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To Paris
Lord Grantham Esq.
Amers. Inn
Postmasted.
Angleterre.

11

1779
Dear Sir

Ch. de l'Acad. de
French Academy
You have had probably answer to my respects I
Received yesterday & ten minutes after came your letter - You will see immediately
that the decision of the Prize will deferred till the end of next year

You may see read his letter word forward.

Monsieur. On a fait le honneur à une Lettre concernant un numero
qui a reçu le 1^{er} juillet un prix proposée par la Soc. Econ. sur le
mieux plan d'un bon journal. Il m'a chargé de lui répondre par cette voie.
Ainsi pour dire Monsieur de ses manques,

1^o. que le Prix proposé pour 1779 n'est pas adjugé qu'à la fin de 1780 par ce qu'il
soutient à un qu'on ne peut pas faire trop de temps aux auteurs qui sont bâti dans
l'espérance une question aussi importante & difficile. Il démontre extrêmement
la nécessité d'un tel résultat pour insister et aviser dans le papier public des choses

2^o. Reprendra entièrement de l'écriture en Anglais ou en François; il sera
entier dans l'une & dans l'autre de ces langues!

3^o. Si l'asseye à l'Amour à M. de Seller. Assoc. à son Commiss. de M.
Rader il me sera sûrement remis.

4^o. Son nom sera renommé dans un tableau où il accompagne la Mémoire
de ceux avoirs rendu à toute la question que M. Rader a fait. Je me
rends donc qui à vous apporter de la considération distinguée avec lesquels. Pour
l'honneur d'être

Monsieur. V. T. H. & Co. Compt. Secr. Rep. de l'Acad.

Done le 30 May 1779.

The daily expectation of receiving the letters from Rome is in truth the
principal reason of my not having written to you sooner - and number of other
occupations in which I have been in the mean time engaged, have made me wait
more willingly for that occasion.

In turning over your last letter the you

wished for a Copy of your Paper sent to Bern, which I believe I have already said was accordingly taken — The Law Books you mention I shall not forget to bring over, if any others occur to you that this place affords you have only to note them in your next which I should be desirous of receiving soon as the time of my departure from hence seems to approach: — Your historical account of the Russian, Polish, Prussian & Swedish Codes contained the particulars which I most wished to know but ~~they~~ do not seem as yet to have produced any thing very complete on any branch of Correspondence.

The more I turn over the corpus of Roman Law the more I am struck with the resemblance between the complexities of that System & those of our own on Property, such as the Second Volume of Blackstone exhibits. — & I really think the Roman Laws are much more intelligible — I believe the Civil Proceedings are nearly as complicated in the one as in the other & the Ius Optimum may be well matched with the Third part of Blackstone: — The only consolation which I have in reading Justinian at present even cursorily as I do, is that I shall soon be obliged to return to him again, or if ever it should happen to be necessary for me I shall more easily find my way over a beaten ground. All I can now do is to make out a general topographical Map & fix in my mind a few of the fundamental principles on which this admirable System has been constructed.

I believe I have once before told you that I had laid aside my first plan of general reading for American History according to the Books you were so kind as to point out — in order to follow the course of my friend Muller. Printed Books are always to be found such histories are local advantages of which one must profit when the occasion offers. We have to day finished our Enterprize & have at length set down on the bank of the American we to look forward for the course of future events as yet hidden from our view —

The importance of the news which the first part of this letter announces must be an excuse for the conciseness of the rest. I am ashamed to say that this instant I have not time to say more & I wish to despatch for the Post that you may not be kept in suspense any longer. — Your news of the Revolution

authorized by government gives me great pleasure — I have none in return to send you, Geneva you know is only a place of second hand news — the code of their own Political Laws published a few days ago for public application will scarce be very interesting for you — if however you have only to say the word —

Adieu Believe me ever Yours sinc^{ly} & affectionately

Ch. Abbott.

Pray me that I may go to Petersburgh — I wish him all the pleasure he can propose himself — tell him so when you write.

At night by the bye make my best respects to the great Statue of my friend the Czar if he is yet stuck upon his Rock.

Geneva June 1st 1777.