

His letter of March 11 begins, "You must be content with a very short letter by this packet and it is well I am to write with my hands and not my feet, else you could have none at all. We have had a most severe week's work, and I am just come home scarce able to walk. . . . Mr. Pitt gave £50 at the first application, and expressed himself prodigiously pleased with the printed representation, declaring it the noblest scheme that could animate the breast of a Christian, and that it is an indispensable duty for us to take care to promote religion and useful arts so far as our conquests carry us. . . . I have just come from the Duke of Newcastle, to whom we applied for letters to Cambridge; whither we must set out tomorrow as their vacation is just coming on. We

"London, February 12, 1763. "What a noble subject have you for an address to his Majesty? at once you have congratulations on his marriage, the birth of a prince, and humble acknowledgments (for we must not call it thanks) for his countenance; with promises of approving ourselves worthy of it by our care to instill principles of loyalty into the youth. We have also to congratulate him on the establishment of a Peace (whatever it may be in other parts) acknowledged on all sides to be the most glorious for North America, with which alone we are concerned,—and it will be taken well in us as Americans to express ourselves full on this head, as well we may; and to take notice of the fresh opportunities this glorious event gives his Majesty of being more than a conqueror of great countries, namely of following that noble disposition of his soul expressed in our brief 'That the greatest satisfaction which he can derive from the late extension of his dominion will be to see those advantages improved for enlarging the sphere of Protestantism, increasing the number of good men, and bringing barbarous nations within the pale of religion and civil life, and that our institutions may be the happy means of forwarding those god-like designs.' Oh! that I might, without loss of time, have what is proper from you on this head, or be empowered to do it for you. Something that would do us honor might be produced." Brinton Collection of Smith Papers.

"In Smith's own account book, heading the list of contributors from Cambridge University, His Grace the Duke of Newcastle as Chancellor gives 31/11/6. Ibid."
hope not to be gone more than a week, if they are as kind as at Oxford, but I am doubtful of this.”

These doubts were needless, as the two universities contributed in almost equal amounts.

At a more peaceful time, on April 24, Provost Smith wrote, “You’ll see my partner Jay is dubbed a Knight, on presenting the New York address. This gives some credit to the mission, and therefore I made no objection. But it was ridiculous in Jay to accept it, and more so to take the pains he did to get it. He had no need of anything to give addition to his vanity. I hope however it may serve to procure him readier admission; for he has been rather unhappy in this respect, and when admitted, his appearance is forbidding, his deliverance not happy, and his manner very finical, so that on the whole they could not have chose a man from New York less qualified, except only that he is good natured, always willing to serve the design, full of zeal for its success, and ready to give up everything to business on hand. So far is justice, but so it happens that his share of the collection has been but small.” He then continues, “At present our collection goes on well in the several parishes of the city. In a most divided kingdom, by a happy fate, the leaders of all sides have been induced to contribute. We have on our list the names of the Duke of Newcastle, Lord Bute, and Mr. Pitt, and both universities have been liberal. From Lady Curzon, who happened to be one of the audience when I preached at Mayfair Chapel, I received one hundred pounds. My friend Mr. Dawkins readily gave fifty pounds, and Colonel Barré has been kind in introducing me to sundry persons.”

With all their enthusiasm and address the London collection was slow in being completed. On May 21 there was still several weeks’ work to be done. “But be assured no time is lost,” writes Smith, “I am almost worn off my legs, and long to get away for York and Liverpool. Of those in our separate list near 8 in 10 have subscribed to me, my partner having but small success in this way though I must say he is not negligent in his applications.


*Colonel Barré had served under Wolfe in the Canadian campaign, and had been wounded in the battle on the Plains of Abraham. As a member of Parliament in 1763 he denounced the attempt on the part of the Grenville administration to tax the colonies.*

*Smith Papers (Brinton Collection).*
But as I hinted before, his appearance is but unpromising and his manner has a want of confidence in it, which he cannot help, and then his not being a clergyman in this brief business is an inconvenience in numberless instances. Indeed he could have done little, if his collection had not been joined to mine, though mine might have been ruined if not joined to his, which was a hard dilemma for me."

On June 4, with the London collection concluded, he reported a clear four thousand pounds as the College of Philadelphia's share up to that time. "This is as much as I could flatter you to obtain at first setting out. And we have had difficulties so numerous and great that I am almost amazed at what is already done. I do not now recount those difficulties; only the hard winter, the state of parties, the prejudice against North America on account of the peace, the fears of weak politicians as if we were affecting not only a rivalship in Arts, but even a state of independency, and some misrepresentations of our college from some people whom no one would suspect—all these and many more difficulties we had which made us shy of publishing much in the papers, chusing rather to make this loss up with industry and in the circulation of our own printed case."

The middle of June found Smith and Jay ready to set out on their final tour. Smith writes, "I have York, Halifax, Leeds, Wakefield and Sheffield to take in my way down, and then from Liverpool to Chester and as far as Stafford to make the first settlement with the Brief Undertakers, before I go to Ireland. Sir James the Knight I have assigned Tunbridge, Salisbury, Bristol, and Worcester and to meet me at Stafford. I give him all the gay places, and I know he will do his best."

Since Liverpool happened to be Richard Peters' native city, there was more than usual interest connected with the collection here. He, in fact, was hoping to make a visit to his home as soon as Provost Smith returned to America. The latter had been invited to visit his sister while in Liverpool, and the preliminary letters arranging for Smith's stay were rather gloomy in their

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*It may be that Smith is referring to the rivalry between the West India interests as opposed to those who favored continental expansion at the time of the signing of the treaty of peace with France.*

*Smith Papers (Brinton Collection).*

prospect of financial success. On August 11 the Provost reports on his visit: "I got to Liverpool on Saturday the 16th of July, too late to get sermons prepared by the clergy for all the churches, so that I preached myself in the Old Church and delayed the others till the Sunday following. I was kindly entertained by your sister and good Mr. Statham at their home; but the courts at Manchester unluckily deprived me of all your nephew's company, except one day, and the greater part of Mr. Statham's; and I found some of the chief men and particularly Sir William Meredith, their member set his face against the scheme; but the Mayor, the Magistrates and many others who were in opposition to Sir William stood our fast friends, and after the 2nd Sunday, and the publication of a very proper article in the Liverpool paper, the collection was at last rendered so popular, that the opponents were fairly knocked under, and to the great credit of the place, and to our own great surprise, we mounted up the collection to about three hundred pounds."31

On reaching Stafford, the appointed meeting place with Jay, and finding that gentleman had not arrived, Provost Smith took from the "Brief Undertakers" an order for £2000 and set out for London, having heard that the address to the King from the Trustees of the College of Philadelphia had been received there. Attended by Mr. Penn, Mr. Inglis32 on the part of the Trustees, and Mr. Powel33 on the part of the graduates, the address was presented on August 4. "His Majesty," wrote Smith, "kindly asked me some questions about our college and the success of the collection and also received Mr. Inglis and Mr. Powel very graciously. I had almost got the latter dubbed a Knight, but we thought it would be idle, and considered a design to separate him from his old friends the Quakers of Philadelphia."34

Having heard from Jay at Bristol, who reported a collection thus far on his tour of only £90, Provost Smith decided to join him there and complete his itinerary with him. After that his plan was to meet the new Lord Lieutenant of Ireland35 and to

31 Ibid.
32 This was probably John Inglis whose name is listed among the Trustees.
33 Samuel Powel had graduated from the College of Philadelphia in 1758.
34 Smith Papers (Brinton Collection).
35 On August 11, 1763, Provost Smith wrote from London, "I have also had a good deal of conversation with the new Lord Lieutenant, Lord Northumberland, who goes over the first week in September, and from whom, if I had not more self denial than will readily be allowed me, I might have favors of another nature than those I am to sollicit." Ibid.
cross to Dublin with him. "I do not yet despair of coming [to America] in the October packet, but will not come later. For as Ireland is in much confusion our collection will be confined to Dublin, Cork, and a few trading towns; for I can now assure the Trustees of five thousand pounds clear, before the expiration of two months."36

From Bristol, having joined Jay, he writes on August 16, "I had allotted to my assistant, the Knight mendicant, only Tunbridge, Salisbury and Bristol; but I found the gaiety of the first place had engrossed his time, so that he had only got to Salisbury when I had got back to London, and what was worse, had only collected between 80 and 90 pounds. I have often complained of the ill manner I am assisted in this business, but do not blame the gentleman joined with me, who in general does his best, and is not drawn aside even by the allurement of pleasure, though I think more since he was betitiled than before. And then his address is not good, and he often stutters in speech, or speaks too fast to be understood—but still does as well as most lay men could in a business of this kind. . . . They are very careful of their money here. However we shall get on tolerably well here, about 200 pounds. But it has been got as it were out of the fire. For the greatest merchants here seem to value half a crown more than a Birmingham button maker does half a guinea. . . . On Sunday I preach at Worcester, and you will not believe me when I say I have got a great name as a preacher. But indeed I have my subject at heart. . . . I shall make a strong push to come home in the October packet, if not I shall not venture till the March one, and shall make my stay at least pay for itself. In any case I rest in full assurance of your not stirring until my return, and if any thing should happen to me, I beseech you before our common Parent and God, to take care who shall be my successor, and to be an affectionate guardian of my dearest babes."37

But on reaching Ireland all hope of a return in October had to be abandoned. Provost Smith and Sir James were persuaded that a possible way of obtaining several thousand pounds from that country was by a parliamentary grant, which would require time and influential persuasiveness.38 On October 18 Smith reported

36 Ibid.
37 Ibid.
38 In the Irish Parliament of the eighteenth century all the members were Protestants and elected by Protestants, but the party lines of Whig and Tory were not clearly defined, the members being divided rather into groups centering on personal adherence.
on his progress, which had been greatly hampered by storms: "The whole county of Kilkenny has been almost drowned, multitudes perished, scarcely a bridge left, numbers of houses swept into the sea, and such damage as was never before known by floods." A postscript to this letter was added at nine o'clock that night: "Since writing the above I dined at the Bishop of Waterford's with a genteel set of eight very considerable men." The talk of the evening had been of the chance of a parliamentary grant, the success of which was none too sure. "If we can get anything in a public way, with a view to the encouragement of the Protestant interest in America it will be creditable for us. If not, I hope we shall be let down easy and with credit still. I find a vast jealousy of America here on account of the vast numbers that go to America from the north of Ireland which they say will in the end rob them of their best Protestants and manufacturers. This too is against us. God bless you and send us a happy meeting."*39

In all the letters dealing with the visit to Ireland there is a tone of uncertainty as to the outcome. Was this due to a natural sadness at being obliged to lengthen an absence of nearly two years by yet another winter, or by unconfessed weariness, or a premonition of danger? Imagine the old city of Dublin, gloomy in its winter-long darkness, gale swept, flood invested. Here, in surroundings truly alien, the ordinary elements together with mysterious forces of nature fought against the skill and science of man, to a determination of life or death. It is not until February 11, four months having passed, that the correspondence is resumed from London: "I am in hopes that news of my late dangerous situation has not reached you before this. My friends from Ireland wrote to Mr. Penn to mention nothing of it; but that I am alive is beyond the most sanguine hopes of the ablest human judgment, and to be ascribed only to the good providence of God. For ten weeks I have been confined to bed of a fever both bilious and nervous, which from the beginning had every bad symptom, and for some time brought me to a state in which no hopes were entertained of a possibility of recovery. Sir James Jay who attended me at first, and who seldom quitted me, soon declared the matter to be too serious for him to take the whole

* Smith Papers (Brinton Collection).
on himself, and Mr. Dawson, our Proprietor’s brother-in-law concurring on this, Dr. Barry, Physician General to the Army and Professor of Physic in the University was called, who paid me near four score of visits with such care and tenderness as I shall never forget.

“There never was such a winter of storms and rain known. In Dublin, they crossed some streets with boats and chaises that plied for that purpose. This was during my illness, and the dampness of the place not only contributed to make my disorder worse, but to prevent the efficacy of the medicine given me. It was long hanging about me before I was taken down, and Dr. Barry said it was brought on by too much anxiety and fatigue. So much traveling on horseback, different diet and cookery, different beds, different drink, and being obliged to eat and drink often, especially at night, when I had no want of either, contributed to bring that most inveterate and obstinate disorder on me, and yet it was not in my power, in justice to our cause, to refuse the invitations given me, and the hospitality of our benefactors. I say this not to enhance my own merit. It is not my temper to boast of services, or to value myself thereby. I would rather be more humble on that account, knowing that posterity will always do justice, if the present times are wanting. We have indeed had surprising success but there have been so many turns in it, when to all appearances, difficulties were insuperable, that a kind Providence seems to have been with us, and I claim no more than doing my duty, and attentively striving to make the most of every incident as it happened; and particularly taking the cause of New York along with ours, rather than acting in opposition, by which each of us have got double of what we could in that case have hoped for singly.”

Though Sir James Jay remained in Ireland there is no record in Provost Smith’s accounts to show that a grant to the college was accorded by the parliament of that country. The total amount reported by the Provost on sailing for America on April 19, 1764, as the share of the College of Philadelphia, was over £7000, from which he deducted a guinea a day for expenses, leaving £6108 as an endowment. This, shrewdly invested in real estate, helped indeed to lay a financial foundation of no little importance for this rising institution.