

Boston, Nov. 29th 1832

Dear Sir,

I have it in contemplation to publish, as editor & part contributor, a series of volumes, to be entitled the American Biographical Library, and to consist of the lives of persons, who have been conspicuous in this country from its first settlement to the present time. A volume will appear from time to time, as the lives shall be got in readiness for the press. The lives will be longer or shorter, according to the judgment of the writer & the amount of his materials. The author's name will be prefixed to each. The work will be handsomely printed in the style of Baron's Encyclopaedia, London edition. It is intended that care shall be taken in the literary execution and accuracy of facts, that the work may have authority, as well as attraction for readers.

Will you write for this work a life of Chancellor Livingston? There are few better topics in the range of our biographical literature, & his life should be written by a lawyer. His papers are at Clermont, and may easily be obtained. I shall want the manuscript in a year or eighteen months from this time. I beg you will think favorably

To the
Hon. Mr. Gulian C. Verplanck,
House of Representatives
Washington

Franklin

of the matter, and write me an affirmative answer.

My intention is, that the work shall be a valuable addition to our national literature. But to effect this I must have the countenance and aid of our good writers. Should there be any reason for your declining the life of Chancellor Livingston, I trust you will allow me to number you among those, who will aid in the work. There may be other lives, which you will be disposed to write, and it is quite important for the success of my undertaking, that I should be able to say its literary merits will be sustained by gentlemen of known reputation in different parts of the country. When you have an opportunity, I wish you would converse with Mr Everett on the subject.

I am, Sir,

with great respects, your most obed^t serv^t

Jared Sparks

Hon. Gulian C. Verplanck.