

LETTERS OF JAMES LOGAN TO THOMAS PENN AND
RICHARD PETERS.

[The following letters of James Logan have recently been added to the "Logan Papers" in the Manuscript Division of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.]

"JAMES LOGAN TO THE PROPRIETOR T. PENN, ESQ."

STENTON, 31 Aug. 1733

MAY IT PLEASE THE PROPRIET

This being y^e day of the monthly Meeting both J. N. & S. P. will probably be in town & therefore if they have due Notice with the rest, the Comiss^{rs} may meet between 3 & 4 Aftern. before which time I propose to be in town. But I Shall here previously observe, that Since I return'd home from thence, I have more reason to doubt of my own ability to undertake the expedition on my own part, for I find my limb so extreemly weak that the least wrong motion very much disorders it, & and getting into & out of a boat with my being So long in it carries a good deal of danger wth it of having me laid up again and this amongst Strangers. But if there were a likely hood of my Presence being of Service Sufficient to counterballance the oddness of my appearance where there Seems no absolute necessity for it, I would run any hazard that could rationally be accounted for. Thou knows my first thoughts on this meeting, & having mention'd my Second on y^e Apprehension of what measures those of the other side might take, both I Nor., I found, and A. Ham. think it impossible. I shall Say more however when there, but pray Speak thy Self to A. Ham. thou knows my opinion of the importance of that man, and of the wrong Conduct of others as well as his: to rectify all which y^e utmost endeavours, I think, ought to be used. My wife is in hope to be in time for y^e Meeting

Thy faithful friend

J. LOGAN.

"JAMES LOGAN TO THE PROPRIETOR."

MAY IT PLEASE Y^E PROP^R

The affair of Maryl^d w^{ch} has taken up our thoughts being for y^e present dispatch'd that of the Indians will next require them, and particularly the managem^t of him at Conestogo, w^{ch} I take to be of importance Since 'tis very probable the others may send for him for information, and as we know his Malice & Treachery & that he can speak to them without an Interpreter, unless some precaution be used, he may be mischievous. I began this morning to write a Lett^r to Lancaster on the Subject to be sent by a hand that is to go in an hour or two, but found the method was but very little to be depended on, and it might prove much more effectual to have P. L. go up, yet I thought this should be concluded, before the opport^y of Sending were lost. My Chaise is out of town otherwise I would have come up myself to thee. I doubt my son mistook the Message.

Thy faithful friend

J. LOGAN.

18th 7^{hr}

"JAMES LOGAN TO THE PROPRIETOR."

STENTON 21st 10^{hr} 1733MAY IT PLEASE THE PROPRIET^R

I think it was the 9th Inst^t, when thy Self and A. Ham. agreed here on a Lett^r to be Sent to the Gov^r of Maryl^d, and indeed I was in hopes he would have had it by this time: but I now See it is as yet only in y^e draught.

This I have read over, and as I doubt not but the manner of bringing on the Subject has been well consider'd, I cannot Say, but it is as well done this way and probably better, than any other. I shall however make some few remarks. pa. 1 near y^e middle at this note 1 the words *or their Possessions* without any restriction I doubt is too comprehensive, for it may take in (in their Construction) Cressop and all Such others, and I find it extreemly difficult to express the

thought in any safe terms, but believe it might be thus—*disturbing yo^r People in any of their Possessions or Settlem^{ts} made consistently with any Amicable Agreem^t between the Proprietors, or somewhat to that purpose.*

line penult. *at a greater distance from Mr Heath's Plantation.* I St. may Say & think so, but unless there be a real certainty in this I conceive tis unsafe to Say it here, notwithstanding what follows in the last line: therefore what if it were *but, as it is affirmed, rather at a greater distance or something like this according to the degree of certainty that there is of the fact.* & Pray let y^e words *as I am well assured it is in y^e last line be consider'd.*

Pa. 2 l. 8. *lying upon the Bay of Delaware.* The words in y^e Ord^r if I remember right are, *on the Ocean and y^e Bay and River of Delaware* and again the other half *on the Bay of Chessapeak*, it might I think be proper here to insert the very words, for they Seem to me to give us an Advantage, but this is not very material.

Pa 2 In A H's interlineation, I should rather choose to **say** which tis generally believed would extend—considerably further

l. 12 the Interlineation or instead of *informed* because y^e word is used just before as far as I can learn I think Should Stand

to line 15 might be added *and this Restriction has of late years been even inserted in our Warr^{ts} for Lands near Such places.* and if at any time any further excursions have been made it was never with the approbation of this Governm^t. This addition I take to be necessary and that all that follows may be left out to the words *This with y^e Agreem^t* in lin. penult. for I have reason to believe that neither the People nor our Surveyors have been cautious enough on these heads And it may be of very ill consequence to lay down a Rule in Writings on our own side, wth from real facts they may be able to turn agst us.

P3 l.6 instead of *I am firmly persuaded*, might it not be *We are fully persuaded here*

P4 14 in the interlineation instead of *about Conestogoe* I think *on or near Sasquehannah* would be Safer. for no Province can be meant here but Maryland and it should never be mention'd that they have any thing to doe with or can come near Conestogoe.

I See Care has been taken, and perhaps thoughtfully, to avoid mentioning that as there is no penalty incurr'd on either Side, the Agreem^t is Valid, and for Ought I know it may be best to avoid it at this time, tho' I own I cannot form a Judgem^t on it, and therefore shall leave it. I should certainly have given a broader hint of it, yet possibly it might have been wrong. I well know that A H can judge strongly in Such cases.

In the last Line but two, I think I should venture to say as to *have the Lines actually run, so as to render the bounds indisputable.*

These few notes are what has occur'd to me. I wish heartily it were dispatched.

To run over the other Draught & Amendm^{ts} now, would detain y^e bearer too long, therefore I choose only to Send this by him. You left me when last here with a heavy Cold on me, of w^{ch} I am at length got pretty well rid & my nose has for some dayes been reduced to its former Size and colour. Would this Weather continue 2 or 3 dayes I would endeavour to come to town as I hope I shall y^e fore part of next week but that the Lett^r will before that time be dispatch'd. I refer what I have noted to consideration hoping that nothing I have offer'd will occasion the detention of it one hour. My family are generally in health and with all our due respects I am

Thy faithful fr^d

J. LOGAN.

“JAMES LOGAN TO THE PROPRIETOR.”

MAY IT PLEASE THE PROPRIET^R

Tho' I had lately for good reasons resolved to hearken to no future Applications which some ignorant honest people

are still apt to make to me, that from my knowledge of their case, I would recommend them. Yet I really thought it incumbent on me, upon one from John Hore last 7th day, to put the Gov^r in mind of what had pass'd on that head. And as J. Steel Sent me John's Lett^r I inclosed mine for the Gov^r to him, that he might deliver it and receive his Answ^r. The Request to me was, that as the favour design'd for John was groundd on the Propriet^{rs} Direction, the Application should be renew'd to thee, but as I thought thy Lett^r left at Newcastle for the Govern^r was sufficient, I would not give thee any further trouble in it. Yet his answer being different from what might have been expected, I have now desired J. Steel who has my Copy of that Lett^r, to wait on thee with it, that if thou thinks thy Self at all concern'd in what past, proper measures may be taken in it, and there I entirely leave it.

And tho my Experience of the world has abundantly taught me, what common Prudence should teach every man, that no degree of Zeal will justify another's interposing in Affairs (tho' tis extream hard to check a true Zeal for the public Peace in an honest breast) any longer than he has reason to expect it may be of Some Service, nor will any goodness of Intention excuse the man who renders himself disagreeable, yet I cannot forbear this once more to hazard some censure, and observe that I had great hope, after our Commissioners for the Division Lines had in Nov^r last Spent near a fortnight at Newcastle not only with the most hearty Zeal, but the greatest Unanimity to the best purposes in their power, for yours and the Countrey's Service And the Gov^r with those about him were Settled in their Authority. We should all unite amongst our Selves, and for our own Strength cultivate Peace and a good Understanding: in order to which I advised to one Step with as much good Judgem^t I will venture to affirm, as was ever exerted, by me at least, in any of those, the fruits of which these Gentlemen have for Several years reap'd to their ease and

Advantage, could my Advice to them have taken the Same place it formerly had done when it was believed & found necessary. But on the contrary, it appears that instead of such happy effects, that Step, as if it were wholly mine is never to be forgiven me. Had it been otherwise, and could my Wishes have prevailed, it would be needless now for me to mention, that I understand the Gov^r is going this week down to Newcast^{le} to meet the Assembly there, of which A. H. is Speaker, and that I well know by many repeated expressions, I have my Self heard, that some would be less uneasie than they ought, to See things goe wrong, provided they could load another whom they dislike with the blame of it. How far A H may think himself under Obligations to the Gov^r, others will judge, but of this I am well assured that he heartily desires the peace of those Counties, and that they may be Secured in yo^r Interest. And I as well know that if the People there should take an unhappy turn, it would not be in his power, tho he can doe a great deal to prevent it. Nor, as I have formerly hinted more than once, are any professions of the Populace, or marks of respect once paid, to be at all depended on, not only history, but common observation abundantly confirms this. But I am very Sensible that those who hint their Apprehensions of danger which afterw^d appear not, are frequently but ridicul'd for it Yet it have ever been a Rule with me, that all who are intrusted with the powers of Governm^t should carefully watch all possible dangers that may arise from any quarter and guard agst them, and if they never happen, 'tis well, the Caution did no harm, and was not the less prudent, but if they should, without any Such provision the person's want of Conduct will then infallibly be arraign'd. And for my own part I have seen So much fickleness and Such humours prevail in those Counties that I shall never be without apprehension of them, till they are effectually Settled.

Of A H thou fully knows my Sentim^{ts} both wayes, and they are not likely to alter he would gladly Serve thee I be-

lieve in an acceptable way, tho' he is but too often unhappy at finding it, w^{ch} is to be imputed to the one Side of his Character, while the better Still continues in its ful Strength. Upon the whole thou wilt consider whether on this occasion it will not be proper to enter into some open and free discourse with him, as also with the Govern^t. I have not seen Andr. Since we came together from Chester, but hearing my Sister in law Pemberton is ill, and that a Ship is to Sail this week for Lond I think to be in town to morrow. I am with due respect

Thy faithful friend

J. LOGAN

STENTON 18th Mar. 173 $\frac{3}{4}$

“JAMES LOGAN TO RICHARD PETERS.”

MY GOOD FRIEND R. P.

I return thee my hearty thanks for the uncommon pains thou hast taken to Serve my Overseer to day (in his 4th Journey to town Since y^e Prop^r was here) in that Small affair of his Land, about which he has So long Since applied to thee and am truly Sorry that Some others have taken it into their head to render it So difficult. but as I presided in those affairs my Self above 30 years, & may boldly challenge all mankind to give one instance of my partiality in them, and I hope my Judgem^t is clear enough yet, to form just notions of them, if I am not widely misinformed in the matter, I cannot, as it is now represented to me, comprehend where the Objection can lie. One Valentine, as I am told, presumptuously enter'd on y^e Proprie^es Land without making any manner of Application for it & having possess'd himself of it for Some time deserted it, & thereby left it clear for the next comer, but the Prop^r before he grants it away to another, desires according to the just rules he has prescribed to himself, to be Satisfied whether any other pson has an equitable claim to it, the Dep^{ty} Surv^r Sayes Somebody Spoke to him for it when he was last up there, the

Surv^r Gen^l Says, another who took out a Warr^t for Some Land in y^e forks of Delaware cannot have it there, & this place might Suit him probably in its Stead W^m Allen thinks, N. Irish when he was last in town desired him to apply for a Warr^t for it but he forgot it & wishes the matter might be deferr'd till he comes to town again to know whether he really wants it, and it is not to be admited that W: A: would do any reasonable Service to oblige a person he is in Some other respects So deeply engaged with, any more than it is strange that R Peters Should have all possible inclination to oblige So good a friend, but we both know that Gent to be of too generous a disposition to desire any partiality to himself that carries an injustice to another, and R P. very well knows that Tho: Armstrong's application to him was prior to all these and I also know that upon his apprehensions that Some other might intervene and disappoint him, about 3 months Since he requested me to lend him as much money as might Serve to make the first paym^t, but that being a commodity very Scarce with me at that time, for I would freely have advanced it to him could I have by any means Spared it, I desired him to be easy and I should take to Secure the Land for him, and accordingly I Spoke to the Prop^r the next time that I Saw him here, but was answ^d that by an unalterable Rule in y^e Office nothing would purchase a Warr^t but the Money down, I then immediately Spoke to thy Self and had thy kind promise to lay it down of thy own for him, but I fail'd in my Duty I find in not mentioning it to J Steel but one reason was that I had not Seen him for Sev^l Months, and another, that I thought James only acted as Recvr in these cases. Upon the whole, if I have Stated y^e matter right, as I have done it to y^e best of my knowledge, I do not see from all the experience I have ever had, that there can be room left for any manner of Objection to the granting a Warr^t, and if there be none w^{ch} thou wilt Soon find on Shewing this (w^{ch} I request thee to do) to y^e Prop^r and this

will excuse thee from all further blame, on thy hinting it to morrow evening to my Son, he will bring thee the Money or J St.'s or L Lardner's Receipt for it as also a Patent for my Liberty Land, to w^{ch} I request thee to get the Prop^r's hand. James made an objection to the Quittr^s of one penny Sterl for those 50 Acres of Streiper's Land in right of his 5000 A's reduced to 1 Sh fethous^d on pretence of the Law for Quittr^s. But as I not only drew that Act at first my Self, but contested it by Paragraphs at Sev^l Conferences, for that alone cost us in y^e Council, where the burthen lay Solely on me, more trouble than almost all the other 49 that were passed by that Assembly, I have good reason to understand y^e whole design of it, The whole q^{ty} of Lib^{ty} Land laid out in that Right is but 50 Acres without any manner of Division being made in it, and as by y^e first Concessions the Purchasers were to take only 500 A's in one Tract without more families joyning for w^{ch} y^e Quittr^t by Streiper's Purchase was only to be 6 pence, and in the City Liberties only 50 Acres (for which I have the Proprietors Ord' under his own hand) were allowed to that Purchase as being Posteriour in time, there cannot possibly be any pretence for insisting on more than in proportion to the whole, besides since it is that Law only that gives any colour for it, if the Enacting Paragraph (p. m. 73) preceed^s that Proviso in the Act be considered Such a Demand will be found directly contrary to the express intention & even the words of the Law But I have already Said more than can be necessary on this head & therefore shall here close with Sincere respect

Thy Assured ffriend

J. LOGAN

STENTON, Augst 15—41

In relation to that Act for Quittr^s I must add that having drawn it very different from what it now appears it was re-

turned to the Board with Such a number of Alterations that I absolutely despaired of it but divers members of the Council being then on y^e Assembly they were unwilling to let it drop & 4^{fore} after very warm debates in 2 Conferences we at length carried it as it now appears.

P S Augst 16th

Tho' I have reason to be offended with Ja: Steel, yet I could heartily wish the Propriet^r, unless he proposes in Some little time to part with him altogether, would Shew a greater, regard to his Circumstances for I know by long experience that 200^{lbs} a year which James mentioned to me when here with his wife this day week as in Confidence to his old true friend will not be Sufficient to maintain his family with a Boarder who ought to be handsomely provided for and defray all manner of Expences besides Treat comers and goers &c &c.

JAMES LOGAN TO ISAAC TAYLOR.

PHILAD^A S M 23-1724

MY FFRIEND ISAAC TAYLOR

This will Scarce give thee (I believe) the first acco^t of my Arrival here on y^e 16th Inst^t exactly 9 months after I left my own house. I have brought the Drugs with me which lie here ready for thee.

The Bearer Jn^o Garret applying to me for 100 Acres of Land in Letitia's Mann^r part he Sayes of a Lott of 500 I have declined the Grant till I can learn from thee whether it can be cutt off without any damage to the Remaind^r, if it may pray lett it be So divided but then he must immediately come for an Ord^r of Survey and bring y^e Pay w^{ch} I have told him must be 45^{lbs} in ready Paper. I am with kind Love to thy Self & family

Thy real friend

JAMES LOGAN

JAMES LOGAN TO ISAAC TAYLOR.

PHILAD^{IA} 25th 7^{br} 1724.

ISAAC TAYLOR

LOVING FFRIEND

Inclosed is the Bill of Parcels for the Drugs thou desired, the advance in our Current Specie is 125 ³/₄ Cent, as we generally sell I know not how Gold may be with you but it is somewhat scarce with us and I have occasion for some at present, particularly the Sum of £13:12:4 w^{ch} if thou canst procure for me, I will pay thee in our best Paper £15:6:4½ for it.

The over large quantity of Paper Bills that have been struck throw us into very great Inconveniencies w^{ch} I fear will daily increase upon us, Yet we have here amongst us parcel of unreasonable necessitous Creatures that are Still for having much more of it, and at easier terms the consequences of which would be the utmost Confusion, for besides the Inconveniencies to y^e Countrey that would ensue if Such an Act Should pass It is most certain that nothing of the kind for the future can be offered in Engl^d for the King's Sanction, but it will inevitably be repealed, and then if any of it should be issued we should be in y^e utmost Confusion

Yet we have no security against this but from the Counties of Chester & Bucks at the ensuing Elections. I very well know thy Interest in yours, and doubt not, but thou wilt employ it to thy utmost even during thy Weakness, to secure us from the dangers that threaten, I hear some have thought of I. N. there, but are apprenensive that he will be for charging foreigners wth a Duty on their Trade, but in this case I dare boldly & will freely pass my word for him, that he will attempt nothing of the kind. The electing of him with 7 other Stanch hands with him would at this time be of vast Service and I heartily wish thy state of health & Inclinations would allow thee to make one of the

number. The business of this Assembly may be very soon dispatch'd by proper persons. I most Seriously recommend this to thee as a matter of very high Importance at this Juncture. I cannot recover my strength yet but am now in better hopes of it. I hear thy son will have some Rivals for the Sherifs place but doubt not their Disappointm^t, & 'tis to be hoped that the Members & Sherifs Tickets being on different papers will be of Service if well managed. If E. Gatchel is put up I could wish none of thy fr^{ds} would oppose him, for though he might mistake, I think he was too severely corrected, & (all things considered) ought to be a little Supported. I most earnestly request thy thoughts & Application in what I have principally mentioned, and am with respect to thy self good spouse & family

Thy faithful & Affectionate fr^d

JAMES LOGAN