

v Letter John Adams Smartmont

Philadelphia Decr. 27. 1796

My Dearest Friend,

The inclosed extract of a Letter which I have Seen, from a gentleman who dined with you last Summer is so unexpected to me, that I Send it as a curiosity.

"All Men have Confidence in Mr. Adams' Abilities and Integrity. For my own Part, I thank god that We are at length to be governed by Talent and Science, and no longer by the blind Adoration and mysterious influence of a name."

The Sting at the retiring Hero, hurts me. Science, in Some of its Branches, may not have been possessed in any eminent Degrees: but Talents of a very Superiour kind are his. I wish I had as good, and Science of himself and others, beyond almost any Man he has shewn all his Life. I never shall attain so much of that most necessary and useful Science.

The Compliment upon me is as flattering as it was unexpected: and gives me some hopes that I may be so fortunate as to be Supported in some degree by the Author of it. But the Support of Such Speculators is not long to be depended on. They involve themselves in Such Difficulties that they cannot in the End Support themselves.

Yours,
John Adams

MSA

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v Letter, Inc.

509 Cascade, Ste H

Hood River, OR 97031