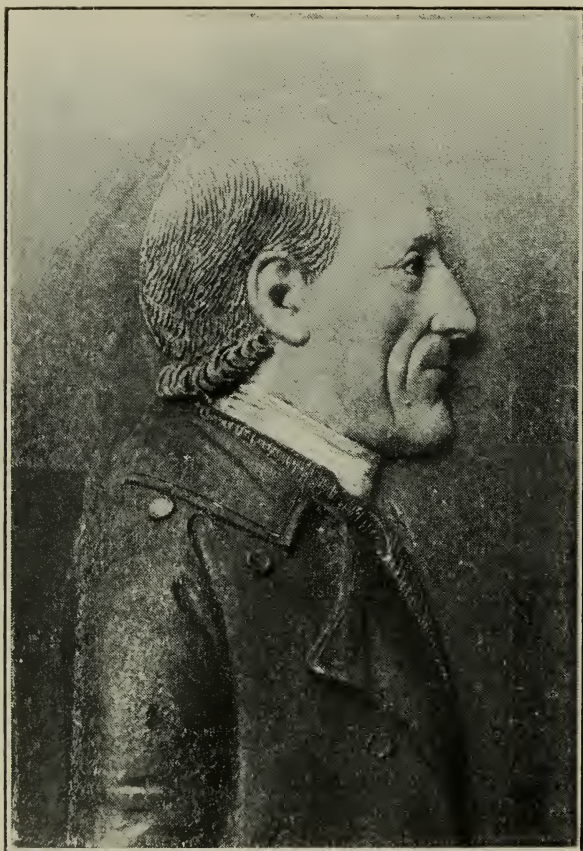


Birds
(Foots)

12/11/1911





EBENEZER FOOTE

EBENEZER FOOTE
THE FOUNDER

BEING AN

EPISTOLARY LIGHT ON HIS TIME

AS SHED BY LETTERS FROM HIS FILES
SELECTED BY HIS GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER
KATHERINE ADELIA FOOTE

DELHI, NEW YORK
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1927

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KATHERINE A. FOOTE

MORITURI SALUTAMUS

WITH time and eyes and strength beginning to fail me, I seem to find the quotation used by Longfellow at the Commencement exercises of Bowdoin in 1875 a fitting phrase to put at the beginning of my attempts (before they are lost) to get into some form accessible to those who come after me, such a part of the voluminous correspondence of my great-grandfather, Judge Foote, as I possess, hoping that some fragments may have some faint interest for those who have belonged in any way to his village and mine.

Therefore, not to Caesar, but to any who can be found to care to look them over, the letters and I say "Morituri Salutamus".

KATHERINE ADELIA FOOTE.

THE REVOLUTIONARY ERA

During 1780 Captain Foote was raised from the rank of captain to that of major—still with Crompond as his headquarters—until the unit to which he belonged was disbanded in 1782, pursuant to the gradual dismemberment of the army taking place after the formal acknowledgement of our independence by England which, it will be remembered, took place in 1781, though New York was not evacuated until 1783, and Irving tells us that it was not until 1785 that matters were in a very settled condition, notwithstanding the restlessness of the troops eager to get back to their homes and families.

The first letter I have for 1780 is endorsed—
“1780. From Captain Trotter, Brigade Major, with Guard for cattle.”

Monday Evening 2d Jan'y 1780.

Dr Sir.

I had this day, previous to the receipt of yours, Ordered One Corporal and Six privates to Crompond, to be under your direction, as I thought you had that number there, and indeed informed the General (Washington) you had,—they have seven days provisions with them, and mean to furnish you with that number untill countermanded,—beg you will not detain the men you have, as Constant duty is apt to create inattentiveness.

I shall think myself extremely happy in your company and that of your lady on thursday next to dine, and give you a friendly Camp dinner,—wish I had it in my power furnish you with fare

more delicate, but in our present situation, I think apologies needless.

I am Dr Sir with the warmest Sentiments of Friendship,

Your most Obedient Hble Servant,

JOHN TROTTER.

I am putting capitals and spelling as I find them, both a matter of uncertainty in the early days, even with people of culture and station; history tells us and we know that many words obsolete now were considered in good form then.

West Point 6th January 1780.

Dr. Sir.

I have had the misfortune to loose thirteen head of the last drove Cattle which I had of you, if they have gone back to Crompond, likely some of your men have taken them up, if they have, or Should hereafter find any of them;—by Securing them till I can get them again you'll Greatly Oblige

your Very Obedient Hum'le Servant,

CALEB SWAN, A. C. ISSUES.

In the next we hear something of Mr. Swan's cattle, a little confused but real information of what was happening to troops of 1780.

EBENEZER FOOTE, Esquire.

West Point Jan'y 7th 1780.

Dear Sir.

The Eighteen Head of Cattle you sent me by Mr. Higgins with Commissary Swan's drove, with part of his that were not bro't over the River that Night, all strayed away, & the Eleven that my Corp'l bro't, twelve he said he received of you, but one of them was very lame and tired out (No wonder, walking from New England. K. F.) so he delivered him to Commissary Forsyth's clerk at Continental Village, and took a receipt for him in these Words, "Recev'd on Beef of

Corp'l Brumigion, in behalf of Commissary Forsyth," did not mention my name, which I suppose will not answer to make a Charge of, hope to see you here shortly. I have lost five in the whole, without counting Commissary Swans,—the Guard on the Issues let Eight run away the last night they were bro't on, and we hear they were seen almost to Crompond, going back—and I hope they did, as our People will bring them back again. Pray Sir be kind enough to write me a few lines if you send any more by Mr. Swan's butcher or mine, this time, than the Number they Receipt for now,—I mean of those that have Strayed away from us, that there may be no disputes when they arrive here.

Your ob't Hum'l Servant,
WILLIAM FROST.

The river mentioned was the Hudson, and Constitution Island in its midst made a break often mentioned in these letters—as the crossing on the flat scows used was a difficult matter, especially in the winter.

Comfort Sands, who writes the next, had been one of the "Committee of 100," in 1775, and well known until his death. (*Lossing, vol. 12; p. 793.*)

Fishkill Jan'y 10 1780.

Sir. Yesterday I came from West Point, and found that the Cattle you had sent there was not Merchantable. I desired Mr. Newcomb to take them, and have Appointed Appraisers, and if there was any more in your Drove not to fitt to kill, to take them the same way. Don't send any more that is not, but if more come to hand to you, do what you think best with them. I am mo't Hb'le servant.

COMFORT SANDS.

West Point Jan'y 13, 1780.

Dear Sir.

Your favour of the 12th inst Received last Night, and humbly thank you for it, please send as many Cattle and Sheep as possible. I am very sorry you cannot give me an account of the Cattle lost, there is so much Dam'd Iniquity (Why Wm.!!) among the Drovers or in the Guards carelessness, that I am almost discouraged in sending after cattle at all. Pray Sir be kind enough to send a Bill of the No you now send, with my Respects to you, and am

Your most ob't Hb'le Servant,
WM. FROST.

The next is addressed: "Mr. Foote, Division Commissary Gen'l Issues. Crompond."

Headquarters Highlands Jan. 21 1780.

Sir. Complaints have been lately made that the parties on the Lines, have suffered for want of Provisions. Mr Gen Heath requests that you would pay particular attention to the advanced post, and keep it well supplied with Cattle as from time to time may be necessary. I am Sir, Your ob't Servant,

TH. CARTWRIGHT, Aid de Camp.

The Quire of money alluded to in the next does not sound as strange as it would have before our German brethren began to trifle with their currency, but Continental or paper money was a sorry joke for the soldiers of 1780.

Hartford Jan'y 26, 1780.

Sir.

By Mr. Moss I send you a Quire of Money to deliver to the drovers as they return, to pay for the Expense of their droves,—you will be careful to take their Receipts, which you will send me after you have paid it all out, & I will send you Mr Moss' rec't to exchange for yours—you will

leave notification at Mr Boyd's and Cap't Drake's for the drovers to Call on you for Money, as they return from Headquarters. I am with respect yours and Mrs. Foote's

Hb'le servant,
JULIUS DEMING, C. P.

(Julius was a relative. K. F.)

Camp Highlands Jan 30 1780.

Sir.

The Difficulty that Attends Procuring Salt Provisions at this Present time, Necessitates me to Apply to you for Fresh Beef.

When I saw you the other Day I was not Sensible of being in want so soon, but as I can have no Supply from Fishkill of Salt Provision I am under the greatest Necessity, therefore if it is not in your Power to Send twenty or thirty head, a Less Number might answer a Noble Purpose. I am Sir, your very Hub'l Servant

JOSHUA HARDING.

Fort Arnold Feb 27 1780.

Sir.

I would take it as a favour if you would let me know by the first Opportunity, if I can employ a butcher to kill for the tropps I serve,—as those I now employ, will be discharged the service in a short time, also what price is allowed. I am Sir

Your Hb'le Servant

SAM'L MARSHALL.

Irving and others tell us that General Washington's plans were constantly overturned by the generally short terms of enlistments. No sooner were the raw troops trained to their new duties, than their time was out, and new recruits had to be broken in.

Asa Worthington was a Colchester boy, and an intimate friend.

Camp Feb. 1780.

If Brother Foote will be so kind as to send the Continental Horse to span the one I have, he will much oblige me. I want to send the sleigh to the Barracks, to have some rods fixed to it, and wish to have a pair of gallant horses. The ladies expect the company of Mrs. Foote this aft, and I will send the sleigh for her if it returns in time, as I make no doubt it will do. Yours

ASA WORTHINGTON.

Ebenezer seems to have been the only one married among the Colchester boys, and also from letters it seems that all three lived in houses instead of barracks.

The next indicates that Ebenezer and his wife had gone to Squire Daniel Foote's at Colchester to pay a visit; speaks of the Staff Department of which Asa as well as E. was a member; and recalls the fact of how many were serving with no pay for even ordinary every-day expenses.

Morristown Apr. 30, 1780.

Dear Sir.

Your favour of the 4th inst, I have with pleasure rec'd, and this is the first opportunity of conveyance since it came to or I should have paid an earlier attention to answering it. It is uncertain whether I remain in office this summer or not. We have now a committee of Congress in town to make good the depreciation, and regulate the Staff Departments. If they allow me a generous pay, I am at their service,—if they continue their usual parsimony, I am as much at my own. I have at least served them long eno for nothing, & think it time now to be paid. My compliments to Mrs. Foote, hope she experienced no events that might make her repent the ride (on horseback, West Point to near New London. K. F.)

and make my Devoirs to the good family where you are. Adieu.

ASA WORTHINGTON.

Asa wrote on April 30, about the committee of Congress being in Morristown to arrange certain matters. On July 25, three months later, he writes:

The Committee of Congress are so far from Compleating a few matters relative to my department, that they have only begun to form a system for the Commissary General of Purchases at Large,—this day—when they will compleat it, is—I believe, equally beyond my wisdom or theirs to determine. I am not certain but the French Troops will send you a quantity of soup, as will leave you but little to do in the beef way. When I was at West Point the other day, I left my bridle at Col. Brookes' if you have a safe opportunity, will thank you to forward it as I have to ride with a halter. God save me from the gallows. In haste,

ASA WORTHINGTON.

THE WEST POINT CONSPIRACY

I can find no more until August, but this brings us to an important epoch in history, viz., the accession of Arnold to the command of West Point. It will be recalled that earlier Arnold had been tried by a court martial and although, through the efforts of General Washington the sentence had been a nominal one, the self-esteem of Arnold was touched and vowing vengeance he cast about for ways and means. History tells us that probably as soon as the project occurred to him, he began a correspondence with Sir Henry Clinton, relative to the delivery of West Point, the most important fort of the Northern Army forces—and really the key to all—into the hands of England. As a requisite step to the completion of his plans it was necessary that he gain command of the place.

This was most difficult we are told, but finally by artifice he succeeded in persuading General Washington to comply—the latter having no suspicion of Arnold's disloyalty and little foreseeing what was to follow—at last signed the order, and Arnold took possession on August 3d, 1780.

His headquarters were established at Robinson House, the handsome residence of Beverly Robinson, who, shortly before, after efforts to avoid it, had been convicted of disloyalty and the estate confiscated. The house was not far from Crompond, and family tradition says that constant communication took place, both official and

friendly, between the two Connecticut men. But alas! with thousands of other letters, from Washington down to persons of little importance, preserved by Judge Foote, and a common subject of conversation with the elders of his family during his life, no proofs are left except the comparatively few contained in this volume.

All through my girlhood the trim cases stood, from floor to ceiling, filled with the precious letters, which must have been mutely beseeching us to want and care for them, but all were too busy, and now I, at least, am filled with unspeakable chagrin over having helped to lose the treasures that at last have come to seem priceless to his family, if to no one else.

We loved the traditions but were willing to take them on hearsay, instead of looking for ours ourselves, until fifty years after Ebenezer's death the house was sold, the letters destroyed, and opportunity fled forever.

As I am about to die, I have determined to take the time and save from oblivion a good many facts concerning the life and times and friends of a man who was a soldier in the Revolution, a man of affairs in the State, and who died here at Delhi, N. Y., in 1829.

Arnold took possession of West Point on August 3d. Whether he had set to work at once to produce an impression of great activity, or if the Congressional Committee, after three months, had thought best to appear busy, I know not, but on August 8th, several letters of elaborate new instructions are sent Captain Foote, so exactly like the old ones for all your humble scribe can see, that one should suffice for all.

Peekskill, August 8th, 1780

Sir.

You are hereby requested to take Charge of Supertending Cattle for the Troops, agreeable to the annexed directions from the Commissary General of Purchases,—Ephraim Blaine. In addition, you will deliver what Cattle may be necessary for supply at the post at Continental Village, —Kings Ferry—and the detachment on the Lines, which is on this side the Hudson river. You will pay the strictest attention to these directions, and advise me as often as maybe, of the state of your supplies, and situation.

Your Obt serv't

ASA WORTHINGTON.

N. B. The person you fix at West Point, will be entitled to one ration of Provisions per day.

A. W.

Asa's official and personal letters are of quite different types, as see the following.

Scrowlingsburgh, 1st Sept. 1780.

Dear Eben.

Your favour per bearer, came safe to hand. D'n the farthing of Cash I've seen since I saw you, except two hundred dollars I won of Deming and Bigelow yesterday, at All Fours.

Whatever instructions you have had from Col Blayne, must be your guide, as well as those rec'd from the Commanding officer.

In great haste, yours &c.

ASA WORTHINGTON.

N. B. Davie is as dead as Hell. He breathed his last 7 days ago, in the arms of Bigelow.

A. W.

The next is endorsed: "From Capt. Henry Champion, P. C.," which means Commissary of Purchases.

Colchester Sept 12 1780.

. . . I am exceedingly mortified that it is out of my power to send you any Continental Cash. Every endeavor which I could make has hitherto proved unsuccessful, & yesterday I had an Express arrive frm Boston, (where has been my greatest dependence) informing not a shilling can be obtained. It is really strange but true, that with orders on several states for 6. or 8. million dollars, I can't obtain eno' for your demands. I sincerely thank you for your attention to my interest in putting into your acct, which I settle,— what services you can.

I'll discharge the first money I get, and no means shall be left untried to obtain it. I am Sir with regard, your ob't serv't

HENRY CHAMPION.

My disappointment is great, that I have so few letters of August and September, 1780, from Arnold's command at West Point to Andre's capture, September 23. Did the most methodical of men preserve them, and some one else not recognizing their value allow them to be destroyed?

And also it is more than probable that in a journal that Ebenezer kept during his army days, these events were chronicled, and would have seemed invaluable to some of his descendants. My father as a boy and young man remembered it well, but later in life when he came to the point of wanting to read it carefully and make sure of its contents, it had disappeared, and he was never able to find any trace of it again.

One detail we get from an article by Judge Dyckman of White Plains, published in July, 1889, in the *Magazine of American History*, edited by Miss Martha Lamb. As a member of a Westchester family he liked to unearth items of

happenings of his own "terrain" and as Judge he possibly had easier access to old documents than most people.

However this may be, I was intensely interested in 1889, on taking up an odd number of the above-mentioned magazine, to find my relative's name in one of the series of articles entitled, "The Last Twelve Days of Andre." To add to my other infinite regrets, a friend of mine, and also of Judge Dykman's, was also interested in the article, and said she would take pains when next I came to town that we meet, but alas, we never did, they both died, and I am unable to find as I might have from him, two facts which I know to be true, first the short details of Ebenezer's testimony at the trial of Hett Smith, which I once saw in a book at the Public Library in New York, copied and then lost and have never since been able to find the book again; second what Pierre or Philip Van Cortlandt said of Ebenezer in a speech in 1837.

What Judge Dyckman wrote I will give next, as a prelude to the very few letters left of this exciting period, in my possession.

Magazine of American History, July, 1889, by Judge J. O. Dyckman:

. . . At King's Ferry (now Garrison's) Andre crossed to the Westchester side, to Verplanck's Point, thence up the King's Ferry road to the Albany Post Road, then to Peekskill, thence to Crompond Corner, about eight miles from Verplanck's Point. In the early morning of the 23d Sept., accompanied by Joshua Hett Smith, and a colored servant,—at Crompond Corners, they were stopped by a sentinel in the road, and taken to Captain Ebenezer Foote, who had a guard there at that time.

It was still so early in the morning that Captain Foote could not read the pass without the aid of a lamp. (Note. Having done so and knowing well both Arnold and his signature, suspected nothing and allowed the party to pass on. K. F.) Smith made particular inquiry respecting the troops which were stationed below, and Captain Foote informed him that there were no troops on that line, except the cavalry of Col. Jamieson, some miles east of Pine's Bridge.

I had hoped to learn more of this occasion from some of the papers used, but was told that none of them had been kept.

Beside Judge Dyckman's article, I append the lamentably few letters which have been preserved to me of Captain Foote's part in this momentous epoch.

There used to be two from Arnold, in bygone days, but only one remains to me. The date is just a month after Arnold had been given the command at West Point. General Washington had set out on the first of September for Hartford, where he was to hold a conference with the French officers, and this would greatly simplify plans, making Arnold Commander in Chief until his return. Always astute, he recognized that the crucial moment had arrived, and besides hasty verbal commands he probably wrote many other orders as incisive as the one which follows.

Headquarters Robinson House September 4 1780.
Sir.

The Enemy from their Preparations seem to have some important movement in Contemplation, their Object may be an Attack on these Posts but illy supplied with Provisions, I much desire therefore, You will make every possible Exertion to hurry on the Cattle designed for the

Main Army. I have reason to believe the Garrison here will be greatly augmented. (Note. If his plans succeeded as he hoped, it certainly would be—by British soldiers. K. F.) The demand for Cattle will of Course be greater, and if we are not better supplied in future, than we have been for some Time past.—in Case these Posts are invested, they will be lost,—as well as the Garrisons, for Want of Provisions. I am Sir, Your Humble Servant,

B. ARNOLD.

From the following we see that Ebenezer had replied to Arnold's letter of the 4th, just transcribed, on the next day, and taken occasion to complain of the intrusion of one of the other commissaries, Stevens, into his affairs. The letter practically acknowledges that Stevens had been sent by Arnold with the letter.

Why did Arnold write an urgent order, and at the same time send Stevens to tamper with a fellow officer's command? Only his feverish haste to begin acquiring everything possible before the eventful moment of surrender, I think we may suppose.

Headquarters Robinson House, Sept 8 1780.
Sir.

I am directed by Major General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th, and to inform you that Mr Stevens conduct though not strictly regular, agreeable to the Powers of Issuing Commissaries,—was very justifiable on the Principle of Necessity, inasmuch as you were absent, and no person could inform him to what place,—it was necessary he should give directions for supplying This Post with Cattle, as it would have been left without Provisions of the meat kind. I have this day given orders that you be furnished with an addition of one Corporal and four men to your

Guard, as this is all that can be spared at present.
your Humb'le Servant

RICHARD VARICK.

Ebenezer's office was one of much responsibility. He had to cover posts in three counties, and the accounts were difficult. Cattle counted and shipped in good order from New England, and other points, strayed off along the route, jumped overboard while crossing the Hudson, developed illness, and otherwise deported themselves in unseemly ways, generally unanimous in but one thing, viz., failing to round up according to schedule at their destination, and causing all those responsible for them endless trouble.

Five days later, Arnold again sends personal orders through his Aide-de-Camp to hasten supplies.

Headquarters Robinson House, Sept 13 17.

Sir.

Two Milch cows are immediately wanted for the Flying Hospital. The General therefore desires that you will pick two which give the most milk, from the first droves that come to your hands, and send them to this place without Delay.
Your Hub'le Servant

RICHARD VARICK.

The pass which was shown Captain Foote at Crompond is put in all accounts of the occasion, but may be new to some one and I include it.

Headquarters Robinson House, Sept. 22 1780.

Permit Mr John Anderson to pass the guards to the White Plains, or below if he Chuses, He being on Public Buisness by my direction.

B. ARNOLD, M. Gen.

Mr. Irving in his "Life of Washington" says the latter wrote to Colonel Jameson, "Send Mr.

Andre to this place by some upper road, rather than by Crompond.”

One of the few treasured letters I have relating to Andre, is the following from Alexander Hamilton, and about which controversy has arisen as to the exact meaning—a hundred years after it was written.

The tradition has come down that at the time of Andre's capture, E. was temporarily, with others, put on Washington's personal Staff, and he was raised to rank of major at that time, as we have proof, but if he was sent an "Officer with a Flag of Truce," it was certainly a new responsibility, and when the sentence from Irving was found, it seemed to belong to my letter, although it may be fallacious reasoning—I have come to believe that Mr. Hamilton's note means that General Washington had written Ebenezer a personal note (which Ebenezer did not receive) relative to conduct, when Andre should reach Crompond, but later changed his mind, and sent Hamilton to confirm the letter, of change of route, who, understanding all the circumstances, wrote Captain Foote my note, which follows.

Major Foote thus endorsed Colonel Hamilton's letter:

Rec'd from Col. Hamilton, Aide to his Excellency, Sept 28 1780. ordering the return of the Flag of Truce, sent out from New York on acct of Arnold's desertion.

Continental Village, Sept 28. 1780.

Sir.

Your letter to the General (Washington) was delivered me on the road. You will on receipt of this, permit the Officer with the Flag to return, delivering him the enclosed letter.

This I know to be His Excellencys intention, and he yesterday sent orders which seem not to have reached you.

I am Sir Your most obedient.

A. HAMILTON, Aide de Camp.

To go back a few days, the next letter is only curious because it was written on September 22, and it was just after midnight of that morning that Arnold had left West Point for his fateful meeting with Andre, leaving the place in all its primitive quiet, without betraying his intentions to any one there, we are told.

West Point Sept. 22 1780.

Sir.

I have the misfortune to inform you of my In-disposition of body for a week past,—and have concluded to go this Day about eight miles up the river to Capt. Raimonds—if you have any one you can send here, should think it most Expedient.

. . . DANIEL WATROUS.

Daniel and his brother, John, Days, Demings, Colemans, Lords, Ishams, Otis, Olcotts and Bigelows were all Colchester "lads," most of them related to Ebenezer by birth or marriage—and most of them stationed rather near Crompond.

The next is from Hendrick Wyckoff. He was one of the State Agents, and is very often mentioned in histories of the times. The date is Oct. 2d, 1780, the very day on which poor Andre was looking his last on life and the sun, but Wyckoff recks nothing of his distress—though Fredericksburg was still headquarters, the cause of national interest, and it would seem almost impossible in these days that the tragedy taking place so near at hand should not have been a sub-

ject of conversation among the troops, and of enough interest to insert one sentence, even in a business letter. It was written from Fredericksburg, Oct. 2d, 1780.

He speaks of having seized some cattle according to state law, but expects nevertheless to have to appear before a Court and as Captain Foote is the only person he knows in the vicinity, he will ride over on Wednesday and arrange some details. As I have said above, all the accounts were difficult, everything was criticized and found fault over the least thing, as see the following.

You will please to be very particular in the Receipts you give for Cattle. I observed in the last invoice, the weight was expressed in figures, which should by no means be done.

Yours

ASA WORTHINGTON.

Asa next writes:

Monday. Corporal Trim is going to the village and to the Conn. lines with some Orders,—have you any Commands for him. I shall be with you today.

ASA.

Note: There should be a number of people in the village who can remember the Delhi corporal, Trim, without knowing where he came from. He had been a slave of my grandfather's, attended the Colonel on Field Days, and was a house servant at other times, and when I came across this note, it occurred to me that our Trim had been named for this army one. Trim was of course freed with the others, but chose to stay on with the Colonel, until the family was broken up, and then did jobs about the village as late as my girlhood days.

THE CLOSE OF THE WAR

The next is written by Eli Foote, one of the twelve children of Daniel, whose daughter, Roxana, married Dr. Lyman Beecher and became the mother of the clever Beecher tribe—Henry Ward, “et al.”

I know not why my people should have wanted to set up the very unusual luxury at that date of a carriage, but Jerusha had her own money, and may have become tired of always riding. The price was undoubtedly paper money.

Guilford 5th Oct. 1780.

Dear Brother.

. . . Should have answered sooner, if I could have satisfied you respecting a carriage. Am now to Inform that have made Enquiry here and there is none to be had except second hand, which am not able to say if it will suit you. If you will be so good as to take your route this way on your return, may be had.

I wrote to Mr Clarke of New Haven, he Informs that a new one could not be had under \$2,160, this I thought Extravagant. Yours

ELI.

Camp Preakness Oct 18 1780.

Dear Sir.

Business would not permit my coming from Colchester by way of Fishkill as I had proposed.—wish to hear how Dan Watrous is, whether mending or not. The bearer brings your watch. . . . In haste, your obt servant.

ASA WORTHINGTON.

Many from Hendrick Wyckoff. Will copy only one more.

Oct 18 1780.

Sir.

Have just come in from Fredericksburg, so many Cattle coming in have not time to come to you. Have no place to put droves, can you receive any, should be glad, . . . If it be not too much trouble, will you come and spend a few hours with me. In great haste,

your most obt. Humble servant.

HENDRICK WYCKOFF.

Asa wishes to be in the "mode."

Dec 24 1780.

Dear Brother (Masonic, K. F.).

I will thank you to engage Mr. London to send to Albany by the next post, for a Black Martin Skin well dressed with the furr,—for the purpose of binding a Vest. I want it of the best Kind,—and wish to have it as soon as possible. It is a matter of doubt whether I ever get from West Point,—but I assure you my inclination will make every effort to take off with myself as soon as possible. I am cordially yours.

ASA WORTHINGTON.

Asa writes:

No Thanksgiving here!!!! what a people!!!! Conn. wouldn't stick at having half a dozen,—however to my joy, the lads in Blooming Grove are planning a dance where I shall be a partaker.

General Heath wants to know if he can have a milk cow, and Colonel Blaine writes about cattle stolen by Hasbrouck. After business about the droves, Daniel Watrous writes:

West Point. Jan. 5th 1781.

. . . I intended to carry this to you myself, but having no horse at the moment, old age and in-

firmities would overtake me if I tried to walk. . . .
My most respectful compliments to Mrs. Foote
and Miss Foote (a sister). Pray when shall you
be at this place.

With Esteem, your obt.

DANIEL WATROUS.

Blooming Grove, Jan. 9th 1781.

Dear Sir.

I am no longer a Staff Officer. Yesterday was
the happy day when I began to anticipate the
pleasures of freedom, and my resignation given
and accepted. Col. Blaine quits the Department
the first of March. He appears to pay the great-
est attention to our wants. . . . In extreme haste
your obt.

ASA WORTHINGTON.

Mrs. Foote's relative, Major Joseph Strang, is
now State Member from Westchester, and writes
of the well known mutiny, quelled by Gen. Philip
Schuyler's prompt action.

Albany Jan. 1781.

Sir.

Possibly before this reaches you, you will be
informed, our troops which lay at Sihenctida! on
the 24 inst, began to mutinise, they have not beer
very disorderly, neither have they refused to let
their officers come among them. The reasons
they assign, are want of flour, with long arrears
of pay. . . . In order to quiet them Gen. Schuy-
ler and some other gentlemen have undertaken
to purchase some flour on their own credit, and
two Commissioners appointed to liquidate their
claims, therefore hope that things will soon be
settled.

Sir your most obt humble servant,

JOS. STRANG.

To Mr. Foote at Colonel Brinkerhoff's (which was a very well known name and inn during the war).

The next begs for fresh meat.

. . . but don't expect there will be any means of your sending sooner than by the Express that goes almost daily to his Excellency at Road Island.

The receipt which follows shows the alarming depreciation of money.

This certifies that I have purchased of E. Foote Esq. Two Oxen for which am to pay him Three thousand Continental Dollars.

Hopewell. March 30. 1781.

CHAS DURYEE.

Asa writes about the Masonic Lodge they were trying to establish in the partly straightlaced old town.

Colchester April 10. 1781.

. . . The Installation of the new Lodge is to be celebrated at Taintors,—such gazing—such remarking,—such wonderments will be displayed as is beyond description. In the first place, our godly Divine has refused to favour us with his prayers, tho requested to by the committee, and also refuses to let any other Clergyman officiate in his pulpit. Brother Watrous goes next day back to Camp.

We had a ball in town last night, and a good one too, I was provided with a partner from Squire Foote's which enables me to say that your family are all well. Hell is to pay about playing in Church. Deming is Tithing man. Jack Watrous will tell you all.

. . . ASA WORTHINGTON.

Masonry was not only a bond with the Col-

chester lads, but continues to influence his friendships through life. The Colchester youths we are hearing about seemed to have been in advance of their time, full of spirit and humor, but not one thing to indicate wrong-doing.

West Point March 3d 1781.

Sir.

The inoculation of such of the troops as have not had the smallpox being on the point of taking place at the New Hampshire huts,—the gen directs that you will please supply Dr Eustis with such quantity of beef cattle as may be necessary for the patients while under the operation. Sir. Your obt, Servant.

H. SEWALL, Aide de Camp.

The next is addressed as others often were, "Col. Ebenezer Foote, Fishkill," and though one despises the acts, there seems to me something quite touching about the letter, and I hope any reader will be as filled with pity as I have been on reading it—the interest is in the slave, and absence of prohibition of the early days.

Colchester Apr. 13 1781.

Dear Sir.

Reapeated losses, Idleness, and the love of the Bottle, have reduced me to the lowest State of Indigence.—I will tell you plainly I have spent all my money, and not only that, but I have engaged to rais a very considerable sum of Hard Money soon which obliges me to wish to dispose of Sir Harry, to raise a part. I have had repeated offers to sell him, but I could not gain his consent,—he is very loath to be sold, and I am as unwilling indeed, but I have determined to sell him against his will,—instantly. I imagine he would be nearly willing to be sold at Fishkill, as his parents live at Aaron Van Vlackrens.

Beg you to make a market for him if Possible, and write me by first post. Perhaps if you inform his father, he can find a Master that would suit the boy. He is an exceedingly fine healthy boy, 14 years old large of his age,—my price is £70 which I could have taken if I would have Sold him Against his will,—but I would take something less if I could find a place that would please him.

I am Sir with Esteem, your obt,
DANIEL KELLOGG.

The two following were written on the same day. Dan on furlough, and as pleased thereat as usual, and both filled with the usual boyish chaff (none of them was much over 20).

Colchester June 3d 1781.

Dear Sir.

I arrived at this place the third day after my departure from your Quarters, performed the journey with great cheerfulness, and have been no stranger to diversion since my arrival at Elysium, and the Beauties of Spring are not confined to the flowers of the field, I think. I had the pleasure the evening before last to receive your Letter of the 29th, ult. and strictly observed the contents and am very happy in hearing that you have not moved your quarters to Poughkeepsie. As to your being destitute of Cash and Grogg, I fear I cannot at present, feel so sensibly for you as I shall on my return. Have obeyed your orders in regard to issuing Warrants for Worthingtons Damnation, which has employed me busily in my Leisure hours,—think there is a prospect of Cash by & by, concerning which Worthington will write you. Expect me back by the 15th inst.

I am Sir your most Sincere friend and Hub'le Servt

DANIEL WATROUS.

Colchester Sunday after Church, June 3d 1781.
That my Brother can swear I am now fully

convinced, I used to think him proficient, but now find him an adept, & I am of opinion he ought to be under full Pay, and Rations. All this takes its rise from a perusal of your letter to Dan Watrous, which he showed me as we came out of Church, about one hour and a half, and twenty one minutes ago (with our pockets full of Grace)—but—for a D'd hole in my pocket,—my Grace and my penknife, have experienced one fate, and both have gone to the Devil. Brother Champion has Promised he will send you some of the Needful, as soon as it is in his power. He now gets nothing but State lumber, nor that neither, but I am told the present sessions intend to emit another Bank, if so, 'tis hopefull we shall have money again. What value they mean to put upon it is undetermined, but I conclude it will bear the current price of paper at the retail shops. Am happy you are likely to live till fall, and hope you will be in no jail but Mrs. Footes till the consummation of all things. What Lady did you mean, give your reason with that brotherly freedom which ever charmed me.

Cordially yours,

ASA WORTHINGTON.

Gen Washington gives a kindly order.

To Major Foote at Col. Hammond's.

Headquarters. July 28 1781.

Dear Sir.

His Excellency requests you to deliver the bearer, Mrs. Brush, she is proving her property, two cows that were taken by the Army from Morrisania,—the cows were taken by the Refugees some time since.

I am dear Sir, your most obed't Servant.

DAVID COBB, L't Col.

Aid de Camp to ye Commander in Chief.

The next is addressed to "Ebenezer Foote,

Esq., at Headquarters." It is from Oliver Phelps, State Agent, about receipts he has lost or mislaid, or something—too long to copy.

One omitted from Asa, says the Lodge has been "Constituted," Brothers Little and Coleman, Wardens, and Coldridge and Worthington, Secretary and Treasurer.

Camp 5th August 1781.

Sir.

The cow you were so kind as to offer me the other day, I should wish sent by the bearer,—the one sent me by Col Stewart, is so wild she will not answer to keep in Camp, if the one you send suits, I will call and Receipt for her. You recollect my Speaking to you about the horse you were then on,—I have one which appears to be a Dead Match,—will you sell him, or exchange for a horse much Larger, nearly 5 years old. Your answer will oblige

Yours Sincerely,
JN GLOVER, B. General.

Daniel writes to his son, mentioning some light literature he had struck off and read to Ebenezer, by way of amusing him on one of his infrequent furloughs.

Colchester August 20 1781.

Dutiful Son.

. . . Do you remember when you were here, hearing me read some observations about Original Sin,—you manifested a liking to them and Inclination to have them made Publick, which I then declined, but upon further thought, have sent you a Copy of them to Peruse, and Liberty if upon advising with proper persons, you shall see fit, to Publish same, (secreting the author). I remain your loving Father

DANIEL FOOTE.

“World” Oct 26 1781.

Dear Foote.

Just rec'd your Complimentary Letter, and confess myself under great obligations to the Fever & Ague for It,—for I suppose had you not been troubled with that Agreeable Disorder, I should not have known what had become of you. I am in the same situation as yourself respecting the Lectures of the Ancient Craft (Masonic. K. F.), however, flatter myself to see you and Mrs Foote this winter at the Col's, and when we have no other business we will Work (remarks about taking Bank).

I am with compliments to Mrs Foote Yours Sincerely.

? ? WAINWRIGHT (Dr.).

West Point Dec 13 1781.

Sir.

You are desired to attend a Gen. Court Martial at this place on Thursday the twentieth inst. in the forenoon, as a witness respect charges exhibited against Doctor Charles McKnight.

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN LAWRENCE, J. Ad Gen'l.

John Lawrence, a well known lawyer, had been Judge Advocate at the trials about Andre.

FAMILY AND BUSINESS LETTERS

Young Justin writes, giving us a glimpse of a dress of the period.

Colchester Dec 5th 1782.

Dear Brother,

Yesterday Capt. Deming returned from New London where he attended a Vendue, and saw Rum sold for 8/2 by the hog'd, Common proof and other things in proportion. On account of late news from Boston Tea has kept to 12/10, Coffee 2/- lb, Chocolate, 1/4 per cake.

Capt. Deming and Brother Ely (Eli), set out for Boston this morning. When Ely is equipt for riding, I think he has the resemblance to Sanchó Panza. He has got him a new coat of thick brown coating, lined with baize, a broadcloth jacket, with a pair of corduroy breeches, and over them, large pair made of thick coating, buttoned to the knees, instead of strings & to top all, his neck muffled up with red baize.

From your friend,

JUSTIN FOOTE.

In 1782 Elisha Foote of Colchester, Conn., married Phebe Sabin of the same town. The boy Justin speaks of in the next letter, 1783, became the Hon. Judge Elisha Foote of Cooperstown, N. Y., where he died.

Colchester 9th April 1783.

Dear Brother,

. . . Our cousin Elisha has got a boy, and Sabin has put the gran C? upon him, whether he has paid the money or given his obligation for it,

I do not know. Your cane head I shall get from Mansfield, the first opportunity.

Your friend

JUSTIN FOOTE.

General Van Cortlandt and Ebenezer were excellent friends as I know from many sources, but the only *letter* I have is on the subject of pork. In Westchester annals Mrs. Foote's ancestor, Daniel Purdy, is set down as buying a thousand acres of the Cortlandt Manor in 1760 and we find her father paying rent for his lands, presumably the whole or a part of the thousand acres which his grandfather, Daniel, bought, as it is in exactly the same location. It should be remembered that none of the great manors gave warranty deeds, and undoubtedly Daniel and Abraham and all the others continued to pay rent until the 1840's, which saw the Anti-Rent uprisings, during which the clever, brave young Osman Steele of Delhi was shot down at Andes, in 1845, while in the performance of his duty as an officer of the law, by the pseudo Indians, in ambush there.

Manor of Cortlandt. Feb 27 1784.

Sir.

Being under the necessity of going to New York this morning, and fearing least my family should want provisions before my return, makes me take the liberty to request you will deliver the bearer, one barrel pork,—which I will call and pay for on my return, about the 15 March. I shall place dependence to have the other barrels you may have to spare. I am Sir, Yours most Sincerely,

PHILIP CORTLANDT.

We know that Major Foote after the war started as a merchant at Crompond, and later sev-

eral places, at Newburgh and surrounding small villages. This is addressed to Hanover and may mark the year when he finally left Crompond.

The next may be of interest in reference to the smallpox, one of the deadly scourges of those days.

Colchester August 6. 1784.

Dear Brother

I want you to advise me about having the small pox, I think it necessary to have it somewhere.

Yours,
JUSTIN.

In the next Justin sends 8 loaves sugar and 1 box tobacco. The pistole was a Spanish coin much in use at the time, and generally accepted as proper currency, as were many other foreign pieces.

New York April 23 1784.

Dear Ebbe.

I send you by the bearer, 8 loaves sugar, & 1 box tobacco, as per bill.—the pistole you sent, Miller refused to take,—I enclose it & the bill. Friend Storrs is in town and well. Tell Mrs Foote I could get no teapots except plain ones, so did not get any.

JUSTIN.

Miller tobacco£2. 2.6.

Hoffman Sugar£3.13.8.

June 10, 1788, Peter Frazier acknowledges receipt of "3 doz Martin skins, & 6 Otter skins," which he had given James Geiger to be sold, "Mr. Geiger lives next door but one to Mr. Scotts."!! The letter is addressed to Mr. Foote, "at McPhersons Coffee House. St. John. New Brunswick." By this we see that as well as by the one letter left of Mr. Astor's, that furs were still in mind,

but they evidently came to nothing, or instead of the lime which melted in storage, the horses which died, or the butter which spoiled before it was sold, he might have a very small fraction of the money which Mr. Astor did.

Newburgh Jan. 10, 1788. A meeting was held at Peter Nestell's house, to establish a Free Mason's Lodge, in the Precinct of Newburgh. Mr. Ebenezer Foote was chosen chairman, and begged to petition the Grand Lodge for a Warrant.

Next Thomas Roche deplotes the fact that he left town without paying his indebtedness, and trusts that his friendship will not be given up. As Ebenezer's friends, we find from many records, rarely paid their debts to him in 1788, or before or after, we may assume that Thomas was forgiven as usual. "Care of Doctor Wainwright, Queens St."!!!

10 Dec. 1787, Theodorus Baily sends a letter speaking of the Hasbrouck Business, "I want to see you as soon as possible to confer with you on the business of Hasbrouck and others. I have obtained a Rule at the last Court, to compel the putting in of Bail," etc., etc.

Theodorus Bailey is often spoken as P. M. in New York in 1804, and this might easily be the same man. But why a Hasbrouck Matter, concerning which I have two or three letters dated before the war was ended, should still be carrying on, I cannot see, but it sounds the same, and yet I have too little evidence to put in the long letter from Mr. Bailey.

The next is the first one I have of numberless letters sent by the writer, until his death a politician, a merchant, a good man of King-

ston, N. Y., but coming to grief at last in business.

Dear Brother (Mason).

I am anxious to hear from you, where the Devil are you and Delamater, can't you give us something to amuse us send an old magazine if nothing else. Now more serious,—I will give you a History Compleat from here next week, by De Zerg

Most effecttionately

PETER VAN GAS BEEK.

Ebenezer was very much installed at Newburgh by this time, as merchant, supervisor, on school board, in church, and in the general politics which were to send him to the county, nameless as yet, where he died.

In the next we hear of the perils to be encountered in going a short distance back from the river, if a storm occurred.

Kingston Oct 25. 1790.

Dear Sir.

. . . It grieved me that I was absent when your brother arrived yesterday, as it deprived me of his company, he having engaged to dine with the Royal Family of this place—or a branch of it as they feel themselves. About our little journey, the place is so situated, that should we meet with a deep snow, we should encounter great difficulty my Friend, and great danger.—let me hear from you again on the subject of our jaunt into the Western country. With every sentiment of

Respect and Esteem, yours.

PETER VAN GAS BEEK.

New York 16 Sept 1780.

Dear Eben.

Been too busy since my arrival from Carolina to write, but thank Heaven The Harlequin (one of his trading vessels) sailed this day with a fair wind, and in good order, and I take passage for

Guilford this aft. Met P Van Gas Beek,—a plain honest, genteel Dutchman.

A brig arrived from London last night, Capt says reports about a Spanish war are various,—but it was all preperation for war when he left England. A letter from France, mentions all peace between Spain and England. More than brotherly affection from

JUSTIN.

Eli, older brother and the father of Roxana Foote Beecher, as well as Justin, had gone into trade in Carolina, doing well, and on the point of coming home for a visit when stricken with fever and died with accounts all awry, which forced his wife and large family to find a home with Mrs. Foote's father, Gen. Andrew Ward, the other grandfather of all the Beechers, to be born later on.

I have already copied letters written from New Brunswick, so that Ebenezer must have begun some small trade in furs before the letter of John Jacob Astor, the first, which follows:

New York 10th March, 1791

Mr Ebenezer Foote

Dr Sir. I just recd your favor of 25 ulto. It is not in my power to say whether anney Person is gon from this City for Sant Johns for the purpos of purchasing furrs, tho I am prety sure theare is not. Yet there are Several Persons who frequently Send furrs from theare to this Market—which are in my opinyon no judges of furrs from the quality they Send I have Reason to Supoes South—I should much aprooff of your going thare for that Porpus and make not a Doubt that you and me will agree in the errand as I much have wished for Som Person in whom Confidence could be placed to go theare In my opinion theare is not a doubt but it will answer well,

but I think it would be necesry and much better on several accounts to Set out before the Month of May. First I think thare will be an advantage in being early I should supoes in getting the furr before other buyers, and 2d I am afaraide that furr Sold high in London this Last Feby, of which the Merchants theare will be informed by the March packet, and if so they will of cores hold theare furr high. Thearefor if a Person could be theare before that time it would be better. All kinds of furr are very high, in Partikeler otter and musrat Skins, and wil no Doubt Remaen so all the yeare. Good otter from St. John will bring 6 Dollars here and musrat 1/8 per skin. I shall be glad to here from you agane as soon as posebill with your Determination on this Business. Annexed is price of some Country furr at Present,

I Remaen Sir with Much Respect
Your Most Obdt Servant.

J. JACOB ASTOR.

No 40 Little Dark Street

Price Currant of Furs

Good otter skins . . .	40/
Do Beaver	34/
“ red fox	10/
Minks	4/6
Martin	3/3
Musrat	1/6

I should say the friend referred to in Mr. Wainwright's letter was the one I have, of Mr. Astor. Mr. Wainwright was a solid business man, a well known merchant.

New York 21 March 17 1791.

Dear Foote.

. . . I hope the return letter of your friend,

may be of such a nature as to make it an object for your intended journey to N. Brunswick.

Very affectionately yours,

FRANCIS WAINWRIGHT.

New York April 2d 1791.

. . . In answer to the subject written on, I have still to say, that it is my intention to try my luck in the fur trade, and am very sorry my finances will not admit of agreeing to your friendly wish at this time, but our arrangements are such that we cannot possibly think of it this season. I hope and wish to see you before you set off, that we may have some conversation on the subject. Remember me particularly to Mrs Foote, and believe me your sincere

FRANCIS WAINWRIGHT.

It looks as if E. had been questing for money to accept of what was probably Mr. Astor's good hard business bargain, and failing to raise the necessary amount, set off by himself again.

“WESTERN” FEVER BEGINS

Judge Delamater was a Kingston friend, who died not long after. He was very nice and I wish I knew if they boarded at the “genteel place.” There was no Delaware County, but the river was being explored, and the western fever beginning to stir in the veins of the river dwellers.

Middletown June 10 1791.

My dear Sir.

Indisposition deprived me of the happiness of embracing you in Kingston. I left home with the pleasing hope of seeing you, but the pain in my side increasing I was bled the moment I reached Kingston,—it gave me no relief, and the Dr advised me to return home immediately,—I thought myself dangerous—care and attention in my situation was therefore necessary.

This will apologize for my not calling upon you in that place. I congratulate you upon your election (assembly). I hope you will not engage your quarters for next winter in New York, we must board together,—I shall engage if you please, board for you at Mr. Elsworth’s Maiden Lane, No 19.—there is not a Genteeler place in the city, the people are agreeable, kind and *affectionate*!!

I write you this scrawl from the East branch of the Delaware, where I am in company with Oliver and Van Gas Beek, exploring the country for a road into the western territory of this state.

I anticipate the pleasure of a line from you. I am Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully and affectionately.

J. DELAMATER (Jacob).

New York 2d August 1791.

Dear Brother.

. . . Since my absence from home, I have passed my time rather pleasantly than profitably, but money getting was never a business for me, and I am beginning to bear up pretty tolerably without it. Our society on N. Carolina consisted principally of merchants from various quarters, generally polite and well informed.

The country contains many sources of wealth which have never been tried or found out by the inhabitants. . . .

Your affectionate brother

ELI FOOTE.

Brotherly love in the next.

New York 1st September 1791.

Dear Eben.

. . . Yesterday arrived after a tedious passage of 19 days from Edmenton. On Elis return in August, I shipt by him in the Juno, a cargo, one half of which I expected would have been used for the payment of my private debts,—on his arrival he found himself under the necessity of making use of all the proceeds for the payment of his own debts, and I find myself a little in the dark, but I have so often been in that state, I am not much depressed. Tell me when Col Deniston's reg't meets and whether I had better come up or not.

Unalterably Yours,

JUSTIN.

N. York Sept 19. 1791.

Dear Eben.

I this day sent off the Harlequin for Carolina, and am hourly expecting my small Schooner with Naval stores, when she arrives and is discharged, I shall visit you.

. . . JUSTIN.

Winton N. Carolina. Feb. 7. 1792.

Dear Eben.

. . . I yesterday wrote Daniel Cromwell, respecting some brandy I wished him to engage of Clock Selluck & Co, to be kept on hand till the Juno arrived in New York. Please call on friend Cromwell at Peck Slip, who will show you my letter, and I would rather give 5/ pr gallon, than fail of having it. . . .

affectionately.

ELI FOOTE.

Instead of the card of admission to the Tammany Society of the day, which is in another book, I include the notice of it from *Lossing, vol. 2; p. 247*:

“Tradition commonly reports the Indian Chief Tamene, or St. Tammany, was buried near a spring about three miles west of Doyle’s, in Bucks County, Penn. When Col. George Morgan of Princeton visited the Western Indians, by order of Congress, in 1776, he was so beloved for his goodness that the Delawares conferred upon him the name of their venerated chief. He was called by politicians St. Tammany, and established as the patron saint of republican America. Tammany halls were dedicated and on the 1st of May (the festival of the saint) meetings of the Societies formed were held.”

This was written in 1852, now 70 years ago, and now in 1924 I am afraid Ebenezer would find a vastly different atmosphere from that of 1792 when he joined the “Columbian Order,” which was another of its names. Benjamin Strong, Sec., puts an N. B.: “The Initiation Fee which was when you were admitted Five dollars will be expected previous to your being admitted.”

There is also another Tammany invitation to a dinner which I am not able to get, I am sorry to say.

I have no idea how Ebenezer came to write to Mr. Meredith, or where the land in question was situated. It seems as if it would have been in Ulster County, where E. was supervisor, assemblyman, etc., as there was no Delaware County. But as possible Delaware County history I will insert what I can read of the nearly illegible letter.

Philadelphia March 19 1792.

Sir.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th, When I was in New York about two years ago, I made a purchase of some soldiers and officers lands in that state, thro a Capt of ? Thompson, and in looking over the papers belonging to that purchase, I do not find the name of ? but I do that of John Clark ? township. . . .

SAMUEL MEREDITH.

POLITICS

The following is one of the few letters written *by* Ebenezer, now greatly engrossed in politics.

Marlborough June 27 1792.

My dr Friend.

Inclosed is a letter from Brother Hughes. . . . It is not in my power to pay you a visit at present, or I should prefer a personal conference on the important subject. However I am persuaded your mind is as forcibly impressed with the necessity of adopting firm & decisive measures as mine is.—shall therefore not attempt to point out the propriety of doing something to prevent our subjection to despotick sway, since so many abler pens are employed in the noble cause. I beg you to communicate your sentiments and intentions as soon as possible. I rec'd a letter from Gen. Schuyler dated the 19th, covering sundry papers and different publications on the subject, which I have distributed,—he is sanguine as to the temper of the people to the northward,—and indeed in other places,—and you know him to be a man of information. There was a meeting of a number of gentlemen at Hendricksons after the business of the day was over, & it was agreed upon to call a County meeting in Dutchess, agreeable to the request of our friends in York. In fact Sir,—the die is cast, Clinton must quit the Chair, or blood must and will be shed,—and if no innocent blood was to flow, I would not care how soon it began to run. God bless you and prosper you and all other honest men.

I am as always shall be, Your cordial friend.

EBENEZER FOOOTE.

New York 14 Sept 1792.

Dear Eben.

Thank God that at last I find myself in New York after a most tedious passage, in good health, and left Eli well. . . .

JUSTIN.

Justin speaks of having left Eli well, but he had died on September 9th, 1792, while Justin was at sea. Ebenezer has endorsed the letter he wrote to his wife:

Part of a letter Written by Eli Foote in N. Carolina during his last illness, to his wife, but before he could finish it, his fever raged to such a degree, as deprived him of reason and he died in a few days,—leaving it with other papers, in the care of strangers,—but friends.

EBENEZER FOOTE.

Justin went up to see Eben, and writes of the journey back to New York from Newburgh.

Arrived safe and should have had a good passage of about 16 hours, but got on the oyster beds at Tappan. however arrived in 24 hours from Newburgh!!. Shall set out for Guilford tomorrow morning if the wind will permit, if I do not sail tomorrow will leave Robert Lennox's due bill enclosed with a line with Mrs. Weaton

JUSTIN.

Kingston Feb. 18. 1792.

Rec'd a letter from Mr Gansevoort, member of the legislature, who informs me that Mr Jay is held up as a Candidate. I have written Mr Gansevoort, let me advise you to consult with him and the others.

The next are from Judge Josiah Ogden Hoffman, three within a week, but so related in topic that I put them as one. He was related to Mr.

David Colden Murray, as well as to Mr. Murray Hoffman, a descendant, who was at the Murray house a great deal and made one of the many parties which Mrs. Murray (a most delightful woman) led to her box at the opera, to balls, concerts, and everything that was gay, when I was in my girlhood, but had the great happiness to be included when I was stopping at the house. My grandfather, Charles, was in Judge Hoffman's office in New York a number of years, after his graduation from Union, and in the law school of Judge Van Schaack, until his father's pleas prevailed, and he came back to Delhi to live.

New York 20 April 1792.

My dear Foote.

I send you papers, pray attend to them without delay. The reply of . . . has enraged the Clintonian party, pray make good use of it, everything goes well,—take care of your own county, and spare neither time nor expense. Your friend most truly.

Thank you for inquiring for Mrs Hoffman, she is now much better, but is mindful of your attentions, and returns to you her best wishes. Do with this hasty scroll as it merits,—and believe me truly and sincerely your friend. . . .

The election has been a warm one, the city is nearly divided, the District though will not afford Clinton a greater majority than 300. This is far below the expectations of his party. How will Ulster turn out. Pray give me your Candid *opinion* by the first opportunity, and oblige your sincere friend,

JOSIAH OGDEN HOFFMAN.

Judge Delamater writes:

Why did you not come with me a few days.

Your piece in the Farmer's Register does you credit. . . .

I embrace you.

JACOB DELAMATER.

Troup was a very well known and respected name in Albany in my girlhood, of which I am sorry I can give no details.

New York 9th April 1792.

Sir.

It appears to be the wish of Congress that a knowledge of the enclosed should be diffused thro' every part of the State. For this purpose, I take the liberty of requesting you to have the Act posted up in some public place in your Co (Ulster), upon your return home.

The object of the Act, being the relief of a distressed part of our fellow citizens, I am persuaded you will derive great pleasure from your endeavors to serve them. I am Sir, very respectfully,

Your humble servant.

ROBERT TROUP.

The Cadwallader Colden of the next was the son of the great Tory Governor, Cadwallader the first, who was the builder of Coldenham, where he lived and his descendants after him. Ebenezer and Justin were much younger, but great intimacy prevailed between the houses. It would appear that E. had written that Mr. Colden stand for some office. In a very long letter the latter demurs lest the acts of his Tory father should be brought up against him. We make only a few extracts.

Coldenham March 30 1792.

Dear Sir.

Not till yesterday did your kind letter of the 11th come to hand. I now do not wish you to do

or say anything more on the subject, I was willing that my name should come up, but I would not have a contested election on my account for any consideration, and I know the other half of me would be very much opposed to it. the only inducement for me to accept would be to remove from peoples minds, the old prejudice you mention (tory father) which for my Countrys sake, I am sorry to find still exists.

That you may serve your country and preserve your peace of mind, and happiness, is the hope and desire of your sincere friend and

Very humble servant.

CADWALLADER COLDEN.

Kingston Jan 18 1784.

Dear Sir.

It is with the utmost pleasure I hereby acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 10th inst.—not only because I thereby find myself considered as your friend, which it is my earnest wish to continue,—but shall endeavor by every laudable means in my power to merit,—but also on account of the agreeable information it contains, respecting the disposition of the present House of Assembly.

Let me hear from you as often as convenient, for every line dropt to me will be gratefully accepted, by Sir, Your friend and

Humble servant,

JONATHAN HASBROUCK.

Charles, my grandfather, has been sent over the river to school. A teacher writes:

Poughkeepsie Feb 8th 1794.

Dear Sir.

At your request, I give myself the pleasing task of informing you that your son having been here several weeks, has conducted himself with a degree of propriety not usual in youth of his age (between 8 and 9). His disposition appears soft

and agreeable (why soft?). Master Charles by this presents his love to you.

I am dear Sir, Your obedient servant.

MATTHIAS HILDRETH.

Later, Dr. Fowler writes: "Mrs. Foote embarked for Poughkeepsie, to visit Charles, and on account of the state of the ice in the Hudson cannot get back."

A long letter asserting a prior deed to a piece of land Eben thought he owned. Never any ill luck about that Ebenezer doesn't come in for a share. I omit the legal part.

Cooperstown November 24. 1794.

I take the field in the spring, but not for Burr, as your Co intends. Yes my name is among the List of Candidates for this District, how it will terminate I know not, and I am happy to tell you that I care not, as I now see Clearly, the federal government will stand alone.

This Penn. affair hath been of infinite consequence. A few months ago, I was anxious to go, as well to keep out, as to gratify a sort of itch, for to be doing and saying about things that Perhaps I do not understand as well as—gitting Prior titels to those of my Friends. What think you of I should say not

I commend you to the care of the Deity.

* WILLIAM COOPER.

A letter from Albany says: "Your old friends Spencer and Gilbert are here for Court." "Friends" was quite right at this date, but ten years later Mr. Spencer was calling Heaven to annihilate my ancestor, and ten years later still they were friends again!!!

* Judge and founder of Cooperstown.

REJECTION OF AARON BURR

Aaron Burr, who writes the next, was a personal as well as political friend of Ebenezer's, and should have many letters from him. Only a few are rescued.

Philadelphia 10 Dec 1794.

Dear Sir.

Your very friendly letter of 29 Nov. came to hand two or three days ago. I have brought into Senate, a bill to alter the post road from Wards Bridge to Kingston, so that the mail shall pass through New Windsor and Newburgh, which I have no doubt will soon pass into a law. We have a prospect of a temperate political campaign indeed from present appearances, little will be done. The Bankrupt bill will be talked of and laid aside as heretofore. Mr. Hamilton has formally announced his determination to retire before the close of the Session. Mr. Knox also gives out and I believe with sincerity, that he will retire. I am Dr Sr your assured friend.

AARON BURR.

Ebenezer must have had a difficult task in choosing whom, when so many of his best friends were rival contestants for the same offices, but a majority overturned the fascinator Burr, and his very good friend, the Chancellor, Mr. Jay, was an equally good friend, and the Patroon never wavered till the end, so that I can only hope that Ebenezer was not called upon to do much in this nomination.

Albany Saturday Feb 7, 1795.

Dear Sir.

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter this morning.—the Clintonians have nominated Yates for Gov. & Floyd for Lt Gov. They have left friend Burr in the lurch, and the Chancellor.—our friends have agreed to support Jay and myself. I am much obliged for your partiality expressed in your letter,—and that of my friends in Ulster. I shall be glad to hear from you on this subject, and will you be so obliging as to inform me whether the Chancellor is a candidate.

Your friend

STEPHEN VAN RENSSELAER.

Judge Hoffman speaks of the difficulty of choosing, and adds :

New York Feb. 12 1795.

Dear Sir.

. . . At a very large meeting in this city, Mr. Jay and Mr. Van Rensselaer have been nominated, and they will be supported with great ardor,—our friends from the country all attended, and our decision was the effect of great deliberation. His Mission has proved successful and we, —authorizes to say, he was to leave London during the present month. Judge Yates would have been honorably supported by us, but he declined on the eve of the Election,—Gov. Clinton was his opponent. Mr Jay is now his opponent,—the man whom he three years since, warmly recommended, and he consents when the opposite party bring him forward, to be a candidate. Surely his present decision makes his true political creed. Pray let me hear from you without delay.

. . . God bless you.

JOSIAH OGDEN HOFFMAN.

New York March 4th 1795.

Dear Sir.

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter of

the 18 ult, on my return from Philadelphia, since which the business of the Election has assumed a different aspect,—the former supporters of Clinton are decidedly in favor of Yates, from whom they will not swerve, consequently Burr is out of the nomination. I observed in Greenleafs paper, there has been a meeting in your county, with all the usual Formalities. In Albany, the party there have publicly declined being on committees to support Yates, among which I recall A. G. Lansing, R. Lusk, Jere V. Rensselaer, & Wendell, the most active.

Van Vechten writes me that our majority will be larger than at the late election,—for Jay in the Western district, a like count in the Eastern, and the Southern they allow us 500 majority, but the leaders here claim 1000 so we have nothing but the Middle district, and Columbia to contend with. I therefore hope for the attachment I feel for you and Gasbeek that you will come out boldly.

Pray let me hear from you, your friend

S. VAN RENSSELAER.

New York March 6, 1795.

Dear Sir.

Before this reaches you I can but hope that all our friends have once more rallied around the standard of Mr Jay. Whitbeck writes that Burr by his own consent is out of the question, and exerting his whole strength, to ensure the success of Mr Jay. Everything looks well. Write often and believe me yours

J. O. HOFFMAN.

Again from Cadwallader Colden. He has been writing an article for the paper which he asks E. to criticize. He adds:

I wish you would have my Herald sent with

yours, I have had only three this winter. ———
 asks E. to get something else,

Excuse all this trouble,

From your friend

CADWALLADER COLDEN.

The next is from Cadwallader David Colden, son of the C. C. above, and so grandson of Governor Colden. A lawyer of repute, mayor of New York, etc.

Poughkeepsie March 17 1795.

Dear Sir.

As you have frequent intercourse with this place, I have taken the liberty by the enclosed letter and Draft, to direct the Sheriff of Orange to pay into your hands in my acct. £90.4.5.

You will do me a great favor if you will receive the money, and transmit it to me by some safe opportunity. In return it will give me great pleasure to render you my services whenever you will favor me with your commands. I am Sir with esteem,

Yours,

CADWALLADER D. COLDEN.

From Aaron Burr about nomination.

New York 30 March 1795.

Dear Sir.

I have written to the committee of Kingston, declining to be a candidate at the ensuing Election, which you also will be pleased to consider as my determination on that subject. I reserve till I have the pleasure to see you, in person, a review of the manoeuvres and intrigues which have taken place. Accept my thanks for this new instance of your friendship and attachment, which has been particularly flattering to me, and of which I shall retain a lasting recollection. I am with much esteem, your assured friend.

AARON BURR.

Two letters follow to Hon. Peter Van Gas Beek, from Ebenezer. Not at all models, but what a young man still not much over thirty was doing and thinking about the politics of the day.

Newburgh March 18. 1795.

My dear Fellow.

I have recd yours per John, it partakes of those friendly sentiments which you have been wont to convey in letters to me, and demands the warmest acknowledgement. I had received your letter from Philadelphia, and thank you for your exertions for the Post road. You have before this seen my letter by Dodge, which will explain my situation and feelings,—I am of opinion that it is altogether a farce to talk any further of Burr,—notwithstanding, I shall stand by my Kingston friends, let the consequences be what they may. I fully approve of the idea of a county meeting, and shall endeavor to send word to Sleight and Miller, but do not know what day it will be,—the 28 I think will be a proper day, for meeting, & the plan I approve of. I beg it be as general as possible. I shall send to Marlborough and notify them at that place,—but who to notify at Windsor, I know not—but you can depend on everything I can do to forward the Good Cause. You have paid me a greater compliment than I deserve, in submitting things to my judgement, however I can venture to say, that unless we act in concert, and with energy and decision, we cannot hope for success—on the contrary we may hope for.

If I do not attend the meeting, some other trusty persons from this town will be there,—it may possibly be best for me not to be there but I shall take counsel of friends,—for which reason, I wish you to send Bro. Dodge down as soon as possible, by Friday at farthest.

The damned Jacobins in this quarter, are using

all the cursed arts the devil can suggest to carry their points. It will require the most prudent management, and the utmost perseverance on our side, to carry our measures. I conclude with telling you that I am the same person I was when you first knew me,—you may therefore at any and all times, command my services to promote the Federal interest, and the good of our common country,—therefore write me without reserve, give your opinion first, if I differ with you, I shall always let you know with the confidence of a friend. God bless you. Adieu.

I am your brother,

EBENEZER FOOTE.

Dear Peter.

I send you enclosed my last Will and Testament, in favor of C—d.—you will discover undoubtedly, that it wants many additions corrections and amendments—all of which, I submit to the judgement, & care of yourself—brothers Coenrad and Addison. Particularly I expect Bro. C-d will attend to it, and add the codicil—also strike out everything which he thinks proper, and put it to the press as soon as shall be judged prudent. I wish it printed with larger type than my other, and about twenty handbills sent me when done. I wish also your opinion of it, and send that with the last paper, by the bearer.

I began last night at Candlelighting, and finished by about two o'clock. I have only looked over the last page,—if I may judge by that, bro C will have a devil of a job, to make the corrections necessary—he must mind and strike out all sentences which will enable them to take the law of me, and put me to damages, unless you and he will agree to pay for it I cannot afford to. Tell him and Addison they both ought and must, write and remark, on *that business*, there never was a clearer case, but my head is too thick and full of other things, to permit me to point it out, as it

ought to be done. Well I have got three good shipping hoops which you must buy of me, and allow me twenty pounds per head.—you may then make anybody else allow you thirty pounds, if you can,—I cannot do with less than about 20 pounds, & if you do not think you can afford that, for them, I must try and cheat somebody else. Good bye.

Yours.

EBENEZER FOOTE.

Gen. Wm. North (see *Lossing*), a war and political friend of E.'s, was twice Speaker of Assembly and in U. S. Senate, federalist. He had been aide to Baron Steuben during the war and erected a monument to him, which reads in part: "To whom I had the honour to be an Aide, the happiness to be a friend."

JOHN JAY'S CAMPAIGN

21 March, 1795. No town given, but must be New York.

Dear Foote.

. . . Our Speakers among whom are B. Colvin Comstock & others are debating the merits of an Indian bill—not understanding the matter, I leave it to those who do,—it is my business to knock down the members and not to amend bills. You have probably heard that John Jay and S. Van Rensselaer are our candidates, for Gov and Lt Gov, for whom I am directed to ask your interest and support. I cannot say how this business will end, but am told by Mr Hoffman, who knows, that there will be a majority of thousands in favor of the above named gentlemen, & that only Ulster, Orange, Columbia, and a part of some others will be in favor of Judge Yates. Damn the politics, I find so much villainy in them, that I begin to be sick of them, and wish myself at home, admitting that I should be obliged to clean out my stables daily however I will for the last time meddle, and do what I can to hoist in Jay and V. Mrs Jay has a letter from her husband saying he would embark by the first spring vessel, we therefore expect him in the beginning,—say the 10 of April. . . . No more at present.

From your friend.

WM. NORTH.

This is the first of many letters I find from Abram Van Vechten, the brilliant orator, judge, political leader, etc., of Albany.

Albany March 20 1795.

Dear Sir.

Embarked as I trust you are, in the good old federal cause, it may not be unacceptable to you to receive a communication from one who is a fellow laborer with you. Impelled by this hope, I take the liberty of troubling you with my scrawl on that subject. If you can find time and leisure to read it and will favor me with an answer, I shall be amply rewarded. In this district I feel confident we shall succeed better than ever. A majority of 1800, or 2000 for J. & V. is the least we calculate on. The Eastern district may perhaps give a majority of 300 or 400 against us, this affords an animating prospect. May it operate to conviction and conversion of our Apostate friends in your county. Our opponents, build not a little, on the hope that they will remain impenitent, or at least lukewarm toward Mr Jay. But what do I say,—perhaps the friend to whom I address myself, may be implicated in my remarks. In that case, I rely on your candor, to excuse my freedom,—a freedom which I was induced to take from the conversation we had when I had the pleasure of seeing you last Spring.

I shall dismiss the subject at present,—your answer will either authorize me to revive it, or impose future silence. Whatever may be the result, permit me to request you to inform me by the first conveyance, what we have to look for from your co in particular, and the district in general. This information is anxiously desired here.

I am Sir with great esteem, Your obedient servant.

ABRAM VAN VECHTEN.

New York March 20 1795.

Dear Foote.

Our late accounts from Mr Jay both public and private, render his return to this country in season to be elected, altogether certain. He was to

sail in the Ohio early this month. Our friends have all agreed to support him and the Patroon. The resolution has been taken with great deliberation, and will be pursued with great vigor.

Yates is the candidate of the opposite side, but be he who he may,—our honor is pledged in the support of Jay, and we would prefer dying with honor to living in disgrace. My friend, write me on the subject forget not your past conduct, and let no motives induce you to forsake your friends. I speak in the honesty of my heart, and with the sincerity of real friendship. In haste, affectionately.

JOSIAH OGDEN HOFFMAN.

I can only hope *if* E. had been flattered into forsaking for the moment these older men and better friends who were showering him with equally flattering letters, he recanted before it was too late and gave his vote and influence to the men who were his intimate friends until his or their deaths, and had his love and respect as they so well deserved. And as he was put on the important Board "Council of Appointment" by Mr. Jay, on his accession, and continued in office after the "downfall," I think we may assume he voted *right*.

Mr. Barker writes from Fredericks, and seems to be a political friend, but the letter is so long I will not include it. It is written in March, 1795, and speaks as if E. were all for Jay and Van Rensselaer.

The next is from a young unmarried man, living near Kingston, an extremely able lawyer, I find—and from future letters—that Mrs. Foote's pity for his loneliness earned a devotion which lasted until after his marriage.

Wards Bridge April 6 1795.

Dear Sir.

. . . I intended to have seen you at Newburgh, but the riding has been intolerably bad, and I have been sick three weeks with a sore throat. . . . God bless you.

SOLOMON SLEIGHT.

Newburgh April 6 1795.

My dear friend.

I have but half a moment to write you a line. We shall send two or three to the Kingston meeting, one or two from N. Windsor, and from Marlborough two or three. The Philistines have their meeting the day after you do. I hope you will keep off the nomination until Tuesday, so as not to let them take any advantage of it. I cannot possibly attend in person, for reasons with which you will be satisfied when I explain them to you. The stake we are playing for is an important one,—and if we elect one or two traitors to the Assembly, it is of little consequence if that will ensure the election of Senators who are good and true. *Their* seats are to be holden for four years. I have put a note in this days paper, mentioning the meeting intended to be held,—the reason was, the other party have advertised theirs, and I thought it might prevent them saying it was a private affair. I shall write by Dodge.—God bless you says your old friend.

EBENEZER FOOTE.

It would be needless, I am sure, to remind an American of Gen. Philip Schuyler of Albany. From army days he had known E. and his son, Philip J., continued the good fellowship. From the note one may see that the General was still earnestly working for his country, in a different manner.

To Ebenezer Foote Esq.

On board of a sloop on the Hudson river
Dear Sir.

To counteract the report mentioned in the enclosed, it has been deemed necessary to distribute these. I was requested to drop some with you, another parcel will be sent Van Gasbeek, please to hand them to friends who may attend the different poles.

Health and happiness attend you. Our information from various quarters relative to the election is really good. Yours sincerely

PHILIP SCHUYLER.

To Hon. Peter Van Gasbeek. Peter was in Congress at this time.

Newburgh April 25 1795.

My dear Sir.

Yours per Mr Morris is before me. I am glad to hear that you are so warmly engaged in the righteous cause, your breed is the breed of every honest American,—the breed I mean to live and die by.

Our Jacobins are surely much more dangerous than the Tories ever were, as they come forward in such questionable shape as enables them to impose on the ignorant, and uninformed (but well meaning) part of our community. They lose ground fast. You may rest assured that we shall do our duty well here, and you will have no reason to complain.

We shall certainly make a very handsome diversion in N. Windsor and I flatter myself this town will turn out rather better than heretofore.

As to Marlborough, I expect they will do well, but they want some active person to stir them up, and bro. Morey is ill, but I hope for the best, I know our cause is good and our intentions pure, therefore I hope for success, though I know every exertion must be made,—pray let me hear from

you as soon as your polls are closed.—my respects
to your lady and believe me what I really am,
Your unfeigned friend.

E. FOOTE.

New York April 25 1795.

Dear Foote.

Use the enclosed as you think best,—furnish
the bearer with a horse and money if necessary,
and charge them to your friend.

Everything looks well. Dispatch is the life of
business,—lose not a moment in sending to Gas-
beck. God bless you.

J. O. HOFFMAN.

From Mr. Hoffman to E. Foote.

New York April 27 1795.

My Good Friend.

Your favor by Mr Bard just reached me, every-
thing looks well. Should not be surprised if Mr
Jay did not arrive until the month of May,—how-
ever with us it can make no difference,—spare no
pains, everything depends on ourselves.

Affectionately.

J. O. H.

Newbourg May 22 1795.

My dear Sir.

I find it more and more uncertain every day,
whether I shall be at Kingston next week or not,
—my brother is not at home, and if he does not
return by Monday or Tuesday I cannot come up,
—should that happen to be the case, I beg you to
attend to what the Supervisors do respecting the
old Treasurers business. He has in a very art-
ful manner, informed the commeetee that he has
no objection to submit the dispute to the decision
of the Judges of the Supreme Court,—provided
that the Supervisors will become bound in penal
bonds,—each in their individual capacity, which
he knows they will not do,—as there is not nothing

for them to be bound for,—but the cost of tryal, if the award is in their favor. I suppose he has been advised by some of his friends to make that absurd and vague proposition, in order to save his reputation,—but if it is fairly and critically examined, it will appear clear to an unbiased impartial mind, that he does not intend ever to come to a fair tryall on the subject. If he should continue to make his proposition for a Reference, I wish you to assure the Board, that I will enter into a bond conditioned for the payment of all costs and charges of the arbritation, provided the award shall be made in his favor—if he will be bound in a bond of two thousand pounds, to abide by the decision of either the judges or Arbitrators, mutually chosen between us. This I will cheerfully comply with, and in case he should consent I will repair immediately to Kingston and enter into bond, before the Supervisors adjourn. I beg you to procure me a complete roster of the votes in this co.—let all candidates in nomination, show the votes each one gets. I ardently desire to see you,—but when I shall God only knows, but I do intend to come up before long, even if not to the Supervisors meeting. Assure your Rib, she has a warm corner of my heart appropriated to her,—and as for yourself, I truly say a large part of that tenement, is allotted to you. God take you both in His Holy keeping, is the prayer of your ould friend,

FOOTE.

E. Foote to P. Van Gasbeek.

Sunday morning nine o'clock, Sept. 12 1795.

My dear fellow I can add nothing to what I wrote last, only that I have seen and conversed for about two hours with the new Supervisor of Windsor, and I have every reason to think that our cause is in a more flourishing condition in this quarter, than it has ever been.

Whenever Crawford comes to Kingston, pay particular attention to him, he may be easily kept with a little attention. The Philistines have in my opinion, made a very injudicious choice of Candidates. Managed with care we shall gain strength by their folly. Mr Smith and Mr R. Howell come with this, and although you will perhaps find no great wisdom in them, yet it will be well to have them in counsel with you. They are true to our cause, and can do good if they choose, or if they turn the other way, they can injure us.

God bless you says

E. FOOTE.

The next I find interesting, as among the mass of papers there is, or was, a P. O. account, E. Foote, P. M., with letters showing the difficulties of getting mail across the Hudson, and the small amount involved for the quarter. The brother was Justin.

Goshen 5th Oct 1795.

Dear Sir.

I have recd a letter from the General Post Office at Philadelphia, desiring me to nominate some suitable person for Deputy P. M. and also one for N. Windsor. The emoluments of these offices I presume will be trifling, as there cant be much business at present, but I think it a matter of some moment, to have a proper person appointed. In times of Election I believe some letters have not had fair play. . . . I have no doubt letters to and from me, have been opened, and some destroyed. I wish you or your brother would accept the office,—it cant be attended with much trouble, as the Post is to go but once a week. The Post will begin to ride the 1st of next month. (Notice "ride," for many years yet the usual

mode of travel.) I must request the favor of a speedy answer.

I am Dear Sir, with the greatest esteem, your
Humble servant.

WILLIAM WICKHAM.

New York Saturday.

My dear Fellow.

. . . By a vessel that arrived in a short passage from France, we are told that France has accepted the new Constitution, and that things are in a good way.—this is Coffee House news.

Affectionately,
JUSTIN.

A humorous letter from Justin about their bad luck over last cargo, too long to quote. The carrying on of a mercantile business as varied as that of E. and Justin seems to have had many anxious moments, besides salt which melted, tar which leaked, and lime which slaked before they could be sold, northern furs and horses shipped to the West Indies were uncertain results, while E. was constantly engaged in politics in town, county and State from the time he went to live at Newburgh, so both were busy men, poor bargainers, much too generous friends, and the worst of collectors. But in spite of themselves, they made a good deal of money, and their sense of humor was always waiting around the corner to help out in perilous moments.

From E. Foote to P. Van Gasbeck.

Newburgh Dec 21 1795.

Citizen Peter.

It is evident that the obstinacy of a Yankee is by no means equal to that of a Dutchman, as it is long since I formed a resolution of not writing until I had a line from you, but I believe I might have waited till the Resurrection, so my resolution

E

fails me. Will you let me know how you are,—are you a Democrat or Aristocrat just now,—are you joining in cursing the new treaty and Mr Jay,—have you given your vote to have the President hung and Jefferson appointed in his place,—Remember Citizen Peter, I am a legislator man, and demand of thee a categorical answer to the foregoing questions, and a number of others, that I am not at present able to think of. Now in case you show a due contrition for all your offences in not writing to me in about seven years, I may condescend to write you from New York during the winter. Am in haste, but nevertheless and notwithstanding, am your real friend & brother

EBENEZER FOOTE.

Peter replies.

Kingston Dec 24 1795.

Dear Sir.

Your favor of the 21st, was duly handed me,—the obstinacy of a Dutchman will sometimes I believe equal that of a Yankee, but as there has been nothing in my breast in the least, I leave it wholly and entirely to sit upon the proper shoulders. Damn you Sir, how dare you put such impertinent questions to a Dignified Character!!!! (or at least I would wish so)—but come forthwith and view the premises. You shall soon hear from me in Octave. Love to Mrs Foote, & greet Justin. Yours affectionately,

P. V. G.

Robert Lennox, philanthropist, is often referred to as a friend. The letter is addressed to "Ebenezer Foote, Esq."

New York 1st Dec 1795.

Dear Sir.

A warrant has been issued by Alderman Beekman against a certain Laydock Lewis, who is said

to live at New Marlborough, for passing counterfeit bills, many of which have been passing of late. The execution of this warrant is given to Mr Benfield, and as the Magistrates of this city, and the Directors of the U. S. Bank are of the opinion that an essential discovery may be made, if proper steps are taken in the due execution of this precept,—I am induced as one of the Directors of the Bank, and one of the Magistrates of the City, as well as from a Love of Justice, to beg you to give the Officer every aid and assistance in your power—which I am convinced you will do,—actuated as I know you are, also by the Love of Justice, and as it is the duty of every good member of Society. With great regard, I am Dear Sir,

Your most Obt Servant.
ROBT. LENNOX.

MOSTLY FAMILY MATTERS

Newburgh Jan 11. 1796.

My dear fellow.

Arrived here after a pleasant voyage of 28 hours!!!! from New York. Found all the family well. . . .

JUSTIN.

The account spoken of above has come to light. E., as postmaster at Newburgh, sends in his account to the General Post Office for the three months, July 16 to Oct. 16, the total footing up, \$9.87½. Fancy in these days—

To P. Van Gasbeek, from E. Foote.

New York Jan 20 1796.

My dear Sir.

. . . Yours have come to hand by Morris, and shall be perfectly and punctually attended to. You may rest assured that the business shall be attended to in the manner you wish. It affords me pleasure to have it in my power to oblige one whom I have long regarded as a friend. I am at present very busy being Chairman of a Committee who are to examine into the conduct of the Mayor.

God bless you

E. FOOTE.

The mayor at this time was the most respected Richard Varick, and although I have several allusions to the matter, I cannot entirely find out what it is all about. Mr. Varick and E. had been friends since 1780, when Varick was private secretary to Benedict Arnold at Robinson House,

near Crompond, where Captain Foote was stationed (see Sept., 1780). I wish very much that I knew all about it. Mr. Varick's cautious letter which follows is endorsed, "From Richard Varick, on Kettleas Business."

New York January 28 1796.

Dear Sir.

I have avoided all visits or communications with any gentlemen of the committee, since Monday morning,—to prevent a malevolent illiberal scoundrel from involving them in any abuse on my account,—but as I do not precisely recollect to have stated to you, upon what ground the Court adjudged Alderman Furman to be in the execution of his duty, when insulted by Burke O'Grady—I will now mention to you, that they confined themselves to the transaction and insults at the Fly Market Ferry stairs, as testified to the Court and Com., by Alderman Furman. Alderman Furman states that he was insulted and abused at Brooklyn,—that when he came to New York he meant to take no further notice of it than to caution those men from such conduct in the future,—his doing this act which was doing his duty as a good Magistrate, and had a tendency to prevent insult, and consequent Breaches of the peace. I consider the case as parallel to the following. Two men are quarrelling in the street, and about to engage in combat at Fisty Cuffs, or clubs or horse whipping.

A Magistrate comes up at the Instant, and orders the Combattents to desist,—and in doing this act, or giving this order, one of the persons insults and assaults him. I ask, will not this be considered an Insult or Assault upon a Magistrate when in the Execution of his office? I could instance a quantity of others, but perhaps trespass on your time and patience, and that of the Com-

mittee, for all of whom, I bear too much respect to offend.

I am with esteem, Yours,
RICHARD VARICK.

Kingston Feb 8th 1796.

Dear Fellow.

Your favor of the 3d, recd. Please to retract your resolution of not writing again on politics, we are all equally anxious to hear, be watchful,—we all feel for you. Let me know about the lands, what you can get &c.

Your sincere friend,
PETER VAN GASBEEK.

The next from Justin to E. speaks of Betsy (Elizabeth Colden, daughter of Cadwallader, 2nd, of Coldenham, which was eight miles from Newburgh). Justin was so fond of nice girls that he could never choose which he wanted most, but he later goes to Betsy's wedding with Robert Murray, and she probably chose which she liked best. He finally married Marie Evertsen, who may have been "the girl from the East" he speaks of, where she may have been living with a sister who was the wife of John Cotton Smith, Governor of Connecticut, or with another sister, the wife of the Rev. Isaac Lewis of Greenwich, Conn., which would make her the girl from the South. I know not. Would have been in those precious lost letters, without doubt.

Newburgh Feb. 1st 1796.

My dear fellow.

Yours recd will be forwarded this day to Brown (Justin's partner in N. Carolina). We have had several weeks of fine sleighing, which I have improved, and have danced and flirted with the girls more than usual. Betsy was with us yesterday,

and was duly squired through our William St. by your humble servant, on her shopping,—she looked more tempting than usual, but—do you see Sir!! her sister and Aunt John were present, so of course nothing was said, a poor apology you will say,—well better a poor one than none. Our house here is much like a Coffee House, a continual round of the Major's (Ebenezer) friends, and "mighty glad to hear the Major is well," they think the "Major a mighty nice man," and while it lasts, would vote for you to go to Congress or to Heaven. Your situation as Chairman of the Committee, I can easily conceive to be a very disagreeable one, but walk uprightly, don't swerve to favor anyone. Indeed it will require all your caution not to have your character overhauled, but at all times and in all places, while you continue to act squarely, I am at all times and in all places,

Your affec. brother

JUSTIN.

P. S. Your Spouse says she will come down by the first boat going.

To Peter from Eben.

Sunday New York Feb 14 1796.

My dear fellow.

. . . I have not got the cash from Remsen, but all things shall be attended to immediately. I dined with Burr on Friday. We toasted our friend Peter. Your land has not yet tempted any one.

I am standing by the sideboard to write this, Burr is a mighty cunning fellow, you know that. . . . Adieu.

E. FOOTE.

Newburgh Feb 14 1796.

My dear fellow.

. . . Write me how Rum is—and nankeen, and if any Spring ships are in. As to the Mayor and

Kettletas, I don't care about them,—your own part in the play,—from information, I am disposed to think well supported. Although I am no politician myself, my decided opinion is that when a man embraces an opinion from a firm conviction of its being right, he should never give it up, without being convinced of his error. I think you did well in having it decided which was to rule, the legislature or the mob. Indeed I should think lightly of you, if you would suffer the partisans on either side to influence your resolves. God be with you.

JUSTIN.

From Justin to Eben.

Newburgh Feb 16 1796.

My dear 3.

Yours of the 11th came to hand yesterday, impatient to hear from the South, if any accident has happened to the sloop it will not be in our power to pay Swartwout for his rum. I wish you to call on him and tell him that the country people have done drinking rum. Please call on him and tell him I can send him back all that has not leaked out from his inattention,—the hogshead was stopped only by a small cork, in the head, and leaked out about 6 pounds' worth.

The rascally Post has not crossed for four weeks. Our letters and papers are in Fishkill Office. You ought to complain to the Postmaster General—the public is injured, individuals are injured, the office brought into disrepute, and all of us obliged to listen to grumbling.

Your three eldest are measly!! I have had fun sleighing with the girls. Murray would have wrote, but his negro is sick, and he was called home. John and Dart Davis are disputing with our Toplady (Mrs. Foote) on Predestination,—if he is right, it is decreed from all eternity, whether or not, you will be able to sell the tobacco and tar,

—but if the tar will bring 20/ cash,—you had better see if the decree can't be reversed,—for God has decreed that tar should leak like the devil at this season of the year, and it will be as vexatious as trying aldermen. Good night, God help and deliver you says

JUSTIN.

Addressed to Ebenezer Foote, Esquire. At Mrs. Parker's, Wall St.

New York April 16 1796.

My dear Sir.

. . . Whether for the best or not, Time will disclose, but,—our meeting unanimously fixed on you as a candidate, this however you will have been appraised of, together with the General Policy we hope to have pursued.

Your affectionate friend.

P. V. G.

New York May 31 1796.

Dear Eben.

. . . I have just come in. I went to the Theatre, but it was so full I could not get in, so home I came in the rain. I send papers which will give you news, both true and false. I am sending a Riding chair, have it taken out of the vessel very carefully, and put somewhere out of the rain.

Yours

JUSTIN.

Eben writes to Peter, October 7th, 1796.

. . . I wish to know if you will take my Son Charles to board until Spring, I should like him to learn a little of the Dutch language, which he may do by living in a Dutch Family.

E. FOOTE.

Peter writes, March 24.

Charles does well and I hope he will become a worthy member of Society.

Affectionately.

PETER V. GAASBEEK.

Justin writes.

The children are better, but still confined to the nursery. Mrs. Parker says it will not be in her power to keep more boarders at 6 dollars,—three may be well accomadated at her price, which is now 7 dollars, and she would wish you as a boarder. Citizen Murray is with you I conclude. He said nothing about change while in New York, altho I think there would have been no harm in paying us, as his acct is mostly cash sent. Your aff.

JUSTIN.

Pat sends compliments and a yard black velvet.

Coldenham Oct 31st 1796.

Dear Sir.

Last night Mr. Tenbroeck of Otsego lodged with me, on his way to New York, when conversation turning upon the choice of Electors, after reading a piece in Greenleafs paper, on that subject, he said he differed from the principle therein held up, that it was his opinion that it was the business of the Legislature to appoint the most Respectable citizens, in the different Districts of the State, as Electors,—whose judgement and integrity might be depended upon. Now to be ranked among such, would be esteemed as a great honour, and give particular satisfaction to Your sincere friend, and Humble servant,

CADWALLADER COLDEN.

Kingston Sunday Nov 6, 1796.

My dear fellow.

I am I must say dissappointed in not receiving

a letter from you by yesterdays mail. Jno. and Charles (Foote) took a six mile walk to Rhinebeck to obtain a letter but not one. By the by I must caution you,—there is no safety in the mail at Kingston. This is a fact, that my letters have been and still are pilfered. Charles has become one of our family, as far as we have gone we agree

Yours sincerely and affectionately.

PETER VAN GAASBEEK.

New York 10 Dec 1796.

Dear Sir.

I have the satisfaction of informing you that from the returns of the election for President and Vice President, already made known, Mr Adams has a clear number of Seventy, which is a majority of all the votes, we therefore consider his election as President beyond all doubt. The probability is that Mr. Jefferson will be Vice President, several of the Eastern States having declined to support Mr Pinckney, lest he outrun Mr Adams. In Virginia he had but one vote. It was supposed his great strength lay there.

He has not a vote to the Eastward of the Delaware. We have lost our election here for representative in Congress. We were compelled from the refusal of several more popular candidates to be held up,—to support Mr Watson, and he appears to have lost so much ground, that we could do nothing with him. Mr. Edward Livingston will doubtless be the member returned. What success have our friends in your quarter had? This will be delivered to you by Mr Thomas Waters,—he has from the earliest infancy of Federalism been decidedly with us, and is in all respects a man of good character. His friends have insisted on his being a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Orange co. I shall do what I can to help him in relation to this object, and I recommend him to your support likewise. When the legislature

meets, you will have an opportunity of serving him. Very respectfully I am Dear Sir.

Your Humble servt.

ROBERT TROUP.

P. S. J. Miller as an elector, was as sound as a roach, and as solid as a rock.

I do not know if Mr. Troup belonged to the Albany family of Troup or not.

Later Peter begs Eben to get him the loan of two or three thousand pounds, "The aid of that sum would place me so that I could prosecute my business with more rigor and so to much more advantage."

To Peter from Eben.

Albany Feb 2d 1797.

My Dear Sir.

This will be handed you by my wife. I have made all the inquiry in my power to find the one thing needful,—but depend on it,—you may as well try to get men's souls.

There is cash to be had in two or three places, but for not less than 6/0 per month,—and I was assured yesterday at dinner with Mr Van Rensselaer, Thomas Morris, Mr Staats and Mr Walsh, that they knew of a person in this town, who did last week, give at the rate of 6/9 per day, for 2000 pounds, and was likewise under obligation to repay the whole in sixty days—thus you will infer that usury is known here as well as in other places. If you have any observations to make Concerning the Western Co (Delaware, which E. was working hard for) let us hear from you as soon as possible. God bless you. I hope your son may inherit all his Fathers virtues.

Adieu I am your friend

E. FOOTE.

Justin to Ebenezer.

Newburgh Feb. 7th 1797.

My dear fellow.

The enclosed letter was written to send by Col. Colden, who had his horses harnessed and in readiness to start last Wed. The day being stormy it was delayed, and in the evening the old gentleman was taken suddenly ill,—he is very low. I went to see him and returned yesterday. My opinion is Cadwalader Colden must die, and that before long. He desired me to inform you he was too weak to attend to any business, indeed he is already hovering on the border of that country from whose bourne no traveller returns. The greater part of the time he is deranged, and unable to converse. The sleighing is gone hence no business doing.

Your affectionate brother.

JUSTIN FOOTE.

Note. At the New York Historical Rooms, 170 Central Park West, I copied the following facts. "Cadwallader 2nd was the third son of Cadwalader 1st; b. 1722; d. at Coldenham, 1797; aged 75 years." One of Cadwallader's son was Cadwallader David, many of whose letters are copied in this volume. Cadwallader David was born at Coldenham, 1769; died 1834. He was Mayor of New York, 1818 to 1821. Elizabeth or Betsy has already been spoken of, in Justin's letters, and he later goes to her marriage with Robert Murray, of whom Justin also speaks, a family friend.

Justin goes to Col. Colden's funeral.

Newburgh 20 Feb. 1797.

Heigh Ho. Well my dear fellow here I am. I have just returned from paying the last tribute of respect to our old friend Col Colden.

He is dead,—he is buried,—his sufferings have

been great, but he has borne them with a manly fortitude, and I have great faith that he died as good a man as any of them all. The family are in deep distress. Could I help them I would, but all consolation or condolence loses its effect at such times, so I went and saw him interred, took my leave of the family quietly, and returned home. Is it a consolation or is it not, that the great must die as well as the small. Cadwallader had the good things of this life, and saw many good days,—but Cadwallader is now food for the worms. God conducts us to it in his own good time.

Your letter of the 16 met me at Coldenham. I am sorry for your misfortune (E's house had been on fire) but cheer up, if you had been burned up, the worms could not have eaten you it is true. Sleight Murray & myself were invited over to a certain damsels for Tea. Very enjoyable.

Justin to Eben.

Saturday eleven o'clock.

My dear Sir.

. . . Do what business you can without crediting. I believe you will find it to your advantage to come to town in Nov. as I leave for N. Carolina tomorrow. I take 3 or 4 hundred pounds worth of dry goods with me. You note my mention of happiness at the play, and ask who the girl was I took. I have no difficulty in telling you it was Gitty Wynkoop, and that your brother thinks her a very fine girl. (Gitty Wynkoop was a fine and well known girl in the New York of that day) I have fixed on Mr Daniel Penfield of Water st as a friend to whose care I shall direct all letters I send to you from Carolina, and get him to forward me all of yours. I have this day given our friend James Parsons an order on Coleman due from our Nantucket venture.

In haste

JUSTIN.

New York March 2d 1797.

Dr Sir.

. . . Being persuaded that Newborough is a more eligible situation for the Office of Inspection than Kingston, I have selected W. Sacket of that place as a suitable Person for the Collectership, though he has from Various causes been rather opposed to our Politics hitherto I have good reason to believe that his future conduct will be the result of a better information and be dictated by more liberal policy.

I am with great regard Dear Sir.

Your Obedient Servant.

NICHOLAS FISH.

Peter and "some one" had gone off with one horse, I fancy, and gone back using the method called "to ride and tie," meaning that one man rode a certain distance, then tied the horse to a tree and when the second man came up to it he mounted and rode on until he met the first, and so on until the haven was reached.

Kingston Mar. 4 1797.

My dear Sir.

We returned home in perfect safety on Sunday. On that day, we walked and rode alternately 44 miles. How stand money matters. Can you or can you not report progress. Affec yours,

P. VAN GASBEEK.

New York. I send the Two volumes of Mira-beau, you ordered, they cost twenty seven shillings. . . .

HENRY CALDWELL.

THE FOUNDING OF DELAWARE COUNTY

From Philip J. Schuyler to E. Foote.

Rhinebeck March 4 1797.

My Dear Sir.

Your favor of the 20th has arrived, I only regret that I had not the pleasure of seeing Mr Warers. I am happy to learn that you will probably soon have some deliberations on the subject of the ensuing elections, it is highly necessary that arrangements were forming. On the subject of Senator for the Middle District, it will become the party to act with much caution and discernment. . . . On this subject it has struck me that should Delaware be annexed to our District that the most proper and the most eligible method of giving it a part in our senatorial representation, would be as you now reside in Ulster, from whence two candidates must on this occasion be taken, that you submit yourself to be in nomination,—first because Ulster will be satisfied in having her full proportion,—secondly should you as you have contemplated, go in to Delaware, it will give them (in case of success) a residing member, and of course, some title to your continuation. Orange has now more than she is entitled to, and at the election succeeding the now ensuing one, the deficiency of Ulster may be satisfied by taking one from Orange, and thus effect a greater equality throughout the District. I offer this suggestion for consideration, and should it meet your concurrence, as we are all alike endeavoring to promote the same views, I hope you will not hesitate to enform me that every proper measure may be pursued. Nothing would give me more pleasure

than to see you for an hour upon this and other business.

Yours with respect and esteem.

PHILIP J. SCHUYLER.

Ebenezer stood for and won the election for Senator for the Middle District, his tenure of office lasting until after the downfall of the Federals.

The office of clerk of the new counties was most important. I have copied and lost several extracts from valuable histories, attesting to this fact. The clerks in the new counties were very carefully chosen, as they were expected to actuate the opinions of the inhabitants toward their special politics, and thus it was a position of great responsibility, and required a man of considerable cleverness.

I believe I have said already that Mr. Sleight was an eminent lawyer of his county.

Newburgh 6th March 1797.

My dear Sir.

It really affords me the greatest pleasure imaginable, to hear that the bill for erecting the new County (Delaware) has passed both Houses. I hope your difficulties are now got over, for I cannot conceive how the Council can prefer any person to you, in the choice of Clerk, if merit and services are to be regarded. (Note. The Clerk was appointed by the Council of Appointment, not elected. K. F.) But I am well convinced, that however much the Governor is disposed to appoint deserving characters to the offices of honour or profit, yet other considerations may weigh with other members of the Council, and how far you will succeed is a matter which I cannot conjecture, but you have my earnest wishes for success. It is utterly out of my power to set off for

Albany at present,—the Circuit sits in New York on the 20th, and I have a number of causes to be tried there, some of them of great consequence.

. . . Yours Sincerely
SOLOMON SLEIGHT.

Kingston 7 March 1797.

My Dear Sir.

I hear that Delaware County has passed!! and that you mean to apply for the Clerk's office. If you wish it I sincerely wish you success. While that is the case, permit me to recommend John Moore of Pata in Colchester, "of the Moore of Stamford." Beg your interest for our John Moore for Sheriff. How stand Money matters. Don't lose sight of that, let me hear by return post.

Yours Affectionately.
PETER VAN GAASBEEK.

New York, 8th March, 1797. Dr. Richard Bailey, an ancestral relative of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, I am told, but I may put it elsewhere.

I have been asked to include more of the political letters which are in my possession than I want to do, but even to me this long one from Mr. Schuyler is of interest. Eben was up for both Senator and Clerk, but was never very good at urging his own merits, as the letter shows.

Rhinebeck March 13, 1797.

My Dear Foote.

Your last was duly handed me. I thank you for the candor it contains, and the confidence with which it is written. The circumstances you use against your own nomination, without having the least color of reason, are unhappily, such as affect the people uninformed, therefore more easily imposed on. The considerations however would not be sufficient for me to relinquish the impressions suggested in my last, were it not that your own

opinion appears adverse to it, and from reasons which do honour to your candour, and disinterestedness.

I would still advise you and the residue of your friends not to be frightened by imaginary bugbears. The party at Kingston may, readily,—contrary to your expectations, come in to the measure. If so, would it not be politic, if you and they think proper,—to feel their pulse, here and elsewhere throughout the District. Those illiberal and malicious objections would not avail,—this good effect would however result from your standing. A certain lawyer is said to be a trimmer, and that he has offered himself to the Antis, as a candidate. If this be true, it will go to his exclusion, and excluded he ought to be, from the confidence of every honest and independent politician of any party. I believe Oliver to be firm and constant, his nomination, if it takes place, will,—from what I can learn, be acceptable to Ulster, and I flatter myself to the District at large. Assure him that my little services, and those of my particular friends, shall be contributed with cordiality, and enforced with exertion,—everything on this occasion, must depend on industry, and it ought strenuously to be enforced, too much stress should not be laid on our late success, it may have a bad effect, by giving a confidence of success, which ever abates exertion. How could Hasbrouck carry himself if you determine on him (for he is spoken of) . . . if he should come in as the new member, and during that year, act in violent opposition, and our opponents afterwards determine to countenance him,—how shall we object. . . . Let me hear from you soon.

Yours with esteem

PHILIP J. SCHUYLER.

E. Foote to P. Van Gasbeek. The log hut on the Delaware was a figure of speech used to a friend, who would understand. Arbor Hill was

begun immediately on E.'s arrival in the spring and moved into the same fall, though it was years before it was entirely finished, as to small details, owing to difficulties of transportation.

Albany March 26 1797.

Dear Sir.

Yours came safe to hand yesterday. I am well aware of all the facts you mention, but cannot help it,—as it will affect my political situation, I think it a matter of no great consequence.

I have long foreseen that jealousy and enmity would sooner or later turn many of my pretended friends against me, and of course made my calculations accordingly,—but, thank God, they can accuse me of nothing I need be ashamed of,—I have never yet, been induced, from any motives whatever, to sacrifice my sentiments as they regard public measures,—nor do I intend to do such an act, to gratify C—d, Roggan, or any of their associates. I hope to enjoy the pleasures of Domestic ease in my log hut, on the banks of the Delaware, in spite of the malice they, or any such may possess.

Your injunctions shall be carefully attended to, as to disclosing any circumstances I may hear or suspect in that quarter.

If your assertions respecting Addison are true, I shall be glad of it, and I wish most sincerely that he would be careful never to give either his enemies or friends cause to suspect his firmness or decision. There is a strong suspicion in the minds of many here, that he has acquiesced in the nomination intended by the anti-federal party,—it is a fact that they have said,—he was to be their man if Cantine resigned his pretensions,—whether they have done this to injure him in the estimation of others, or are really in earnest, I cannot say,—time will discover,—but be it as it may whoever they nominate, in my opinion will

be elected. (E. was.) Their measures are much better taken than those of their opponents. The District is so large that it will not be in the power of a second set of men to be held up with equal advantage. I think it will by no means be an enviable situation to be held up as a candidate this year by the Federal party in the District—only as there is more honor in being named by them than by the Jacobins—but by no means the same prospect of success. I wrote you yesterday, and sent it by way of the Flats,—but you are mistaken about General Schuyler sending his son to ———. I can assure you he knew nothing of his being in Ulster, till since Phil left this town, nor do I think Dutchess will hold up Dewitt,—Cantine will in my opinion be their man. We shall adjourn the third of April. I shall go home and set out for Delaware the last of the month, when it is probable I shall have the honour of seeing you on my way thither. Nothing of importance has lately transpired, only that our good Allies intend to give us a fraternal embrace. Damn them, and God bless you, says

Your ould Yankee friend,
EBENEZER FOOTE.

Rhinebeck April 16 1797.

Dear Sir.

The information you had is not well founded, —beside I have always supposed that your standing in society was such as to place you beyond suspicion from any but the narrow and contracted part of it and your independency would make you set those at naught. I am Sir with great respect,
yours, &c.

THOMAS TILLOTSON.

Justin to E.

New York April 18 1797.

Dear fellow.

Do you know of any saw mill man, or man with-

out a sawmill, or sawmill without a man, who will furnish us . . . boards, . . . payable in anything we can muster. I go at once to get your Saddle bags, and may those bags when on your saddle, always furnish you the needful, is the prayer of your faithful

JUSTIN.

EARLY DAYS AT ARBOR HILL

It seems probable that E. came out, started the building of the house, stayed for a certain time, and then went back for Mrs. Foote, probably at the end of July. There is a great deal about the goods stolen on the way, but it is full of the atmosphere of the times and I shall risk including the most of it. We have both large and small spoons marked with "E. F. J." (Ebenezer and Jerusha Foote), salt cellars lined with gold, but none with blue glass, now.

Abram Van Vechten writes first.

Albany August 8th 1797.

Sir.

I have reason to suppose that a part, if not the whole of the Trunks and Goods detected, and now in the hands of the Recorder of this City are yours, many of the pieces are marked with the family letter, F, many without marks, Salt cellars Silver lined with blue glass, E. F. J. on side. The trunks 4 in number, were found on board a Sloop at the Dock, and are supposed to be brought here by one Alpheus Vincent—a line to ABRM Oakes, City Superintendent, shall be attended to. There are China Images, Silk gowns, linen both mens and womens, a variety of female clothing, with some shop goods.

. . . ABRAM VAN VECHTEN.

August 9th 1797.

Dear Sir.

On Sunday morning I was called on to view a Book, which was some of Poaps works. The Book had your name in it, and found in a trunk

of Goods, under Suspicious Circumstances, and at first, was supposed to have been taken out of my House by some evle person (E. had boarded there once) but farther discoveries were made this gave rise to the enclosed letter to you, which I believe was by the direction of the Recorder. . . .

JACOB WRIGHT.

The enclosure is lost, but Mr. Wright's letter is addressed to Newburgh, and the following one to "Ebenezer Foote, Esquire, Clerk of Delaware County." There was as yet no Delhi. Their old friend writes:

Newburg August 12 1797.

Dear Sir.

I happened to be at your house when your brother arrived (evidently Justin had accompanied them at least a part of the way) and I was cursedly disappointed in not receiving a letter from you.

I cannot however divest myself of the thinking, that if you did not write, you wished to have done so. Your brother will probably tell you how many questions I put to him respecting you and the family. I wish I could get rid of business and duties I have to perform here, and I should infalibly come and live with you. Adieu my dear friend, I conclude with a wish of Bolinbrokes,—“May you have as few physical ills as the nature of things admits of, and as few moral ones as you desire.” Yours most affectionately and truly.

S. SLEIGHT.

Pray make my most affect. respects to Mrs. Foote, and assure her of my warmest regard and esteem, after your very fatiguing journey.

Newburgh 8th Sept. 1797.

Dear Brother.

I wrote you some time since, via Catskill, to

ease your and Mrs Footes alarms about your lost goods. I am inclined to believe the most of them will be reclaimed, as I suppose the most of them, in the hands of the Magistrates of Albany and New York. I left Newburgh yesterday, and am thus far on my way to Albany in order to reclaim for you the goods and at the same time see about Lands "Militaire." If I cannot reclaim the goods, shall make such arrangements as I think most expedient to secure them where they now are.

JUSTIN.

The next from Alderman Beekman should have been put in before.

Albany August 16 1797.

Sir.

On searching a vessel belonging to Alpheus Vincent, for stolen goods last night I found a Quantity of Receipts, accounts, Vouchers, and Letters, which I suppose to be your property,—part of the papers were found in a Tin Canister, an answer will oblige.

Your Humble Servant.

THOS. BEEKMAN.

It would appear from Justin's letter that the contents of the large trunk had been lost, as Justin puts the small trunk in it.

Catskill September 12 1797.

My dear Fellow.

I wrote you on Friday last from Kingston, and from this place, since when I have been to Albany, and am thus far on my way home. I reclaimed and packed such of your things as could be found, and have put them in the small trunk, together with 4 small books I bought for the children. I then put the small trunk in the large one!!! and secured with cords, it will be brot down here and lodged with Captain Day to forward to you. You are much indebted to Mr Van

Vechten and the Wrights, for efforts in securing those I have. Am much concerned to hear you are in ill health, may God restore you. Send list of things in trunk. . . .

JUSTIN.

4 silk gowns, 1 chintz ditto, 2 caloco ditto, 4 pr blk hose, 4 yds velvet binding, 4 muslin aprons, 4 prs silk shoes, 1 remnant muslin, 3 womans shirts, 9 yds white ermine, 1 screw!!!, 1 gauze handkerchief, 1 apron ditto, remnant muslin edging, 3 prs white silk gloves, 1 silver salt cellar, 1 silver fruit basket, 3 prs beaver gloves, 1 box containing ribbon, edging, &c., 2 muslin caps, 6 marble images, 1 glass pepper caster, 1 white lutestring cloak, 1 salmon colored ditto, 3 silver salt spoons.

Books—1 sporting magazine, 1 Smiths Wealth of Nations, 1 Wycks Practice, 1 Law grammer, 2 Robertsons History, 1 Letters Dr Cachet, 1 Spirit Laws, 2 Paper words, 1 . . . Pindar, 1 History England, 1 Newmans Frederick, 1 Lees Memoirs, Ream paper, & 4 small books.

Eben was never robust after his escape as prisoner via the icy Hudson on that December day. Probably to lose a great part of their treasured goods, homesick in this wilderness, still wondering if it had been wise—it must have been a dismal stage of their new adventures.

Peter writes a cheerful letter.

Kingston 13 Sept. 1797.

Dear Sir.

I have greater wish to see you than any man I know. I am anxious for your welfare, I know it is impossible for you to know what will be the fate of your enterprise at this period, . . . but, persevere in the Lord, . . . with that honest heart I have ever found in you. . . . I intend to see you this winter if I can. My good wishes to the last.

PETER VAN GASBEEK.

Levi Dodge writes, "God bless you, I am going to see you next winter."

Solomon writes.

Esopus. No date.

Dear Sir.

Justin has arrived from Albany. I congratulate you on recovering a part of your goods, on their way to Catskill, where you may send for them. It was really providential. A man happened to be up very early in the morning, saw a woman coming up from the river with a bag on her back, he made toward her and receiving no very satisfactory answers to the questions he put to her, seized the bag, opened it and found silk gowns, and other valuable articles, detained them. Mrs Wright heard of it, going to see, recognized the gowns at once, and the vessel was then searched, and what was there secured. You see a kind Providence still watches over you. May it continue. I lament the loss of you more than I can say.

Foreign news we have little of, except that John Bull is bombarding the Spanish in Cadiz, and that probably the whole fleet of 30 sail will fall into his clutches. It is said there will be a peace, the Plenipis are in sitting at Lisle. The Russians it is reported are going to join the Emperor against France, which if true, will at last tend to curb their insolence, and bring them to terms of common civility.

We will now come to this country. Philadelphia is in miserable plight—the newspapers say that 6 or 8 days ago 84 persons were said to have died in one day from the Yellow Fever. I saw Mr Dewint lately who told me he had seen a letter from Dr. Rush, in which he says that on the day of writing it,—viz. 7 Sept., he knew of 55 persons taken sick on that day,—and that the City was half unpeopled, and the rest going out as fast as they could. Our Capital is very

healthy just now. Murray to be married to Elizabeth Colden. Congratulate Mrs Foote on the recovery of her cloathes, it really would be hard in that country to go without any. You say you have plenty of wood and fine trout, but if you were not there, they would be no temptation to me to venture out there. . . .

Your faithful and affec,
S. SLEIGHT.

Levi Dodge writes.

. . . if you are only blest with health, your usual Philosophy and animal spirits, will be sufficient to surmount all the difficulties you may meet with in your new enterprise. Justin has been to Albany to get what he could of your goods.

A great part of the men of Kingston will be with you next month to arrange your Courts. . . .

Your sincere friend.

LEVI DODGE.

Justin writes.

Newburgh 30 Sept 1797.

Dear E.

. . . Rejoice to hear you are in tolerable health and to find from the tenor of your letter, that you are not borne down in spirit, but retain a share of the true Ebenezer, you will it in the first gloom. Wish your trunks have arrived.

JUSTIN.

Judge Wm. Thompson writes to
Ebenezer Foote Esquire.
Clerk of Delaware County.
Favored by Mr Stockton (Walton).

New Antrim 2d October 1797.

My Dear Sir.

. . . Am hoping to find your account favorable respecting your new Situation when I have the pleasure of seeing you in Albany next winter (E.

going as Senator). You have my hearty prayers for your success in the conversion of the unbelievers in your quarter.

I met this neighbor of yours accidentally, and he waits while I write you. With real esteem. . . .

WM. THOMPSON.

In 1797 the County of Delaware was set off, in 1798 the Town of Delhi, but the village was not incorporated until 1821. The first court of the new county was held at the house of Mr. Gideon Frisbee, not the one still standing a little above the village, built in the early 1800's, but a log one in practically the same situation, when Mr. Frisbee came out in the 1780's, where, like many settlers, he kept an inn or tavern as it was generally called, and was a large and commodious building.

I copy from E.'s bound clerk's book.

At a meeting of the Judges, Assistants, and Justices of the Peace, of the Co. of Delaware—State of New York—holden at the house of Gideon Phrisby Esq in Kortright, in said Co. on the 5th day of October 1797 at 10 o'clock A. M.

Present.

Joshua H. Brett, 1st Judge.

Patrick Lamb

William Horton

Gabriel North

Judges

Isaac Hardenburgh

Alexander Leal

Assistants.

Benajah Beardsley

Ephraim Barrot

Hugh Rose

Erastus Root

Justices.

Resolved.—That the Supervisors of the County above said, be requested to make early application

to the Honorable the Legislature, in the next session, praying that a law may be passed empowering the Supervisors of said County of Delaware, to raise a certain sum of money for the purpose of erecting public for the reception and convenience of the Court, and for the confining of prisoners within said Co.

That the clerk of said Co. transmit an attested copy of this resolution to the Board of Supervisors with all convenient dispatch.

EBENEZER FOOTE, Clerk.

The Court House and Jail were completed in the summer of 1799.

Also resolved that, as it appears to us necessary for the convenience of the inhabitants of this County, that there should be an additional term of the Court of Common Pleas, and General Sessions of the Peace, within said Co. to be begun on the first Tuesday of June, and that the Clerk of our said Co. present to the Honorable the Legislature, early in their next session, a memorial representing the necessity of such an additional term, and praying that a law be passed for that purpose and also praying that some legislative provision may be made respecting the monies appropriated by Government, for the use of schools within this state, so that the Co. of Delaware may be benefitted thereby, and that our said Clerk be hereby authorized to subscribe said memorial in behalf of the Court, and to transmit a copy of this resolution therewith.

The first Term of our Court seems from the letter following to have been the scene of "ructions" conceived by an outsider with whom Mr. Ten Broeck desires to have it understood he has no interest or connection.

Kingston 12 October 1797.

Dear Sir.

I saw a letter you wrote Elmendorf relative to

the behavior of Nathan June, at the Court at Delaware. I am sorrow (?) that his conduct should be supposed by gentlemen, to have been instigated by us. I believe his conduct among you is well known generally, and I suppose ours is,—that man must be either ignorant, or wickedly inclined, who can suppose that Mr Elmendorf would encourage such unexampled impudence. The fact is that June in our company,—but not at our desire,—it is true we paid his bail to Frisby, but with reluctance,—however the whole thing is a farce, and the Lord send you more agreeable company at your next court.

With sentiments of esteem. Your friend
PETER TEN BROECK.

Very worthy men, for the most part, composed this first Court, and I suspect an indignation meeting had been held and E. chosen to inform Kingston that Delaware County expected to be treaded in a manner becoming its dignity. Both Mr. Ten Broeck and Mr. Elmendorf were personal friends of E.'s.

Dr. Fowler was the family doctor. One wonders at all the friends who want to come and be near E.

Newburgh November 1797.

My Dear Friend.

. . . I sympathize with you in all your cares, and hope the pleasing prospects before you, will compensate for the toils of the present. Time has not passed so agreeably with me since your departure, if I can find a purchaser for my place, I desire to take up my residence near you, when we might spend some time in social converse. . . .
Your affectionate friend and Humble servt

DAVID FOWLER.

Elias Butler I have found with infinite pains,

was the descendant of an Irish gentleman who settled in Connecticut, but when the acquaintance began I cannot tell, only from letters I have I know that E.'s family stopped at his house on their first coming out, and presumably, from the same source, until the house was ready to give them a shelter.

The wall was built and is still there, as well as the same door. Mr. Butler was the first Sheriff of the new county and continued until his death an intimate and esteemed friend. I also like him so well that I regret Walton seems to have forgotten him.

Walton 9th Nov. 1797.

Respected Friend.

I am informed that last Sunday, in attempting to come out of your West door, your foot slipped and being nothing for you to hold by, you slipt down that steep bank into the river, and got a severe ducking. I confess I was not much surprised at the information,—from the time I saw where you had set your house, my mind has foreboded such an event. I warned in season, of the fatal consequences that might attend your laying a foundation at the very brink of a frightful precipice,—you slighted my advice, and it should seem as if the Almighty has begun to punish your temerity.

I advise you to build a high wall at the foot, if you can find anyone willing to risk his life to do it. I will end by saying that there is none that loves and esteems you better than I do. There is something in that Phiz of yours that engaged all my softer feelings at our first interview, and a further acquaintance has only strengthened the agreeable impression. I am dear Friend

Your Humble servt

ELIAS BUTLER.

As the trunks were found in late August, it must have been most discouraging not to have received them yet in December. But except by horseback transportation was a matter of chance. Robert Murray and Elizabeth Colden are the happy pair.

Newburgh Dec 1st 1797.

Dear Ebbe.

. . . I would gladly send you molasses sugar &c, but there is no way of conveying it to you, I would it were in my power. . . . Murray and Betsey are married,—I had the honor of divesting the hand (perhaps taking off the bride's glove for the ring). The family made the party, and cheerfulness reigned in the Halls of Cadwalader. I stayed and enjoyed it until word was sent me from home.

When last in New York, I obtained 15 vol. more of your books, some sets complete, some not, but when you will get them God only knows, but they are now in my pious keeping. Your trunks at Catskill were no doubt wrongly described by Day, but I doubt not all will be well in time.

Ever Yours

JUSTIN.

Henry Caldwell to E. Foote.

Newburgh Dec 3d 1797.

Dear Foote.

. . . Rejoiced to hear the house is up enough to make you comfortable for the winter. . . . I dont know about your getting newspapers out there, and send you the latest. French Republic as usual raising the devil. The three Democratic members of the Directory have become the sole Dictators to France. They have announced a conspiracy against the nation, which they say (they don't prove it) that the two Directors, Barthlemy and Carnot, with General Pichegru

and about 60 others of the two Councils are concerned. They have accordingly arrested the conspirators, and condemned them to banishment in true French style,—without the formality and trouble of a trial, or even of a hearing—the negotiation for peace of course broken off, and Lord Malmesbury has returned home,—the scoundrels will never rest easy, till they have a rod of iron over their heads, instead of a Liberty cap on.

Sincerely your friend.

H. CALDWELL.

S. Sleight to Eben, or "Hal."

Newburgh Dec 5th 1797.

Dear Hal.

It would take a week to write all I would like to. How I am to get through the winter I know not. If I could have one good talk with Mrs Foote!!!! Not one farthing have I been able to get out of all of the people who owe you, but still hope. . . .

SLEIGHT.

I have countless harrowing letters from poor Peter begging Eben to find money for him in his struggle against Fate, but it was useless, and he is dead, insolvent, and leaving a large family in distress. E. is asked for money to help them. One of E.'s friends who has, deservedly, all my sympathy.

From Philip J. Schuyler to E. Foote.

Jan. 10, 1798.

Dear Foote.

Am just informed an opportunity presents itself to convey a letter to you by a man going in a few minutes to leave town.

You have heard of our success as to the Council—and tomorrow, we proceed to the appointment of a Senator to the U. S. in the stead of my

Father who has presented his resignation. Your business is in motion, the additional Common Pleas and general Sessions will be admitted, also authority to raise \$200. You know my disposition to serve you. I have seen your brother, and can recognize in him the good Qualities of *his brother*. Adieu.

P. SCHUYLER.

Albany March 7th 1798.

My Dear Sir.

Your letter of the 20 ult received with great pleasure, with your recommendation for the office of Sheriff. It will be grateful to you to be informed that aid was not necessary to the appointment—your standing among our friends is too high to harbour a thought that you would interest yourself for anyone not qualified in every respect.

...

R. R. LIVINGSTON, Gov.

S. VAN RENSSELAER, Lieut. Gov.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS DISTURBING

From Philip Schuyler to Eben.

Albany, 1798.

. . . Our foreign affairs are in the same situation as when you left us, our Commissioners not accredited,—we are in a degrading situation, and our rulers passive. I hope the Americans will not be any longer divided, but I fear the faction will not yield to anything but necessity. It is understood here that Ezekiel Gilbert and yourself are to be the candidates,—Horton will bring you the result. Last night our friends had a meeting, Gansevoort in the chair,—to present unanimously Jay, &c.

Yours.

P. J. S.

Jacob Morris of Butternuts (Morris), who had gone there to reside in 1787, was appointed Brigadier General of the newly-organized militia of Otsego County. A descendant of Louis Morris of Morrissania. With other notes, the Coopers-town Library says of him: "He was distinguished for his high culture, sound judgment, courteous manners, and manly bearing." Like Ebenezer he was clerk of his county, which may have been the basis of the subsequent firm friendship arising between the two men, with their similar traits of character.

The first letter I have of his follows. Gen. Jacob Morris to E. Foote.

Albany 5th March 1798.

Dear Sir.

. . . Be assured my friend that under the strongest impressions of your upright intentions, of your regard for the welfare and honour of your new Co., and your sentiments concerning the National government, so congenial to my own,—your opinions will always have weight with me. Rely on my determination to defer the matters in your quarter until next season, about Military Matters.

Yours truly

JACOB MORRIS.

“ ‘Jm’ G. Staats requests that two deeds may be put on record as soon as convenient.”

Albany March 21 1798.

Dear Foote.

The citizens of New York are extremely alarmed over the prospect of war, and are flooding us with petitions for protection—indeed our political hemisphere is clouded, and there is no knowing what the French government—our dear Allies—will determine on. The moment must call upon all independent men, and upright citizens to support the country. Bowman calls me to vote for the division Ulster. Adieu.

P. J. S.

Caleb Benton to E. Foote.

Albany April 6th 1798.

Dear Sir.

From the best information I have been able to collect, Mr John Livingston will be supported as a candidate for Senator at the next election. I hope you will give him all the support in your power. I have reason to think that you will be well supported in Columbia and Dutchess. . . .

I am Sir with great esteem

Your real friend

CALEB BENTON.

S. Sleight to E. Foote.

Newburgh May 13, 1798.

Dear Friend.

. . . So much to say to you, and out of three letters directed to you but one usually reaches you. . . . For news. Both parties in Congress unite in reprobating the French, though not with equal warmth, but vigorous measures are pursuing to put the country in a state of defence. I apprehend Government entertains serious fears of a rupture with France. I am told the French officers are all displaced, and Americans appointed in their stead. The French officers at West Point are dismissed, and Rochefontaine is now at Newburgh, and has hired one of Walsh's houses. Addresses are coming in from all quarters, and are written in a style which does honour to the American character. I am provoked that with the ordinary conveyance, I cannot commit to paper what I most want to say. Say to Mrs Foote everything a grateful and affectionate heart is supposed to feel.

I am constantly at work in my office, and can scarcely get enough to pay my debts.

Yours affectionately and truly

S. SLEIGHT.

Justin to E.

Newburgh 7th June 1798.

. . . As I was setting off for New York, Mr G., and Mr C Verplanck were about setting off to pay you a visit. I am informed they did not get off on the 25th. As for myself here I sit in this large house "solus," half an invalid for the last ten days with a slow fever. Money is all the cry, and difficult to command. If we have a war, my Southern concerns must be settled, and to my disadvantage. Health and felicity to you all from

JUSTIN.

From S. Sleight to E. F.

Newburgh 31 July 1798.

Dear Hal.

You will have heard that your old friend General Washington has accepted the command of the armies, and Hamilton is appointed Inspector General with the rank of Major General, but I suspect we shall not have much occasion for their services for a while, as we are told a most powerful combination is formed in Europe against France, consisting of Russia, Prussia, Germany, Portugal and England. If this be true, and I think it is probable enough, considering the insults and outrages committed against these Powers, and the necessity they appear to be under of preventing these revolutionary principles from possessing their own subjects,—our French friends will have enough to do at home, without provoking further animosity abroad. I am afraid you will find a turbulent set at Albany. Excuse my bad paper, there is not a sheet of good paper to be had in town, and I am writing with my last pen, and I havent had 3 quills in three months, and there are no other than common ones to be had here.

Affectionately
S. SLEIGHT.

I have been told that Gen. Jacob Morton was an ancestor of Gov. Levi Morton, but of this I am not sure. He is sometimes called Gen., in other letters, but from them all we gather that he was a patriot, and a cultured gentleman.

New York August 22d 1798.

My dear Sir.

Your obliging favor Came while I was away in the country with my little folks for a few days. I feel much obliged by your attention, and would thank you to communicate with me in this way,

during the session, we are all anxious to know what is going forward,—and from our representatives we can have no expectations as they are not of the Household of Faith. It is a time as you say, when every genuine American, every friend to the real independence of our country, should speak out, and hold that language, which traitors and disorganizers like not to hear. The time has really come in which we have as much cause to rally for the support of our Independence, as in 1776, we had to procure it. A detestable faction has been created by French intrigues in the bosom of our country, who like Judas would betray their God, for the gratification of their base resentments.

They are however but few in number, and that party is daily losing its weight, from the conviction of many honest but misinformed men, who had been led to associate with them. I am happy to see that the expectations of that party have been disappointed with respect to our Legislature. Your answer to the Governor, and the appointment of Mr Watson, prove that the ballance of Federalism is preponderant. There is an account here, but not much credited, that of the Toulon fleet having taken refuge in Corsica. This, if true, will close the ridiculous parade of the English invasion.

Many have supposed that this fleet with the Philosophers on board, were intended for this country. For my own part, I can scarcely believe possible that they should be so infatuated as to attempt an invasion of this country. Their partizans here must have deceived them most grossly, if they could have represented to them that they would in that event have received any material support from the citizens of this country. None but a few abandoned Villains would have been found to range themselves under a foreign banner against their native land. This belief however, should not relax our measures of

defence, every good citizen should eagerly —— the present enthusiasm of the people, and help forward measures for placing our country in a state which may defy Foreign aggression. The hour of danger is the only time in which our countrymen will be brought to act, the moment of Peace will again bring forward our former supineness and ideas of security.

It is therefore your duties to push forward every measure for fortifying our harbor, preparing an Arsenal, &c. The money expended will ultimately be returned to us by the U. S.—and if not, it is disposed of in the best possible way. I have only room to say, I am with great esteem,

Yours

JACOB MORTON.

From Justin.

Newburgh August 23 1798.

Dear E.

Things here much the same, I am at the Castle alone still. The thirst here for Poles to declare the infatuation of the people has not yet subsided, —they are daily raising them, some are cut down, and prosecutions begun for damages. . . .

JUSTIN.

From Abram TenBroeck of Otsego. Mr. Ten Broeck was a well known and able lawyer of his day. It is a long letter, on Land Office business, its greatest interest the address: “Ebenezer Foote, Esq., Delhi on Delaware.” The first time. And sent by hand of Chancellor Kent, who was a frequent visitor at Arbor Hill, and may have gone there to attend the Court.

Dear Sir.

I troubled you with a letter at Albany almost from necessity, hope no difficulty in particular

will arise. If there does, please to act as you would for yourself, . . .

With much respect and esteem.

Yours

ABRAM TEN BROECK.

The allusion to "Gentry" in the next, means that Arbor Hill was the rendezvous of the higher officers of the Court when coming out to this "wilderness," of the great patent owners who came to see about their lands, and of other agreeable men, political and otherwise, who made business in the new county. Mrs. Foote must have had all of the executive ability we have heard of, to have entertained suitably the constant stream of guests with the trials over getting supplies delivered in good order, if at all. The Mistress was sure of service as long as slaves were to be had, and in that lonely land men of culture and refinement were worth much trouble and anxiety.

From S. Sleight.

Kingston 18th Sept. 1798.

Dear Sir.

Hearing of an opportunity to send you a line I cannot refrain from doing so. Am here attending the Circuit.

Only news from Newburgh is that David Colden is dead, farther news you will get from the gentlemen who will attend your Circuit.

The news of the "sickness" in New York, most distressing, and from Philadelphia dreadful!!!! Hoped to have had a letter from Albany as at home you will be so much employed in entertaining the "Gentry" as to leave you little time for anything else.

Yours

S. SLEIGHT.

From Daniel Hale, Secretary of State. This

is the first of a long correspondence. Mr. Hale I believe to have been of the famous Maine family, but I have not been able thus far to get data.

Albany 28th Sept 1798.

Sir.

His Excellency the Governor, has directed a number of Copies of the "Correspondence of the American Envoys to the French 'Republic'" lodged in this office for distribution and I have taken the liberty to address twenty of them to you. Will you be pleased to have them put in the hands of such persons as will be most likely to give the sentiments contained in them a general circulation. Clergymen of Federal principles may not be improper ones to be supplied.

Clergymen of any description were not abundant near Delhi in 1798.

From nice Elias Butler with the usual wail for ready money.

Walton 10th October 1798.

Dear Friend.

Your letters to the Directory I forwarded immediately. Billy (another very nice man, a cousin of Erastus, but different) will call on you on his way to Hudson. Please let him have what money you can spare, and I will replace it as soon as possible. Hope it will not be less than eight dollars, as disappointment in collecting renders that sum absolutely necessary.

With the highest esteem of your friend

ELIAS BUTLER.

In *Lossing's History of the United States* I find the following:

"During 1797 France continued to insult our country—an extraordinary congress was convened on 15th May, and three Envoys were appointed to proceed to France and adjust all diffi-

culties. They were refused an audience (in October) unless they should first pay a large sum of money into the French Treasury. The demand was indignantly refused and the two Federalist envoys were ordered out of the country, while Mr Gerry who was a Republican was allowed to remain.

In the next letter we find that Mr. Gerry has returned.

From Judge Thompson.

Albany 11th October 1798.

Dear Sir.

Your ill natured and abusive letter I duly rec'd, and I find it has such an effect on my nerves, that I should not have attempted have attempted writing had not your requisitions been fully complied with yesterday, in Council . . . and I hope we shall hear no more abuse, or you will be left to the mercy of Robspierre, from which fate you will pray, "Good Lord deliver us." You will find by the paper that Mr Gerry has returned, and by his last note to Talleyrand, the intrigue and villainy of the Directory appear truly conspicuous, and I hope will have a good effect in convincing our Frenchmen, that no reliance is to be placed on their pretended insidious professions of friendship. The commissions for the Field officers of the second Regiment are made out, and I hope will prove satisfactory. I set out tomorrow morning on my return, as the Council have adjourned to meet again 26 Dec., soon after which I promise myself the pleasure of seeing you in Albany. Till then God bless you. Make my best respects to Mrs Foote, and rest assured I remain
Your affectionate friend and sert

WM. THOMPSON.

Again from Abram Ten Broeck.

Cooperstown Oct 18 1798.

Dear Sir.

I recd yours from the hands of Gen. Gansevoort, direct from Cherry Valley. I am much obliged for your attention to this as well as to other business. . . . As for leasing, only you can judge whether its worth while in such a remote part of your county.

In haste with much esteem

Yours

ABRAM TEN BROECK.

From James Oliver.

Marbletown Nov 15 1798.

Dear Foote.

. . . The French party are very quiet now, but I suppose they are preparing slyly as they always do. My endeavor will be to frustrate them. . . . Tell Mrs Foote and the little girls I long to see them.

I am dear Foote yours sincerely

JAMES OLIVER.

INCEPTION OF THE LEASEHOLDS

From Gerard Smith Sloan.

New Paltz February 12 1799.

Dear Friend.

I congratulate you on the honour you have of being chosen to be a Member of the Honorable body of the Council of Appointment—much pleasure I have in seeing you so successful in spite of all your foes. . . . With perfect esteem I am your undiminished friend,

GERARD SMITH SLOAN.

The agency for leasing the lands in the new counties was an important and much sought after function, requiring strict honesty, as well as intelligence to avoid the schemes of the land sharpers. The position paid well, and fortunately took only part time, as at this date E. was Senator, in the Council of Appointment, and County Clerk.

The next is endorsed: "Hon. Morgan Lewis." Mr. Lewis was a notable man in the state, held many offices besides that of Governor in 1801, built the mansion at Lake Delaware in 1825, and occasionally lived there, until his death. From letters we see that before 1825 he always stopped at Arbor Hill.

No 89 Cherry St.

Staatsburgh 10 March 1799.

Dear Sir.

Some family occurrences have prevented my return to Albany as I had intended, therefore send

you by Mr Smith, the necessary power of Attorney, to enable you to make leases, and a map of the land shall be forwarded as soon as prepared. . . . The manner of signing a lease, to be, "Morgan Lewis, by his Attorney Ebenezer Foote." The business of roads I take to be an object of first importance, and am anxious for the completion of the one through my tract, but cannot afford to spend much money on it at one time. (Note: Important man and one of the great land owners, he, it would appear, as well as Ebenezer and others considered to be "well off," was in want of "ready money.") I propose this summer to go as far as One hundred dollars, which should be expended in cutting out the timber merely. If you think proper and can make it answer your purpose, I shall confide to you the disposition of it. When you return home, present my respects to Mrs Foote, and assure her, her polite attentions while at your house, will ever claim the grateful remembrance of her, and your Friend and Servant,

MORGAN LEWIS.

Kettletas is an old New York name, but I have never been able to find anything printed about the family, or anything more pertaining to the Fly Market episode, except what is contained in my letters. Mr. Kettletas and my ancestor may have been partners in crime on that occasion, but I am ready to forgive without asking, for having sinned at so delicious a spot as "The Fly Market." Or they may have been bitter enemies then, and made up as is the way of the world, and are concerned together over land, as the letter suggests.

New York March 15 1799.

Dear Sir.

I entered our claim for lot No 88 Hector. I

wish to know if you have taken any steps to maintain your title, being under that Freehold it will be necessary that we coalesce, in supporting the title, and prepare for trial. You will please let me hear from you, and if you come to New York, I should be glad to see you, to take proper steps with you for the support of our joint interest and mutual benefit.

Yours &c.

WILLIAM KETTLETAS.

(See January 28, 1796.)

From John Kortright, Esq.

New York Jan 14 1799.

Dear Sir.

Being indebted to the State a considerable sum for Quit rent, I made arrangements to settle the demand with the Comptroller, as the law clearly points out, that the arrears to the year 1794, shall be receivable in any stock created under the authority of the United States—I of course expected no difficulty on the part of the Comptroller.

I was much surprised to find he would not receive this stock, and from the conversation I had with him, am induced to believe, he intends to have that Law repealed this session, which would be doing great injustice to many individuals. I can but hope for your influence to prevent this great act of injustice taking place to many Citizens, who have purchased land subject to Quit Rent, calculating to pay the arrears as the Law directs. Your friendship in this business will ever oblige Sir, Your Obt, Humble servant,

JOHN KORTRIGHT.

P. S. I shall esteem it a particular favor if you would write when this business comes up, and your opinion as to the result. Direct to me, to the care of Edmund Seaman, Wall Street New York.

Mr. Foote was at this time State Senator and in Albany, and writing home to Arbor Hill to Harriet, his older daughter, and to Margaret or Peg, the younger one. The house now owned by the Hon. John D. Clarke was in a lonely spot, and in March, 1799, probably buried in snowdrifts and when I read the letters after all these years the picture of the great house with its roaring fireplaces (no stoves as yet) and the gracious Mother striving to fit her children for the wider world whence she had come was, and still is, to me a vivid one.

Young people of this day may have to be reminded that the dancing of that day consisted of elaborate steps, difficult to conquer, in contrast to those we have today.

Albany March 18 1799.

Your very agreeable little letter was handed to me by Judge Leal, my dear Harriet, though I don't like to hear that you are melancholy on account of Charles. You must recollect that it is necessary that he should go from home or he cannot get an education, and it is of the utmost importance that he should get what learning he can, while he is young. You must read and write, and dance for your Mama, and kiss her a great many times for me. I want to see her and you all very much. Good night my child, I am your affectionate friend,

E. FOOTE.

Charles had been sent to Kingston to a boarding school.

Well Madam Peg, I received your little two-penny letter, and am much pleased with it and wish it had been much longer. You ought to write me a long letter telling me all your little play tricks and what you do every day. Do you

learn some lessons by heart, and read and write and help your Mama. You must learn to dance every evening, and kiss your Mama for me every night. I will tell little Miss Ten Broeck what you say, she is a pretty little girl, and took good care of me the other day when I was sick. Good night my little cherub, I love you and am your friend as well as Papa.

E. FOOTE.

Delhi Dec 8 1799.

Dear Sir.

I have recd yours in which you express a wish for a little money. God knows I should be glad to help you, our treaty, I wish to fulfil in every iota, as far as lies in my power. Your letter is couched in strong friendly and generous terms, and merits my strictest attention,—but what shall I do. You know my situation in pecuniary matters when you was here last. They are not bettered.

There are about 30 dollars which I have lent and which I cannot obtain. The Sheriff has a great number of Exs of mine which are not yet collected, and when I shall ever receive any more money, requires the spirit of prophecy to foretell. When I shall receive any cash you shall stand foremost on the list of my creditors. I go to Esopus tomorrow, if you wish to write, please to forward your commands by citizen Peter.

Yours &c.

ERASTUS ROOT.

Sunday December 22 1799.

Dear Sir.

I have recd your letter, and can consciently say that altho' you and I are not very deeply in love with each other, yet I feel for your situation in pecuniary matters. I have been frequently in such a dilemma myself, and can therefore cordially sympathize with you. I have lately recd Duns from other quarters, but I excused myself,

—you being put foremost in the list of my creditors. I have a ten dollar bill which is devoted to you. If I can help you further before you go to Albany, I shall cheerfully do it, but I cannot promise positively. Be assured Sir, that I am much pleased at discerning in you a disposition to use me generously in our *official capacities*. This disposition it shall be my endeavor to reciprocate.

Yours &c.

ERASTUS ROOT.

Madam Catherine Livingston, who wrote the next, was the wife of Chancellor Robert Livingston, the great grandfather of the present Lake Delaware Estates, so to speak, and excellent friends of Eben's.

Oak Hill April 15th 1800.

Sir.

I am sorry we had not the pleasure of seeing you when last at Catskill. Mr Bill has promised to forward these lines to you on the subject of accommodating you with a negro woman which he informs me you are in want of. The one I have to dispose of is twenty one years of age and the reason of parting with her, is her having a young child, and the father of it, not being married to her, and not acting agreeable to me, my wish is to remove her from him. She is perfectly honest and sober, and until now, was very useful to me, but now that there is three in my kitchen under a twelvemonth (three babies? K. F.) I am under the necessity of parting with her. If you are in want of a woman she will answer, being acquainted with all kinds of Country, and house work, and perfectly well disposed. Should be glad of an answer. I gave seventy pounds for her, but to have a good place for her shall not differ about the price.

With esteem and respect, Yours

CATHERINE LIVINGSTON.

THE FEDERAL DEBACLE

From Mr. Henry Livingston about nominations.

Poughkeepsie April 16 1800.

Dear Sir.

. . . We hear from Columbia that Jacob Ford and Thomas Broadhead are the gentlemen in nomination by the Federals for Senators. James Oliver by our friends in Ulster, and no doubt but Wm Thompson for Orange, and Mr John Johnson for this co. We do not know who compose your Committee of correspondence,—but we so well know your zeal and information, that we think we cannot do better than to trouble you with this communication. . . . The Federal pulse beats high in this part of the District. Our opponents are as usual exceedingly active, but we hope that the good genius of Federalism will prevail. We are with sentiments of great respect for you,

Your obedient Humble servants,

HENRY LIVINGSTON,

For Com. of Correspondence.

From Wm. Coleman, Esq., well known New York man, and to become on November 16, 1801, the first editor of the *Evening Post*, started by Alexander Hamilton and other leaders, in the interests of the Federalists. Mr. Coleman was a man of means as well as of broad culture.

New York April 26 1800.

Dear Sir and Brother.

. . . Every thing favorable, and I believe if you wish to make money easy, you have but to throw to one or twelve of the Federal titles in the elec-

tion, and so win bet on the other, who disgraces us in my opinion,—but who being on the ticket, must be supported merely because he is there. Shall hear from me again.

WILLIAM COLEMAN.

I make no doubt that on the strength of so good an authority as Mr. Coleman usually was, my ever optimistic ancestor staked heavily and lost in the great Federal Debacle, which put Mr. Jefferson in the Presidential chair, and which is referred to in many succeeding letters.

From Loring Andrews, who was editor of "Collector and Iconophile" at this time. Another man of culture.

Albany May 24 1800.

Dear Sir.

Verbal accounts had prepared me for the sombre intelligence contained in yours of the 19th inst. Yes, all is gone to the devil sure enough, and Jacobism "grinning horribly a ghastly smile," erects its triumphant head in our state,—and not only in our state, but I fear in the very sanctum sanctorum of our political temple.

The devil appears to have been as completely noised in Philadelphia as in New York,—and that curious mental imbecility, or something worse, which unnerved the arms of federalism when our country apparently stood on such high and respectable ground, both at home and abroad, bids fair to sink us to the lowest depths of degradation and contempt.

The dismissal of the inestimable Pickering from office, the man foremost in opposing a bold front to the progress of Jacobism and mad misrule,—excites as far as I can learn, general disgust. I have it from undoubted authority, that his dismissal was owing to the independence of his sentiments, and his firm defence of opinions in

which both you and I glory and exult. To what a pass has the conduct of the New England Idol reduced us, but I trust in Heaven all is not yet lost. Mr Van Schaack writes me that he has it from authority not to be questioned,—that a federal President may be chosen by a majority of three, counting the votes of our state (as they will be) dead against the federal cause. I take it however this must depend upon the New England states,—if they will vote unanimously for Pinckney, and for Adams if they please (to save appearances) the former will be elected—which God in his infinite mercy grant for the sake of our country. This moment the mail is open, and nothing new, and—except the accounts from Conn.—nothing interesting. At this period when the blighting mists of Jacobinism pervade the land, and threaten destruction to the fair fabric which the hallowed hands of men good and true have enacted, sacred to American dignity and independence, I go once more to New England, but wherever I am your esteem will be grateful, and reciprocate it will be true pleasure to

Yours sincerely

LORING ANDREWS.

Several from Abram Van Vechten, etc., in the same vein.

A few lines from Henry Walton may interest our sister town.

Ballston 12th June 1800.

Dear Sir.

I had the pleasure of receiving your favour of 19th May, accept of my thanks for your attention to my memorandum, be assured that on a similar occasion you may count on my gratitude. . . . Should you be able to procure further intelligence, I will thank you to communicate it to me. I am Sir with respect,

Yours &c.

HENRY WALTON.

From Wm. Pitt Beers, an important politician, and perhaps of Hobart.

Albany Aug. 7 1800.

Dear Sir.

. . . Captain Smith will deliver you this, he is interested in Clark's 2000 acre tract, and on his return will apply to you for some information relative to the best route from Delhi to Fort Schuyler, which will oblige me. I am dear Sir with great regard

Yours

WM. P. BEERS.

Samuel Sherwood, Esq., spoken of in the following, came shortly after Ebenezer, from the northern part of the State. A little the junior of E. and one of the very few gentlemen pioneers who came to the county at this early date. He wisely refrained from entering into politics, except when he was elected as our Representative at Washington, in 1814. He became a lawyer of repute, first in the Delhi courts, and later in New York he and his son, John Sherwood, Esq., made the name still more honorable. He built Woodland House, still standing a mile below the village, now inhabited by the daughter of another son, Robert Sherwood, Esq., and who died rather early in life.

New York August 19, 1800.

Dear Sir.

Your letter of the 7th came to hand yesterday, and I made a point to see Col. Giles on the subject without a moments delay, and found that Mr. Samuel Sherwood had been appointed to take the census in your co., in consequence of your recommendation, should he be disinclined to serve, now, I have no doubt the appointment may be obtained for any other person whom you may recom-

mend. With sincere regard I am your friend
and Servant

NICHOLAS FISH.

The fact of E.'s losing the office of County Clerk was part of the late victory and is many times alluded to. Gebhard was only the tool of Ambrose Spencer, in Albany, but E. had begun on him, for attempted insults, and help without price from the brilliant legal light, Abram Van Vechten, is hurriedly offered.

Should the trial with Gebhard be transferred here, count on my best services without money and without price!!! Burr is to be Vice President, I think he has but a gloomy prospect. In all changes of situation believe me to be

Sincerely Yours

ABRAM VAN VECHTEN.

Charles, my grandfather, writes from school.

Kingston Sept 8th 1800.

Revered Father.

I arrived at Kingston last eve very well. I found my class a good way advanced, they have already gone through the first volume of Horace, and are now on the 2d, and the Greek Testament, so that I shall have to attend pretty closely to make up for being so late, before I catch up to them. Johnny Hasbrouck was not there when I went with his saddle. . . . I am cyphering, as far advanced as the rule of three, and hope to finish cyphering this fall. (Later he says.) I have had no letter from home and hardly know what to think as Turners wagon should afford an opportunity every fortnight. (Only for a homesick boy. And still later.) I now have a letter from Harriet, in which she says none of my letters sent by Turners wagon have reached you, if so I would better trust to chance. Mr. Levi Dodge will take

this one. I am your dutiful son and Humble servant.

CHARLES FOOTE.

A few of many invitations give the year. One endorsed from Gen. Philip Schuyler.

Mr. Schuylers compliments, he entreats the favor of Mr. Foote's company at dinner on Monday next, at three o'clock.

Friday January 17 1800.

Mr. Gansevoort requests the Honor of Mr. Footes company to dinner on Thursday next, at 3 o'clock.

Whitehall February 21st 1800.

The Governor requests the Honor of Mr. Foote's company at Dinner on Wednesday next, at three o'clock at the Tontine Coffee House.

Thursday February 13.

JEFFERSON ELECTED PRESIDENT

From Secretary Daniel Hale.

Albany 3d January 1801.

My dear Sir.

Your Commissions were got ready for the Attorney Gen. to take down with him, but was detained. He informs me that he should have called on you immediately, but was invited by some one—I think Brockholst Lavingholst,—to dine, and was informed that you were engaged to dine there also, where he expected to meet you and have the pleasure of seeing you, and delivering them, but when he came there, was informed you had left town that day at 12 o'clock. He appeared as much mortified in returning them, as I was in receiving them, but am happy to forward them by the bearer. The state of our politics,—state as well as general, are in such utter confusion, that it is pain to me to touch upon them. Mr. Adams has nominated Mr. Jay for Chief Justice of the U. S. but Mr. Jay, and likewise Mr. Ellsworth both decline, and strange to say, he has also nominated that arch democrat and disorganizer, Gallatin,—for the office of Sec. of the Treasury,—at least so say the public prints, and there is little cause to doubt it. The votes of Kentucky have arrived, and Jefferson and Burr are said to have an equal number of votes, consequently, the House of Representatives in Congress must decide by states,—a majority of all the states—to determine. This will probably lead to a difficulty not provided for by the Constitution. The democrats in general, appear to be as much mortified at the idea of having Burr for President, as either Adams or Pinckney,—to support Burr and make

him President, or to call a new election,—has been wrote by several congressmen in decided terms to their friends in this city. What the event will be, time only can determine. The Lt. Gov. (Chancellor Livingston) is now in New York, where it will be determined positively whether or not he is to be our candidate. Some of his near connections in this city have lately informed me that it is their opinion he will accept, I also rather believe he will, but it should be done without delay, and circulated immediately. If he consents, I have no doubt he will succeed, provided the federal interests generally do their duty. Our late convention with France, is said to be very dissatisfactory to Mr. Adams, and that the Senate will not ratify it without some material amendments. I am with warm wishes for your future welfare,

Your friend

DANIEL HALE.

From Hon. John Bird.

Washington Jan. 3d 1801.

Dear Sir.

After receiving your favor, I took the earliest opportunity of seeing the Post M. Gen. I had been in his office but a few minutes, when Mr. Sedgewick happened also to drop in.

Everything will be done according to your wishes, unless it be your own appointment, but that appeared the most advisable, as both Mr. Sedgewick and myself were personally acquainted with you, and as the P. M. G. was prepossessed in your behalf. I am very happy in having it in my power to oblige a friend, especially in a good and righteous cause.

As the time approaches for electing a Chief to the Republick, our anxiety augments. There is a Union of sentiment among the Fed's in favor of Mr. Burr, but Candour obliges me to declare, my suspicion that a nonelected though an event

much to be deprecated, is not unlikely. You also I presume have your troubles in *your* Council of Appointment, from what I know of Spencer, he is no mean disciple of Robespierre. God be thanked, I am out of the way of his Guillotine or I would not give a sou for my poor head.

Yours with esteem

JOHN BIRD.

The next contains another reference to the prevailing difficulty attending the safe carriage of letters, in the absence of frequent or proper postal service.

From James Bill.

Catskill January 12 1801.

Dear Sir.

I have not written, for one reason that I prefer silence to falsehood, and the truth would never reach you by such conveyances as are common from your part of the country.

Concerning Politicks, it will be in the power of the Federal party in Congress either to elect Burr or put off the election to another year. See Acts of Congress 2d vol. chap 8. . . . I am dear Sir,

Your obdt Servant and grateful friend

JAMES BILL.

From Judge David Mason.

Cooperstown Jan. 12th 1801.

Sir.

Please to fill in enclosed blanks, . . . affix one in the Clerks office and serve the other in due time, on the most potent Duke of Wolfsboro alias Robespierre, alias Ci devant, Justice Root. I condole with you over the election,—let us adopt the prayer of the pious old Whig clergyman at the commencement of the Revolution,—speaking of George the third,—“Turn his heart O Lord we

beseech Thee, to do all for the true interests and happiness of this people, if consistent with Thy Will, but if not, Tear it out!!, Amen. Love consigned to all the wives and children you have.

DAVID MASON.

From Philip J. Schuyler.

Rhinebeck Jan. 30 1801.

Dear Foote.

I am sorry my business hurried me so soon from Albany, as I was extremely desirous of seeing my old friend. I have learned this afternoon that Mr. V. Rensselaer has consented to become a candidate, and now we must with all the industry of Jacobins, and the cunning of Prometheus, endeavor to affect our object, and to secure this, in my opinion will depend much on the judicious selection of an associate.

All claims must be sacrificed to expediency—who will have the most weight,—that man I think is only found in Judge Lewis,—independent of my esteem for him, I would recommend him from policy. I would give much to pass an hour with you, but as that is impossible, let me hear from you in New York, for which place I start tomorrow.

Let me again urge you to advocate the nomination of Lewis, as I have before said, I wish it from policy, in addition to which, it would give me pleasure, because,—notwithstanding our difference in politics, I still entertain the opinion formed of him when a boy,—which is that he is an honest clever fellow. Adieu, I say to you as Ganganelle said to his correspondent, “I leave you to yourself, that is,—in the best company I know of.

PHILIP J. SCHUYLER.

From Elias Butler.

Walton 6th Feb. 1801.

Dear Sir.

I arrived here by way of Hudson and Catskill, on Tuesday, and am very much out of health. Called on Mr. Constant Andrews, saw the wench and think she will answer your purpose. Andrews was much opposed to giving you so long a trial, was willing to allow one month. His objection is that she might not be well governed in your long absence (Note. E. was still Senator, and in the Council of Appointment, keeping him in Albany.) and when you returned in the Spring, she would be less fitted for his service, also interfere with his calculations in business. After various propositions on my part—on the ground of trial,—found him still hesitating,—also that the price would be £50, yet willing to bargain but much averse to a doubtful one. Viewing there to be no risk, availed myself of his situation of mind, and closed the bargain, to wit: the wench to be your property, and at your risk, in a fortnight from last Monday, delivery to be made previous if called for,—for which you are to give your note for the sum of \$100, payable in twelve mos. with interest, and pretty strong encouragement given that \$50 shall be paid by the first June next, on rect of which, he is to give you a good bill of sale. Should Andrews present you at Albany a rect, from John or myself for the wench, you can finish the bargain, or otherwise on your return to Delhi. You have her very cheap, and I am sure you will like her. Too much out of health to write more, but

Yours

E. BUTLER.

Mr. Butler was related to the notable lawyer, Mr. Charles Butler, of New York, an uncle I think, but cannot find out.

From Philip J. Schuyler.

New York Feb. 15 1801.

My dear Foote.

Were you not slightly acquainted with Mr. Ten-Eyck, the gentleman who will hand you this, I would introduce him as one of the cleverest fellows of my acquaintances, possessing the precise and peculiar qualifications to render him fit and proper for the society of my Worthy friend Councillor Foote. I am happy you think with me on the subject of Lieut. Gov. We have heard that they have voted 20 times over the election of Burr or Jefferson, with always the same result, at Washington, and it must go to the House. I am tired of this place, but have to be here often, and if you have any commands you choose to lay upon me, they shall be as binding as the laws of Lycurgus were to the Spartans. I recommend Ten-Eyck to your special care & safe keeping, and bid you farewell.

PHILIP J. SCHUYLER.

On Feb. 18, 1801, Wm. Coleman of the "Evening Post" writes that Watson, the candidate for Lieutenant Governor, "is horribly unpopular in New York," and on February 27 Johannes Miller from Orange County writes, "Much pleased that Watson is nominated for Lt. Gov." So do people of the same party vary.

Peter Mosier, Alderman, merchant of New York, writes E. at "Dierck Ten Broeck's," wanting his help, and says, "Senate U. S. adjourned, appointed Hon. Robt. R. Livingston Minister to France."

As I said above Gen. Morris was also a county clerk (Otsego). He writes, March 23d, 1801.

. . . My office I learn has been enrolled some time, in the list of proscriptions for my political sins, which my heart & my conscience forbid me

to renounce, if it be their pleasure to dismiss me,
I leave with clean hands. . . .

Your friend

JACOB MORRIS.

As for Gov. Stephen will run well, Watson
dragged along.

From Wm. Coleman, Editor "Evening Post."

New York March 31, 1801.

Dear Ebenezer.

At 11 o'clock at night I write this to go by the morning mail which closes at 7. You will therefore accept of much brevity of phrase, tho some weighty matter. It is contemplated by four of us here, to commence this week a series of papers on the subject of the ensuing election,—but this is mentioned to you in confidence for it will not be known here, who are the writers,—don't stare friend Eben. I mean you must furnish the materials, for I am not so unreasonable as to request you to write hap-hazard, at a distance of 100 miles but you can do as well,—write me a long letter, and tell me all what the majority of the house have done which is unpopular,—and all they ought to have done which would have been popular. Tell me, have they once called up the Shoe bill in the Senate, it is important to know this. Have they altered the law for the choice of electors as they promised they would,—in short I have set you a task, and you must fulfil my expectations. So begin it journalwise, and go on every day, here a little there a little, till your budget is ready to send off,—*then*, be careful by whom you send it. Some one blundered so much as to insert your name, "Ebenezer Foote" among the Democratic Committee, but as far as I have discovered it, I have published a contradiction of this base calumny, and so I called it in the paper. So you see I am ready to stand by you still. Most affectionately.

WM. COLEMAN.

New York Feb 18 1801.

Dear Ebenezer.

. . . About the impeachment of the Governor, no one here seems to have any very accurate information, on the subject, and I rely upon you for the receiving the whole story, by the first opportunity.

I send you the Crisis, which may well be said in vulgar phrase,—to have let the cat out of the bag. I take it the grand object of the party appears very palpably on the face of the same pamphlet.

Nay they pant after them (offices), says he. The book has become very scarce, and I suspect has been as much as possible suppressed it is so barefaced it shames them, and to shame a Jacobin is no trifle.

Let Van (Veehten) see it, I promised him.

Affecty

WM. COLEMAN.

From Elias Butler.

Walton 5th May 1801.

. . . I conclude you will have to send to Albany soon with Gov. and Senator ballots, and should you have to hire a person, should like to be your chap,—have a little business, but not enough to go otherwise. Please to inform me by bearer, if my services would be acceptable, and when you should want to send. Report says that the Jacobin ticket has a majority of 400 in this Co.—if so, do not write it, speak it, or even lisp to me, under pain of my malediction, if the devil reigns, the Almighty has left us,—terrible thought, but all will go well when His anger is done away, and He smiles again on the mountains of Delaware, in the meantime let us enclose our houses with palisades. Accept dear Sir, the most cordial respect of

ELIAS BUTLER.

Stephen N. Bayard, Esq. About land.

Schenectady May 22 1801.

Sir.

. . . I will thank you for the best information you can afford me of the value, local situation, settlements, &c of the land. . . It is part of Mr. Samuel Verplancks great lot No. 38, and a little below Delhi. I am Sir, Very Respectfully, your Humble Servant

STEPHEN N. BAYARD.

From Gen. Jacob Morris.

Butternuts 20 June 1801.

My dear friend.

I was intrusted some time ago, with the agency of a tract of land in your county, the property of my friends LeRoy and Bayard, but it was so much out of my way, that I lately begged leave to surrender it, and recommended you, which met with their approbation. How does your pulse beat,—do you escape that dreadful Democratic fever which rages so furiously at this time under the reign of Jefferson. If ever Federalism was charming in my sight, it is so now, and I have no doubt but that the people of the U. S. must again resort to it, to save the ship. I have no further time at present as I go for court tomorrow, and am very busy,—than to assure you, with what sincere regards I am your friend and obt.

JACOB MORRIS.

From Richard R. Lawrence, Esq.

New York June 24, 1801.

Respected Friend.

I avail myself of thy services to have the Mortgage on E. B. looked up to make sure their is no prior claim. . . . The expense attending same shall be paid, be content, and thy care acknowledged as a favour to Thy assured Friend. . . .

RICHARD R. LAWRENCE.

THE VICTORS CLAIM THE SPOILS

From Morgan Lewis, Esq. Relates to taxes on lands, new road, etc., and to the Supercedeas of the new politics, removing E. from the office of County Clerk, just being put in force.

Albany 19th August 1801.

Dear Sir.

. . . I can only say that the change in office does not accord with my wishes. . . . My compliments to Mrs. Foote and believe me, that,—differences of political sentiments notwithstanding, I am your personal friend

MORGAN LEWIS.

From Daniel Hale, also ousted.

Albany August 24, 1801.

Dear Sir.

I should have wrote you before, but I have been so busily employed writing against the villains who are destroying the freedom, peace of mind and harmony of our state, that I am almost wrecked. You will have received your Super Ce-deas before this, but I felt an inexpressible pleasure, in being informed by the Attorney Gen. that your circumstances are such that you will experience no material inconvenience from the malice of our enemies. The Patroon feels it most severely, and stands ready to go with us with redoubled vigor when the period arrives. Believe me with much sincerity

Your friend

DANIEL HALE.

Albany Sept 2d 1801.

My friend.

I wrote you some days since, and sent it to Walton instead of to Delhi, at your request. Am happy you approve of me thus far.

I cannot believe the more respectable democrats in the different Cos will approve all the acts, Judge Lansing and all his connections I am informed openly and decidedly condemn them. . . .

Adieu.

DANIEL HALE.

From Justin.

Newburgh Sep. 19 1801.

. . . We set out in the morning on a visit to Father, on our return shall move to New York for the winter, if you are all reconciled to the idea of little Harriet spending the winter with us there, and can get her to Newburgh, we will take charge of her and endeavor to make her stay agreeable.

. . . Your aff. brother

JUSTIN.

From Justin.

Newburgh Oct. 22 1801.

My dear E.

Have just returned from our visit to the old hive. . . . found Conn. still Federal, and loth to give up old established principles. . . . Forty things to write, but Mr. Verplanck is waiting to take this to you, and we have company to dine.

JUSTIN.

From Gen. Morris.

Butternuts Sept. 24 1801.

My dear Sir.

I am at a loss whether to condole with you or congratulate you on the late act of Tyranny we have both experienced from our lords and masters in the Council of Appointment. . . .

JACOB MORRIS.

From Col. Jacob Morton.

New York Nov. 9 1801.

My Dear Sir.

On my return from a visit to Long Island, I found my Brother-in-law Mr. Quincy and his wife, being much occupied with them, your letter slipped my memory, and now I am unable to find it. Have looked in vain (a great deal about Masonic Lodge). The Democratic tornado has nearly spent its fury upon Individuals. It will next burst upon Society, and if the returning Reason of the Community does not restrain its force—everything that gives Honor or permanency to Government, will be prostrated before it. I need not tell you that I regretted extremely to find you among the victims of a cruel and I am persuaded, a mistaken policy. You had I know put yourself to considerable inconvenience in first accepting the office, and I believed its emoluments were important to you and your little family. It was therefore with sincere concern that I read of your removal. You have however the consciousness that it arises from causes honorable to yourself, and which will hereafter be so acknowledged even by those who removed you. In the meantime, having discharged your duty, you may rely with confidence upon that kind Providence which hath hitherto watched over you, and from which from seeming evil can and often doth bring forth real good.

I am with much steem Your friend

JACOB MORTON.

From Justin.

New York Nov 15 1801.

My dear fellow.

Your letter from Kaatskill delivered me by Harriet, the little girl had a tedious passage down, and arrived the day before we were to move.

In my last letter I gave you the information of my intended removal. I have taken a house in Cherry St. where we are settled for the winter. Your mode of direction must be, Cherry St near Clasons Wharf. Harriet is well and writes to her mama, and I am much mistaken if she has not been very homesick, and often wished herself at Delhi. These things however wear off, and I think she will be very contented with us. We are now settled and very comfortable, though farther from the center of business than I should have wished.

JUSTIN.

Henry Van Schaack was a brother of the *great* Peter Van Schaack, of Kinderhook. Henry seems to have had many homes, but honored them all. As he refers to the name "Great Mogul," and was in Albany a great deal, he may have been one of the coterie who gave Ebenezer the name.

Pittsfield Nov. 22d 1801.

Dear Foote.

I wrote you a few days ago via Kinderhook, since when I have seen the Albany Sentinel of the 17th containing an address of one Ebenezer Foote to the Public,—and which I assure you has given me great pleasure. There is in this address some excellent strokes at our Quantum Federalist yclept, Ambrose Spencer. . . . The facts in the case are well stated, and in my opinion properly arranged. They must strike conviction to every candid mind, and to the uncandid ones there is no appeal. Before this epistle reaches you, you will have seen that peace has been signed between Gt. Britain and France. Both will try to coax us,—but no alliances if we act wisely. In spite of the political gloom, I am not without hope that the machine will move in good order after a while. I hope the time is not far off when I shall hail you as the Great Mogul of Delaware!! Why

not there as well as of Delhi in Asia. Good night to you, and God Bless you.

Yours very sincerely

HENRY VAN SCHAACK.

From Dierck Ten Broeck.

Albany 27 Nov. 1801.

My dear Foote.

Preliminaries for peace between Grt Britain and France have been agreed upon,—those between E. F. and A. Spencer are ushered to light through the medium of slander. Your friends here are all alive on the occasion,—they prize your worth and while they regret the troubles you are called on to encounter, feel a confident assurance that you will be satisfied that your cause is their own. Reflecting that the channel through which this paper is to pass, . . . I reluctantly forbear to speak the feelings of a heart devoted to you. Paper will not contain the names of all who wish you well, much more the expression of their ideas on the present occurrence—you stand in their opinions firm unsullied, indeed the honest Eben Foote, with more honesty, virtue and integrity in your little finger, than all the apostates, & apostles of the new day can boast in their whole conclave. Your son Charles commands my attention, he is well pleased and happy in his new situation. God bless you and yours, I say with satisfaction I am your friend in sincerity.

DIRCK TEN BROECK.

Charles had just entered Union College.

I am putting in a great many letters on the same subject, but they come from so many different sorts of men and show how fiercely the battle was raging between the two parties and, among Eben's friends, against Ambrose Spencer, who had gone over from the Federalists.

From Wm. Root, cousin of Erastus.

Albany Nov. 24 1801.

Dear Sir.

I have been prevented from answering your favour, by absence, but was at hand on the arrival of your address, which before this you have seen in the "Centinel." I have the pleasure to assure you, that your statement has the fullest approbation of your particular friends, and of all others whose good opinion you ought to regard. What will be the consequence cannot be determined exactly. One thing however you must expect,—a torrent of abuse from A. Spencer. With this you receive a packet from Henry Van-Schaack Esq. Mr. Van Rensselaer is well and will spend the winter in New York. Your son I shall see shortly. I send you the portrait of the damndest scoundrel ever turned loose. What you ought to do, your own good sense will dictate, the ground you have taken is elevated and dignified, you will not forget what you owe yourself and friends. I wish your next may gratify your friends as well as this one which has stung the monster to the very quick. No time to be lost.

Yours

WM. ROOT.

From Daniel Hale.

Albany 30 November 1801.

My Friend.

Spencer has come out with a reply to yours consisting of more blackguardism, unsupported by a single charge. It is evident from the rage he appears to be in as he writes, that your publication has had the most ample effect, and so far, you have obtained a most complete victory. His ravings are looked upon by all considerate men of both parties, as too contemptible to be worthy of notice, and that they do not merit a reply. But I conceive that one more cool steady home thrust, in the style and manner of your last, will ren-

der him an object of universal detestation. Rest satisfied, that to the best men of all parties, that the blackguardism of such wretches as Spencer is an honor to you. May Heaven prosper all your pursuits in this life, and eternal peace and happiness be your lot in the life to come is the sincere prayer of your friend.

DANIEL HALE.

Nicholas Evertsen to E. F.

New York Dec 2, 1801.

Dear Sir.

. . . I will only add that your address relative to A. Spencer has been republished here, and receives the hearty approbation of all enemies of the flagitious and abandoned. Dear Sir, Your real friend,

NICHOLAS EVERTSEN.

Henry Van Schaack.

Pittsfield Nov. 8th 1802.

A promise my good friend Foote, in New England, is as yet considered by many as a moral obligation, or I would not have lifted a pen to say a word to you now. I promised you at Albany a letter, and here you have a beginning of one as barren and stupid as the times are. . . .

Not an arrival from Europe or Asia for weeks past,—more than four weeks since we heard from Egypt. I wrote our friend Root,—not your Delhi Root!!, that I was apprehensive the proud Spaniard had blocked the mouth of the Mediterranean, and the English channel too, as they have done Gibraltar with their Gunboats, otherwise, we must have heard from Egypt, London &c. Several ships are expected from Europe at Boston. When they arrive, it is not improbable but that a British ship of war may have escaped the vigilant Spanish Gunboats, and brought some late advices from Aboukir. I neither fear nor tremble about

what is going on in the neighborhood of Alexandria. I wish your Delhi were easier of access than it is, in the present situation of your roads, mountains, &c., one would be tempted to go to the other Delhi, than where you are. And now my good friend, when you are at Albany, why cannot you step over to Pittsfield,—the distance only 34 miles, the roads good, and the land of Promise before you when your . . .

I am sorry to find the letter torn off here.

The road mentioned is too complicated for me. From all my woman's brain can understand the matter, though sponsored by excellent men, its only concern to my family was another method of emptying their purses.

From C. E. Elmendorf.

Kingston 3d Jan. 1802.

My Dear Sir.

I have duly recd yours relative to Gebhard, and will cheerfully lend you all the aid in my power to bring to public view, the rascality of that puppy,—as I find you have already done over St!! Ambrose. That poor devil it appears to me, must be goaded on by his new friends, and placed in the front of the battle, to endure all the lacerations *their* villainies merit. . . . De Zerg, Hasbrouck and a few others are getting petitions to turnpike the road hence to the Susquehanna . . .

In haste Yours as usual,

C. ELMENDORF.

Samuel Sherwood, Esq.

Delhi Sunday Morning Jan 10 1802.

My dear Friend.

Yours of the 4th inst by Mr. Brounson, found us all enjoying much pleasure,—your family the Kirk and his Dame, all feasting on the fat of Delaware—and be assured that information of your

health did not lessen the general glee. Your letter by mail has not yet arrived. . . .

There is no frost in,—nor snow on—the ground.

Most cordially yours

SAMUEL SHERWOOD.

From Justin.

New York Jan 14 1802.

Dear Eben.

. . . Have seen your second epistle to Ambrose, and think it to the point. I think he will not reply unless he has resolution to take the pistol. I am happy that you have chosen the middle course, between challenging, and remaining silent, to have challenged him, would have subjected you to prosecution which I have no doubt A. would have availed himself of,—if he now remains silent, he is a poor devil.

Your piece is well spoken of by men of respectability. I shall be glad to hear how you meet in the Senate chamber. . . . Friend Astor has not yet got his dispute settled respecting his lands in your Co., when he can call them his own, I believe he will be glad to give you the agency. . . .
affecty.

JUSTIN.

Ambrose Spencer and Ebenezer were both Senators at this time, which would make it impossible for them to avoid meeting during the session.

From Benjamin Strong.

New York Jan 20 1802.

Dr Sir.

I am taking the liberty to state to you, that I have associated with a number of grocers and other gentlemen, who are venders of loaf & lump sugar, and have formed ourselves into a company. If it meets your approbation, I beg your aid and influence in getting it through. Should you be good enough to give us your aid, you will confer

an obligation on Dear Sir, your obt. and very huble servt.

BENJAMIN STRONG.

From Judge Mason.

Cooperstown Jan 21 1802.

Dear Sir.

Your letter recd and should have answered by Mr. Kent, had not unforeseen business prevented me just before he set out. The controversy into which you are drawn is very unpleasant, and I sincerely regret that a case so unjust, so cruel and oppressive to you should have made it necessary to place yourself in competition with the hackneyed grovelings of Gebhard, or the Billingsgate of Ambrose,—but in my opinion, justice to yourself, and respect to the public who have placed you in office, made it your duty. . . .

With sincere esteem and unvarying friendship, I am Sir, your,

DAVID MASON.

Stephen Day and Sons were merchants.

Catskill Jan 23d 1802.

Dear Sir.

. . . Your daughter Harriet is here, and you will see by her letter to you, her feelings. As to her returning home, a small snow fell yesterday and I hope more to the northward, when there will be sleighing, and your daughter can get to return.

Sincerely yours, Sir,

STEPHEN DAY.

From Wm. Coleman.

New York Jan 25 1802.

Take my dear friend an apology for a letter—and which I should not send, did I not owe it to you to desire you would excuse if they want it, the trifling alterations I have made in your letter to Spencer—changing words in Italics to Roman, and vice versa.

Generally I dislike italics. It leads a writer to rely on that method of giving force to his periods, to the neglect of style. You will see by my introductory note in the paper, why it has not appeared before. I hope the reason will be satisfactory. When I tell you that I have to provide a long and tedious editorial number for tomorrow morning and that not one word is yet committed to paper, you will excuse me for saying no more than to add my best wishes, and sincere esteem.

By the way if it were not for the good wishes and esteem of one another, we should be in rather an unpleasant predicament, dont you think. To be sure we have the *benefit of a clear conscience*.

WM. COLEMAN.

Mr. Coleman has rather weakened his excellent advice by the above underscoring.

From Elias Butler.

Walton January 31, 1802.

. . . Your dignified reply to Spencer must meet the fullest approbation of every man of taste, sensibility and honour. Had Spencer demanded an honorable settlement with you, I should have envied the man who had the honour of being your second (in a duel), but you are safe, you will never die by the hand of such a coward, and after meeting the full force of his dirty malice, I fully believe you will shine the brighter. I had the pleasure to dine with Mrs. Foote the . . . I want to see you exceedingly. I feel your contest with Spencer, and the whole host of dirty demons as my own, . . .

Yours,
ELIAS BUTLER.

FROM HIS SON AT UNION COLLEGE

Charles A. Foote.

Schenectady Feb 20 1802.

My dear Father.

. . . Did not Mr. Ten Broeck mention to you a book called Lucian's Dialogues I requested him to desire you to send one by the stage. Enclosed is an acct of some expenses. Your son and Humble Servant.

CHARLES FOOTE.

Pd to treasurer of Philo Society for en-	
trance	\$2.00
Pd for celebrating an anniversary of same ..	\$8.50
Pd for washing at 4/ per doz.	\$1.00
Pd Load of wood at 8/—and lb of candles at	
1/6	\$1.18

Notice wood for fireplace, and candles.

From Judge Hoffman.

New York March 5.

My dear Friend.

I have already commenced my operations on your election. I cannot disclose them but am determined it shall be your own fault if you are not elected. Write and say what you have done. . . . You must not lose sight of it. Pray give your attention to the business and let me know the result.

Yours affectionately
J. O. HOFFMAN.

Judge Radclift, Esq., writes again from Rhinebeck about the "Turnpike" and efforts being made to cut off Dutchess. These through turnpikes, running for such long distances, have al-

ways had a fascination for me—the forerunners of course of the railways. But think what they must have meant in the wilderness country of that day, being the only passable way out during certain seasons of the year. The younger generation may never have heard that one of these turnpikes ran through Delhi town, just across the river, and so on up. Equipages passed along it, heralded by horns, with great cracking of whip from the important personage on the box (the coachman), the envy of every small boy in town, who shouted wild greetings until all was over and lost to view.

From Henry Caldwell. The first of the letter contains much about E.'s running for Senator, which I omit.

Newburgh 9th March 1802.

Dear Sir.

. . . The result will be highly honorable to the individual 'tho he should not be elected. I have written Barker and Peter Radcliff who sees Dewitt every day, and their opinion I know will be like the Judge's. I should like to hear from you, how your affair with that devil incarnate called on earth, Ambrose, has ended. I have seen only two of your pieces, and only one signed with the above devils name.

Your friend sincerely

HENRY CALDWELL.

From Charles Foote.

Schenectady March 14 1802.

My Dear Father.

. . . We have had a revolution here. Mr. Allen has dismissed my room-mate and I have returned into the same room with Livingston, on condition of paying him 25 cts a week!!, and be at no other expense whatever for wood, candles or any

other convenience. I want very much to see you before you return to Delhi, relative to change of lodgings—which I dont think I could safely do until I am a Sophomore of full standing and which I hope to be after examination.

Your son & hubl servt.

CHARLES.

From Mr. Hoffman on legal matters. He sends by an old New York name which I copy: "The Honorable Ebenezer Foote, Esquire, in the Legislature, Albany. Honoured by B. Prevoost, Esq."

Samuel Sherwood, Esq., writes principally about a salacious suit in the courts against Gebhard, too bad to copy. Calls Gebhard, "that little scoundrel."

Delhi March 19 1802.

My dear friend.

The next day after I saw you I arrived at Delhi. Found my own and your family in health, and my own affairs in better order than I expected, but am almost harrassed to death by business details. Have not had any late information of legislative news. The sovereign people believe that much indolence has existed at Albany during the present session, and I believe attribute it to the effect of Democracy. I should like to have early information of Senatorial determination, and whether it will be best to oppose the Congressman.

Today the raftsmen generally embark for Philadelphia.

Most cordially Yours

SAMUEL SHERWOOD.

From Justin.

New York 28 March.

. . . You ask my opinion. I have no doubt you would have honourable support as a candidate for

either Senate or Congress, which situated as you are, will afford you satisfaction tho it should not be attended with success. Should you be elected for Congress the difficulties you suggest I consider trifling, on the score of usefulness. I think the Senate to be preferred. Am getting off Capt. Mather for N. C.

JUSTIN.

James or Richard Radclift (paper torn).

Rhinebeck April 3d 1802.

Sir.

I feel highly gratified in the success of our turnpike. It was more than could be expected considering the opposition. I feel under many obligations for your assistance. We have held some meetings and have decided on Ebenezer Foote (certainly) for Senate, and Gen. Barker for Congress. Your friends here are very anxious for your election, and will do everything to promote it. We hope and expect you will not decline it.

Yours in haste

JAMES RADCLIFT.

From Jacob Rutser Van Rensselaer.

Catskill April 5th 1802.

Dear Sir.

You will excuse me for troubling you with the enclosed writ to be handed to the sheriff of your county, when I assure you I am unacquainted with his name. The revolutionary tribunal has so completely wiped out every vestige of former tenurement that without a register, it is impossible to keep pace with them, and recollect the present incumbents. Federalism is reviving in this County, and an exertion will be made for assembly and congress, and I entertain very little doubt of ultimate success. . . . I am Dear Sir with respect yours

JACOB RUTSER VAN RENSSELAER.

From Elias Butler.

Walton 1st May 1802.

Dear Sir.

A number of brethren met at my house last evening, but not as many as there should have been. We adjourned to meet again on Monday eve. next, all are anxious to have you attend,—we want your advice in many respects, in order to carry the instituting into full effect. You must be here on Monday, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Mr. Sherwood must attend, please to inform him.

. . . ELIAS BUTLER.

Asa Emmons writes to say that he does not like the nominations for assembly made at Colliers, but hopes that E. for Senator will succeed.

Caleb Benton, Esq.

Catskill May 3d 1802.

Dear Sir.

Your letter of the 18th ult I received, but unfortunately so late it was not possible to write by the last mail. . . . I have recd word that the Federal ticket has succeeded in Columbia. Your immaculate friend Ambrose was the lowest on the Jacobin ticket. I have not heard but expect the Republicans have a large majority in the District. I am cordially Yours

CALEB BENTON.

From E. Foote.

Albany 1802.

Dear Frederick.

. . . Your letter by Mr. Sherwood was wrote very well considering the bad ink. I send you some inkpowder by Mr. Sherwood, and request you to make some new as good as you possibly can. I am your affectionate Father

E. FOOTE.

From Ezekiel Gilbert.

May 4th 1802.

Dear Sir.

Mr. Reside my neighbor and friend is moving into your Quarter, which gives me an opportunity to drop you a line. . . . Of the Columbia election you have probably heard the results. Nominations throughout the county has prevailed. The lowest on the Republican ticket—to his mortification—I will not say shame—is the demagogue of this new world (Spencer). The present moment will not permit me to say more than that your friends in Columbia, . . . will ever bear testimony for you and those principles which have been so early and constantly manifested by you, and other federalists. I send you the Ballance, which may satisfy you as to Columbia.

And remain Yours sincerely

EZEKIEL G. LBERT.

From Judge Wm. W. Van Ness, “a rare genius.”

Hudson 4th May 1802.

Dear Sir.

I have just time to tell you we have carried our election by an average majority of 150 in this county. This will be handed you by an honest man and a good federalist.

Yours Sincerely

W. W. VAN NESS.

From Hon. Morgan Lewis (not a Federalist, but not agreeing with his party in its recent acts).

Staatsburgh 8 May 1802.

Sir.

. . . The rent wheat may be reed whenever you please, and sold for whatever it will bring. . . . It will be no small gratification to you I presume to learn that Columbia is federal. A report cir-

culates that Delaware has done the same thing. I begin to incline a little to Adam's opinion (probably Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," one of the noted books of the day). That we are without National character, certain it is we are very whimsical and inconstant. I know but few people in Columbia, but if the fact is as represented in Delaware,—I can find a consolation in the reflection that as far as my acquaintance extends the worthiest and best men in that Co differ from me in political sentiments. My respects to Mrs. Foote.

Sincerely yours

MORGAN LEWIS.

From Elias Butler. Down to my early days, "rafting" during the spring and fall freshets was a great and lucrative business, if the rafts did not go to pieces on the rocks, or other things happen.

Philadelphia 2d June 1802.

Dear Sir.

. . . Arrived with four rafts, but cannot even find out where the fifth is. Market uncommon dull, boards selling very low, quantities of lumber in town, and the Board merchants determined to try our patience. Mine is nearly exhausted. Hope to meet you in New York. Write me, I will call at the office daily. With the highest esteem.

ELIAS BUTLER.

Brockholst Livingstone, Esq., comes to Court and hurries off at once.

Delhi 25th June 1802.

Dear Sir.

I fully intended to have had the pleasure of passing the evening with you agreeable to your friendly invitation, but contrary to my expectation, the court has just adjourned. Having some private business to attend to in Newburgh, which

it will be in my power to transact, before the Circuit in Columbia begins,—if I set out immediately on my return,—I have determined to go back as far as Hattels tonight. This must be my apology for not calling on you. I am with Respect and esteem Sir, Your obedient servant.

BROCKHOLST LIVINGSTONE.

A number of bills in August. One for "One 10 inch Knob lock for front door. 1.8.0." Also "42 lbs. lump sugar at 23 cts lb."!!

Charles writes his father that he is completely bankrupt, a not uncommon remark to fathers from sons in college, but the amount of his indebtedness, perhaps, differs slightly from that of a son of 1925.

Schenectady Sep. 8 1802.

My dear Father.

I became completely bankrupt some time ago. I owe for my washing \$3.00 and the woman is pressing me,—and I lately became a member of the Themean Society which has, or rather will when I have paid it, cost me \$1.50, and to the Philo Society I owe 37 cts, which makes up nearly \$5.00!!! Examinations take place the last of this month, and then I shall be at liberty. If it should please you write me, I should wish to know whether I am to expect a horse from home, or to procure one somewhere here, and in what manner I shall come home, if you intend I shall,—which by the by, I begin to feel anxious to do. It is needless to inform Mama of my love and respect.

Your affectionate son and Most Humble Servant,
CHARLES A. FOOTE.

From Charles A. Foote. Direk Ten Broeck had just failed in business, as most people were on the brink of doing at this time. They were in-

timate friends of E.'s. Notice cold of bedrooms in good houses.

P. S. I am now nearly 18 years old and when I reflect on the obstacles to be overcome to make a man of eminence!!!!

Albany Nov. 15 1802.

Dear Father.

Several circumstances have prevented my writing till now. I wished to hear from Schenectady, and also to learn something certain of Mr. Ten Broecks affairs. With respect to the first, I found on my arrival in Albany, that three weeks have been added to the vacation in consequence of the college not being quite finished. Had not my horse belonged here, I should immediately have returned home, for Mr. Root (Wm.) was in Catskill, so that I was obliged to stay at Trowbridge's for one night till his return, since which I am with him. Perhaps you may have heard he is going to leave this place in Jan. Dunbar will take charge of the office. I have been up on the hill several times. The first time nobody was at home but the Gen. himself. He appeared very much troubled as though he wished to say something which he did not know how to begin, but after a deep sigh, he asked if I had heard of his sons difficulties. He said he could never speak of it without shedding tears, and I could not help being much affected myself, to see him so troubled. He said he thanked God he had a competency left. He was quite affectionate, and pressed me to come and dine with them every day while I was in town. The old lady said she never had a more sorrowful time than when Dirck came up the hill with Flirt in his arms, and said, "I have now neither house nor home."

Mr. Van Rensselaer and his wife are in New York so that I have not an opportunity of seeing

him. My hand is so stiff with cold, I can write no more.

Your affec. son & humble servant

CHARLES A. FOOTE.

Arbor Hill was considered very sumptuous, because it was built with a fireplace in every principal room in the house.

Schenectady Dec 1st 1802.

Dear Father.

I have but a few moments to write, as Mr. Marvin who takes this, leaves town tomorrow early. Mr. Allen has left his family in Rhode Island, so that I have been obliged to change my board till the steward is settled in college. I find that the expense of furnishing my room is much more expensive than I at first calculated.

We have had a great accession of students, and considerable alterations since Dr. M. arrived but have now got pretty well settled again. According to new arrangements, I am to study this winter, Euclid's Elements, and logic, in addition to former ones. Be assured of my affection and sincere respect.

YOUR SON

CHARLES A. FOOTE.

From Justin.

Brooklyn Dec 19 1802.

Dear Eben.

As I get no answers, conclude you never get my letters by post, and was most glad when Mr. Butlers son called at our Counting house, and offered to take a letter to you. Our new place is at the corner of Fly Market and South St.

Affect.

JUSTIN.

From Mr. Ketteltas' secretary (?)

Albany Dec 31 1802.

Sir.

The title to lot No. 88 Hector, claimed by yourself and Mr. Ketteltas, is not yet decided on by the Commissioners, a circumstance unexpected by him, and I presume by yourself. He requested me to inform him of the decision, and send him Clarkes affidavit. This affidavit the Commissioners desire to retain, for what reason I know not. As you will be in Albany this winter, hope you will attend to the business, and try to get a decision for your mutual interests.

With respect and esteem I am Yours

SILAS MARSH.

From Elisha Williams. "Accounted the ablest lawyer in a county of brilliant men."

Hudson 6th February 1803.

My Dear Sir.

Beyond measure I regret my absence from home at the hour you was here. For many, very many, reasons, I wished to see you, some of a professional, some of a political and most of a personal nature, all to be duly attended to in Albany, all of which shall be duly attended to in Albany. . . . Our best wishes await you and your good family.

Affectionately yours

ELISHA WILLIAMS.

From Charles. Several combined. Still going back on horseback.

Schenectady Feb. 5th 1803.

My dear mother.

With pleasure I hear that Providence still continues to bless you with health. I have been very well all winter.

April 5th. I see that Aunt Maries brother (Justin's wife) died in Tobago after an illness of

only five days. I await your commands about coming home.

June 20th. At length have I arrived at Schenectady. The horse I returned in Albany to his owner, King, who came to Mr. Root's for him. He tried to get more, but Mr. Root told him he was hired for \$5.00, and was in much better condition than when taken, and King seemed satisfied.

Margaret Ten Broeck had just returned from New York, with a good account of Dirck and his family. I delivered the pumpkin seeds to Mr. Ten Broeck who promised to make much of them. Paid my respects to Mr. Van Rennselaer but he and his wife were just setting off for the Springs (Ballston Spa in those days, instead of Saratoga) so that I could not stay long. He inquired after the health of the family, and particularly, if you were coming to Albany soon.

June 25. I have not been able to pay for my coat on account of having to buy so many new books. The faculty have made such arrangements with respect to our studies, that some books that I have we do not study until the latter part of summer.

On my return I found everything in Statu quo. Scarce anything more done except digging wells and some such trifles about the yard.

The Hall is still unfinished, in consequence of which, our Exhibition is again deferred for a time.

Your aff son & huble servt
CHARLES A. FOOTE.

From all I can gather, I am afraid many of the richest men were so because they made no allowances to their debtors. See "pay twice."

From Wm. Root.

Hudson July 13 1803.

My friend Foote.

You know about my Bond, interest just due. Now you must call on Mr. Rhineland, say I have written you, and if he will not give you satisfaction, and wait a few days, to avoid trouble I must ask you—yes my friend, you must at once procure the money, \$455.00 and if necessary pay twice.

WM. ROOT.

From John DeWitt. Prominent man from Dutchess, I think.

Clinton August 27 1803.

Friend Foote.

I have heard of your passing and repassing, but as poor Jack lives a little out of the way, it appears too much trouble for Ebenezer to call and see him. Mr. Joshua Morse is here on his way to Delaware, and I have only time to inform you that my family are well, and that the Yellow fever is getting worse and worse in New York since you left it. Politics the same, no nominations yet made for Congress.

It will give me much pleasure to hear from you by Mr. Morse on his return, if I may not have the pleasure of seeing you here. I am with much respect and esteem,

Ebenezers sincere friend

JOHN DEWITT.

From Wm. Root.

Albany September 2d 1803.

Friend Foote.

The Gen. has just favored me with a call of about ten minutes. By him I learn of the welfare of yourself and family, which was joyful tidings. Mrs. Roots present state of health precludes our projected journey to the Westward, but we do not relinquish the idea entirely,—to appear to you in

Propria persona, at Delaware. This is a favorite with Mrs. Root (in theory) and very much so with your humble servant. Permit me at least to thank you for as important a request as has, or probably ever will fall to your share. As to that all is well now. There is not the least consolation in politics,—we have deceived ourselves in every way. Best respects for yourself and family.

Your friend
WM. ROOT.

From Daniel Hale.

Albany 1st Sept 1803.

My Friend.

I met with Col. Butler by accident at Websters bookstore, and I cannot permit him to leave town without sending a line to you safely, 'tho I have nothing pleasing or encouraging to communicate. Many of our friends talk of a change in prospect, but for my own part, I can see nothing that looks like it. I hear that Morgan Lewis is to be appointed Mayor of New York, worth 12000 or 15000 per annum. By the way, I hear that this same gentleman is very friendly to you. Gen. Schuyler & Judge Kent still retain their dignity and propriety of conduct, over a certain class here, which is a gratification to me, as it will be to you. We must put up a candidate for Gov. to keep the party together though it looks hopeless to go against Clinton. What say you to Judge Kent. His mind is open, candid, and liberal, and his manners popular. . . . Give me your candid sentiments, . . . Let me hear from you, we must commence in season. In sincerity Your friend

DANIEL HALE.

ON MANY MATTERS

Both Judge Foote and his son, Charles, were particularly fond of gardening. They brought the first Bermuda lilies and made asparagus beds even at that early day. It doesn't take two days to get from Delhi to Albany now!!

Albany 11th Oct. 1803.

Dear Father.

I arrived here safely in two days from home, and found all friends well. I went to the man who makes gloves, and ordered him to make a pair of the description you gave me, and he promised to have them ready by Saturday night. When I went for them, he had not touched them, and I was obliged to get a pair ready made, Buckskin, same price, 10/, and he charged them, and I left them to be given Mr. Sherwood. There are also some Horse chestnuts in the bundle, which I got at the Patroons. If they are planted this fall they will come up in the spring. I have just returned from Mr. Van Rensselaers. He was very kind and sociable.

Shall go up to Schenectady this afternoon. . . .

CHARLES.

Wm. Root writes in October.

Of your son, I can only say, no student stands on higher ground in every respect at Union, than he.

Mr. Van Schaack in a letter much too long to copy says, "The Patroon is the father of a fine daughter, born last Monday, so I was told when dining in the Great Hall last night" (at Albany).

But he speaks as if Massachusetts were now his home, and thinks Federalists are gaining ground.

John P. Foote, nephew. Eli's son.

New York 14 June 1804.

Dear Uncle.

I called at Mr. Ogdens office to get the papers and forward to you by this conveyance, and was told by the young clerk there, that there were no papers there for you,—that the papers for you were not ready, that Mr. Ogdens brother who had charge of your papers was out of town, and that was all of the satisfaction I could obtain. Your trunk was yesterday sent on board the sloop Commodore as you requested. Please give my love to all the family.

Affectionately

JOHN P. FOOTE.

From James Cochran.

Palatine Oct. 5 1804.

Dr Sir.

As your son did not arrive at our house but a few days before the expiration of his vacation, he could not stay with us as long as we wished. We all like him very much, his manners are agreeable, and he undoubtedly will make a very clever fellow. I only wish I could induce him to study law with me for a few years. I stated to him that I had a room for him in my office, and that board could be obtained in the neighborhood for about 10/ a week. He would see at my house from time to time, as much good company as he could wish, and every attention in my power paid to him. He would have the benefit of a good library, classical, political, historical, beside the law books.

If you and he would understand yourselves on the subject, it would please me much. I shall probably see you in Albany next winter when we can talk it over.

With respect & esteem

JAMES COCHRAN.

From Justin.

New York 8th Oct. 1804.

Dear Brother.

. . . As to the Turnpike I would not invest if I were you. I have 100 shares which I could not sell, even for old vessels.

But he did buy.

From Samuel Freer, editor Kingston paper.

Kingston October 14, 1804.

Sir.

You have no doubt heard that the mail will soon be carried from this town to Delhi, every week!!! but before I go farther let me announce to you the glorious triumph of federalism in the state of Delaware. The great Bayard is elected to Congress by a majority of 361. It is Glorious, honorable!!! I sollicit your hearty support for the Ulster Gazette.

Respectfully Yours
SAMUEL FREER.

Dr. Fowler.

Newburgh Oct. 21, 1804.

Dear Sir.

It isn't easy to describe the pleasing sensation my family experienced on account of your familys visit. I am astonished at the growth of your children,—with their comely appearance, and the decent modest deportment. I have sent you by Frederick a few small fruit trees, if you are fortunate enough to save them, you will find them of good Quality. . . .

Your friend and humble servt.

DAVID FOWLER.

From Major de Zerg.

Kingston Oct 23 1804.

My dear Friend.

Had we not quite by chance heard that Mrs. Foote was in town, we should not have had the pleasure to see your family at this time. I am willing to cover it over for the present, on condition that the next time, our house will be favored by you, and all yours when in this part of the country. A denial will only be adding a new crime to the multiplicity of your federal sins. You will see by the last papers that Russia has declared war against the Galls (?) You will be good enough to accept some small fruit trees, the plums of the best quality, known here as Banckers Gages. I hope the peach trees will prove good. You will find likewise lilacs, snowballs, and asparagus seed, and I demand for all these good things, that the fruit procured from all these unusual luxuries, shall never be tasted by a Jacobin democrat, except when your known hospitality cannot get clear of it. In the pleasing expectation to see you soon here, I beg you will believe me to remain as usually my dear Sir,

Yours Sincerely

FREDERICK DE ZERG.

From Solomon Sleight.

Newburgh Oct 26 1804.

Dear Sir.

. . . Mrs. Foote spent a few hours with us yesterday. I flattered myself she would have spent some days with us, after her visit with her Purdy relatives in Westchester, but she discovers the utmost anxiety to return to you. I am pleased to learn that she is pleased not only, but happy in her new situation, and I question much if she would return to Newburgh, with her present impressions of Delhi. I had written you a long letter concerning the death of Gen. Hamilton, which

waited for a safe conveyance, to avoid the curiosity of postmasters, or their masters. . . . The death of that great man is a subject I cannot bear to dwell upon, and I know your feelings are the same. It is supposed Burr will return to New York, and endeavor to regain his former station, if he can with safety. Attempts are being made to discover the feelings & dispositions of people toward him, but as far as I can learn, he has received but little encouragement, but his friends declare that he will resume his professional labors there. . . .

Aff.

SOLOMON SLEIGHT.

I cannot find out who Levi McKean was, but evidently a friend of Burr and one of the attempts mentioned by Mr. Sleight, to probe the feelings of former friends of Burr is indicated below. E. and Burr had been great friends, and I wish very much that we had written proof from E. himself, but aside from Mr. Sleight's remarks, and the sense of justice and right doing which was ever present, I do not for a moment believe that all the enticements of that charmer of men and women would swerve him from taking the side of Mr. Hamilton, whom he also knew very well.

Poughkeepsie 2d December 1804.

Dear Sir.

I have the pleasure to enclose for you, a letter which came to my hand, to be forwarded to you, and which I hope will be safely delivered, as it is from a man (Burr. K. F.) whom I know you must feel a generous concern for. The events which have taken place in relation to that estimable man, has really been attended with the most unaccountable consequences, but they will in the event, exhibit him to the world which party rage, nor mal-patriotism, will not be able to efface.

I know not your opinion of the events alluded to above,—but I have a just idea of your generosity of character. I shall rest confident, that while you will find no less reason to esteem Col. Burr, you will see abundant cause to interest the humanity of every gentleman, or man of courage. For my part I anticipate the time when he will be hailed as the Coriolanus of his country. I have the honour to be, Dear Sir, Your obedient servant,

LEVI MCKEAN.

From Aaron Burr, very formal.

Washington Nov. 26 1804.

Dear Sir.

It would be a very great accommodation to me to have the money due on the notes of Hotchkiss. Be pleased to urge him to payment, and remit whatever you receive to Matthew L. Davis of New York, or if more convenient, to Wm. Pitt Beers, at Albany. I am Dear Sir, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

AARON BURR.

Mr. Davis was one of the two men with whom he left his affairs after the murder.

From Justin.

New York Dec. 20 1804.

My dear fellow.

. . . Major de Zerg is in town trying to raise the wind with turnpike stock. I fear however not succeeding, but he is very sanguine that the stock is good property. I wish it may prove so. . . .

Yours aff.

JUSTIN.

From Charles.

Union College Dec 10 1804.

Dear Father.

The news of Gen. Butlers death was as melancholy as it was unexpected. I had heard nothing of his illness until Clark told me of his death. He was indeed our friend, and I can only remember his hospitality, when we arrived in the new county, a family of houseless wanderers, and all the world looked dark, and he smiled.

Yr. hubl servt & son

CHARLES.

A letter from Wm. Butler, brother of Elias, says the latter is too ill to write, but must see Ebenezer about a slave, Nance, as there will be trouble if not attended to immediately, as somebody thinks he has a prior claim. I am sad myself to say good bye to nice Elias.

Justin.

March 1st 1805.

I intend to devote next summer in visiting, and God willing I shall hunt in the valley of Delhi, and with Isaac, who writes urging his claims. . . .

JUSTIN.

Isaac was another brother, who had settled in Chenango County, where he was a Judge, legislator, and generally respected man.

Letter from Hon. John Jay, about land, which he owns in Delaware County.

Bedford 19th March, 1805.

Dear Sir.

. . . Reposing great confidence in your Judgment and Probity, I take the liberty of requesting you to attend to all of this business. . . . With unabated esteem and regard, I am Dear Sir,

Your most obedient Servant

JOHN JAY.

From Justin.

Newburgh 5th April.

. . . You have no doubt heard that the Merchants Bank have a Charter. I think it better than Manhattan, and it will do much good in the city. We have been sorely pressed this winter, in consequence of the banks setting their faces against the Merchants bank, too long. I will tell you when I see you. . . .

aff.

JUSTIN.

Elisha Williams.

Hudson April 17 1805.

Dear Sir.

I hear this day that Van Vechten is upon the Assembly ticket for Albany. I wish I could hear that E. Foote is certain to be elected from Delaware. . . . God bless you.

ELISHA WILLIAMS.

From W. W. Van Ness.

Hudson May 6th 1805.

Dear Sir.

It gives me great satisfaction to inform you of the triumph of good principles in this Co. Van Vechten leading. Do let me hear immediately from Delaware. . . .

W. W. VAN NESS.

From Mr. Hale. The Battery, it may be remembered, was the fashionable promenade of the day, and also that Mr. Hale was the political enemy of Governor Clinton.

Albany 12th Aug. 1805.

I met His Excellency the Gov. in walking around the Battery. The interview was short, but he behaved with perfect civility. . . .

DANIEL HALE.

From Elisha Williams.

Hudson 30 August 1805.

I hope you have returned from your journey to New York. If you could have favored me with a call at Hudson, it would have been peculiarly agreeable. This is an hour of doubt and difficulty. . . . May I not hear from you. If you are disposed to do good, furnish me with some of your reflections on the state of the Nation. . . .

ELISHA WILLIAMS.

Justin.

Aug 29 Batttown (?) Springs 1805.

Dear Eben.

I forgot to write you that we have begun a journey, which is not to end until we have visited your habitation at Delhi. We have been here one week intending to have left yesterday, but rain prevented. Shall leave with the first fair weather, go to Cooperstown, thence to Sherburne (where Judge Isaac Foote lived), then to Delhi. How you are to get this letter I know not, shall probably have to send it via Albany, and should it fail to reach you, and you be from home, Justin and Marie will be too sadly disappointed.

JUSTIN.

FEDERALIST CHIMERAS

Two weeks later they have reached home. Notice they were on horseback. Going across country as they were doing, nothing but a heavy cart-er's wagon would have been of any use. Sack-rider house still stands on the road to Stamford, but I believe in other hands now. They were people of prominence in the town, but almost everybody was called upon to care for wayfarers, and I like to think that, as E. would know them well, he having rode with Justin as far as that, introduced him, and all had a friendly luncheon together.

Newburgh 26 Sept 1805.

Dear Eben.

According to promise, I now intend giving you the history of our Jaunt home. After leaving you at Sackriders, we rode to the home of ———, two miles on the turnpike, where we dined. While at dinner who should come in but R. Bowne on his way to Franklin. From there we drove to Rackmires, where we lodged, and from there to Deweys to breakfast. Called at J. Barkers for a short time, and drove to S—— to dine. After dinner we rode 17 miles to ——— and put up at D——, within 7 miles of Kingston. The 3d day we arrived at de Zergs for breakfast. That night staid 7 miles from Poughkeepsie, & arrived at G. Everstons to breakfast and dine, and in the afternoon rode to Valley (Pleasant Valley). Saturday after breakfast we started for home, dined with Mrs. DeWitt, and reached home about five o'clock. . . .

JUSTIN.

From Abram Van Vechten.

Albany Oct 18 1805.

Your agreeable favor by Judge Leal reached me last week.

Touching the schism among the democrats, I can only say that I can perceive no signs of a reconciliation. What it will produce, I am at a loss even to conjecture. At present there is bitter enmity between the Lewisites & Clintonians. . . . DeWitt will probably have a majority in the Council. If so, the Gov. will have a turbulent meeting.

Federalists I fear have not much to hope for, the people are under such strong delusion, that nothing short of a miracle will remove it.

Ambrose is in a dilemma. What course he will ultimately pursue is problematical. I suspect he is not very sincerely attached to either.

Tillotson writhes under the lash, and stands ready to make ample confession of his sins, and promise reformation as soon as he can meet with a person whose authority to grant absolution may be deemed competent. Poor fellow, it is surmised that his repentance will be too late, and that judgement is made up against him. I confess I am so depraved as not to be much moved by the tribulation before him.

Best wishes for health, happiness & prosperity, to you & yours.

A. VAN VECHTEN.

From Judge Isaac Foote.

Jerrico Dec 14 1805.

Dear Brother.

. . . I have inspected the bridge erected across the Susquehanna under the superintendence of Major de Zerg, and am highly pleased with the performance. I think the work is executed in a very masterly manner both for strength and elegance, and reflects great honour on both the archi-

tect and superintendent. I am so well pleased with the unexpected acquaintance with Mr. de Zerg, that it would add peculiar satisfaction to me to wait on him in company with you at my dwelling in Sherburne, although you will not find me situated in such elegance of style as you are. Believe me, it adds sensible pleasure to understand that altho your enemies have been indefatigable in their endeavors to press you down, you have imitated the Palm tree in some respects and risen high.

Accept of my most brotherly affection to you and yours.

ISAAC FOOTE.

There is a torn strip addressed to Mr. Foote, care of Leroy & Bayard.

Lotteries were the great rage, and I find my ancestor foolishly indulging.

From John Parsons Foote.

New York 24 Jan. 1806.

Dear Sir.

. . . I enclose Mrs Caines receipt for the Turnpike stock, and purchased ticket No. 25627, which I had no doubt, would draw the highest prize,—but by some unaccountable mistake, that prize came to some other number, and a prize of \$5,000 being the best that remains, we must calculate to be content with that, as I do not suppose it would answer any purpose to tell the Managers of the mistake they have made, in not giving us the \$20,000 one. I am sorry to find that the Continental Powers of Europe have made as great a mistake as the Managers of the lottery, for it seems that instead of destroying the rascal Bonaparte & his army, they have suffered him to take peaceable possession of Vienna, and it is feared will patch up a shameful peace with him. With affectionate remembrances to my Aunt & cousins, I remain

JOHN PARSONS FOOTE.

From Justin.

New York Jan 24 1806.

Dear E.

Am sending this by Mr. Hobby (Selah). . . . Marie still having trouble getting such service as she likes. Have just bought a black girl much like your Bet, but she is not Hagaar. It appears that Bony is driving the Austrians like sheep before him, and killing as many as he pleases and the British are dreading him as badly at sea,—their Navy is nearly destroyed. It is said that Bony has made his triumphant entry into Vienna, and the Prussians keep his army to defend his neutrality.

JUSTIN.

Mr. Swartwout was a well known man and merchant.

From Col. John Swartwout.

New York 5th April 1806.

Dear Sir.

Recd your favor of the 5th March via Albany. My answer has been delayed by our having been in treaty for the sale of our stock in trade, of oils, paints &c. Our business in future will be confined to the sale of dye woods and drugs. Still it will afford me great pleasure if I can give you any aid, in procuring the articles you are in need of, and I beg you will command me with freedom. In answer to your postscript, I presume you have observed by the late papers that the famous Union has gotten on a Lee shore. I answer your question by asking another, viz. Pray who is the Dupe. In great truth & sincerity Yr Assured friend

JOHN SWARTWOUT.

From S. Sleight.

Newburgh Apr 6 1806.

Dear Hal.

There is the de—l to pay again in New York. Gen. Baily says in the papers that the Clinton party and the Mayor of New York (Dewitt Clinton) had no hand in forming the Union. Col. Swartwout flatly contradicts him in terms too, not of the mildest. You can easily conjecture what this will lead to. Tell Mrs. Foote we esteem, love and honour her.

SLEIGHT.

James Cheetham spoken of in Mr. Van Vechten's letter was an English refugee, the tool of Dewitt Clinton, editing "American Citizen and Watchtower," but was discarded in 1809. (See *Alexander's History*.)

From Abram Van Vechten.

Albany April 7 1806.

Dear Sir.

To evince my charity, I hasten to answer your letter, although it is pretty late in the evening of the day, in which we close our legislative labors. The result in a certain case I will communicate to you, sub rosa, in my next. You venture on a bold assertion when you declare it is the most rascally cause I have ever been engaged in. To prove this, I need only tell you that I am to try two slander suits, for Cheetham, against the ex-recorder of New York. Do not stare! but hear my apology if it is necessary for a lawyer to make one for lending his services in a controversy between two democrats,—when he is well paid for it. The simple truth of the matter is this,—I consider the parties as fair professional game, neither has any claim on a federalist, but in a professional capacity, both are proper subjects of speculation. I do not mean to prostitute myself to the interests of such men, their money

however when obtainable in an honest way, is worth as much in an action for slander between them, as other mens.

I submit to your impartial judgement the whole case. There is now more real bitterness between the Lewisites and Clintonians than there ever has been between the democrats and federalists. In New York, I am informed, a strong federal ticket will be run, and my correspondents speak with confidence of success. Thus stand things at present—what changes a few days will bring, you shall have in my next.

Yours Sincerely
 ABRAM VAN VECHTEN.

T. Tillotson was an old acquaintance of E., one of whose letters I believe has been included, and I put in this for what it is worth. My notes say, "Thomas Tillotson worked hard for Tompkins for Governor and then was turned out of office by Tompkins' Council of Appointment."

Albany April 18 1806.

Dear Sir.

You are I find, very much of a croaker, and have not the same confidence in the good sense of the people as you know I have been in the habit of indulging in. To conclude that Jacobinism is as prevalent in the other counties as in yours is not charitable.

Among poor ignorant uninformed people, a "Root" is sufficient to produce mischief for a time, but though he may be of the root, I am sure he is not of the stem of Jesse. The prospects to the west and middle are good, to the north as good as the means we have to employ & the disadvantages incident to them, in the kind of warfare we are embarked in. Your federalists at New York and Ulster are likely to do us more harm than all the Footes and Roots in the state. Should they make a ticket (by the by I feel very

apprehensive), it will effectually prostrate those who have set their faces against the Jacobinism of the state, and throw them back at least three years. It will be of some use, inasmuch as it will satisfy the federalists that their visionary schemes of resuscitating as Federalists,—are delusive and hopeless. If they persevere, I shall knock under, and shelter myself under the spreading oaks of Rhinebeck. Their conduct will be as treacherous as anything we have received from the Clintons & Spencers. . . . I am Sir Yours sincerely

THOMAS TILLOTSON.

In a letter full of politics I copy only the last paragraphs. E. was at this time just 50 years old.

From Garret B. Van Ness.

Poughkeepsie April 17 1806.

Dear Sir.

. . . Could I see you for one hour by my fire-side, I should feel delighted in entering much more in detail on these matters, but I cannot in this way. Indeed the labors of the day have too much fatigued me to devote more time to a friend whom I ardently cherish, and whose councils are sanctioned by age and experience.

GARRET VAN NESS.

From Gov. Morgan Lewis.

Staatsburgh 31 August 1806.

Dear Sir.

I forgot when last with you to request the favour of you, to preserve for me some of the stones of your wild Plumb, and shall beg of you to send me some.

Your friend and servant,
MORGAN LEWIS.

From Gen. Jacob Morton.

New York Dec. 10 1806.

My Dear Sir.

I wrote you and enclosed a map of our lands. Will you do me the favour, if you can, of informing me of the situation, soil, vicinity of settlements, &c. We are desirous of disposing of it and some offers have been made. . . . Our triumph in the Charter election you have heard, and rejoice with us. The current is set against the folks at present in power, and when it begins to run, it generally goes the tide out. The newspapers will inform you that Bonaparte has lately made a breakfast upon the King of Prussia and his 150,000 men. Tho' this is but a just retribution of Heaven, for the royal rascal's former duplicity,—yet in the scale of weight, is most dreadful, and will go far toward giving Bonaparte complete ascendancy on the continent.

I have scribbled my paper full, and have hardly room to say, what my heart is full of,—that I am very sincerely your friend,

JACOB MORTON.

From Abram Van Vechten.

Albany Dec 29 1806.

Dear Sir.

It is so long since I have heard from you, that I begin to fear that Quidism has swallowed you up. The New York Charter election and the exultation it has produced, excites some alarm among the quids. With respect and esteem,

Yours,

ABRAM VAN VECHTEN.

From Obadiah Sands.

Walton March 16, 1807.

Dear Sir.

I have not time to write you as I wish. Can only mention that Esq. Osborn did in the presence of Capt. Goodman when called upon, did declare

that he was a Lewisite. Yet after all, he is a suspicious character, for Mr. Root says he will avouch for Osborn's Conduct!!!

. . . OBADIAH SANDS.

From Abram Van Vechten.

Albany March 3d 1807.

Dear Sir.

. . . Having said so much on the subject, I will add that I believe Gov. Lewis himself is not perfectly pleased with the measures of the Council (Council of Appointment. K. F.). He appears ready to adopt a more magnanimous course, but is over-ruled by narrow minded and timid Councilors. The idea that I meant to express at the meeting at the Tontine, was that the Federalists go to the Polls and cast their votes for Lewis, on the grounds that his administration is the most acceptable of the Democratic kind,—since we cannot have our own at present. When we have a second meeting, you shall be informed of the result.

I am yours sincerely

ABRAM VAN VECHTEN.

From Elisha Williams.

Hudson March 10 1807.

My dear friend.

. . . I need not say that the good old cause becomes more endeared to me every day, as the new fangled theories of Modern Philosophy are reduced to practice. The opening prospect is to me most alarming, honest men differ in opinion, and we no longer have an Umpire (Washington. K. F.) to direct and advise. We have yet no Mayor of New York, no Judge of the Supreme Court. There is no warrant that the Chief Magistrate has any influence in his own Council, and there is certainly much heartburning and recrimination, . . . all this I say to you and you alone. This

state of things ought to be realized by as few as possible unless we abandon all in despair. When I am in better spirits, I will write again.

Your sincere and cordial friend,
ELISHA WILLIAMS.

Two letters from John Suydam, of the same tenor as the last.

Wm. Van Ness.

New York 11 April 1807.

My dear Sir.

I have time to write you a few lines only. We are anxiously awaiting your nominations from Delaware. The election is at hand, and for Heavens sake, give us somebody. It would be unpardonable in this District which can elect honest men, to allow Clintonians to prevail. I have heard nothing from your county, and know not whether you have been nominated for Senator or not. (Almost all of the late letters have urged standing for Senator again, but I do not think he ran. K. F.) The federalists in New York have but one sentiment among them now, and Lewis will hardly lose a Federal vote here. Let me hear from you.

Yours truly and sincerely,
WM. W. VAN NESS.

From Peter R. Livingstone.

April 12 1807.

Dear Sir.

Permit me to beg of you the favor to give me a statement of the State of your county, on the subject of the ensuing election.

In your calculations My Friend, let not your Wishes, and feelings enter into the estimate, for they too often lead us into error. Our information from the North promises a favorable issue to the election. In our District, we shall disappoint our Enemies. The city I have no doubt, will give

the Good Majority of 300, and it is the General Opinion that the Faction will not succeed in the Assembly ticket. Let me hear from you by return Post, and give me all the information you can.

Yours truly
PETER R. LIVINGSTONE.

P. S. I pray you not to delay my request, as I am highly interested in your information.

From Judge C. J. Brooks.

April 15 1807.

Dear Sir.

Not recollecting with precision all the facts relative to our dispute with the squatter, I thought it most safe to refer Mr. Williams to you. The deed of L. Kortright is recorded in. . . .

We leave to you and our lawyers our affairs to do what you think best.

Yours with esteem
C. J. BROOKS.

I have not found out who Judge Brooks was, nor do I know the one which follows, but both were Federalists and their party had failed to elect their forlorn hope, Morgan Lewis.

Wm. W. Wilson to E. Foote.

Cleremont May 9 1807.

Dear Sir.

. . . Below I give you the return of votes canvassed or ascertained as nearly as possible. From the result we have not much to hope, and I can only add that we must wait for other and better times. I am Sir,

Your humble servant
W. W. WILSON.

There had been nothing lately of Major de Zerg's road, and I imagine that the hopes ex-

pressed in the next came to naught but, however that may be, it comes in with the settlement of the new counties.

From John De Witt of Newburgh.

Walton June 17, 1807.

John DeWitt to his brother (Masonic) Ebenezer Foote, greeting.

I left Newburgh last week Wednesday in company with Francis Crawford and others appointed by the inhabitants of Newburgh to explore the country for a road from that place to Oxford, for a great Appian Way to Lake Superior. We are so far on our return from Oxford. We are well satisfied that a good road can be cut through, the only part not extraordinary good is the hill between the two branches of the Delaware and one between the East branch of the Delaware and the Beaverkill.

Time will not permit, or I should call on you. Adieu.

JOHN DEWITT.

From Barent Gardinier.

New York Sept 5, 1807.

Dear Sir.

A letter from Luther Martin recd this morning, informs us that Col. Burr is acquitted. In haste

Yours,
B. GARDINIER.

From Judge Van Ness.

Hudson 10 Jan. 1808.

Dear Sir.

Having understood that you are to be in this city this day, I have a few words to say to you. Williams and I are obliged to go to Gen. Livingstons on business, and it is quite probable we shall be detained until evening. Now I strictly charge and command you, not to depart the city of

Hudson, till I have seen you and had you at my house. You have given out I hear in speech at Catskill, that you meant to go to Williams only, and not to any other house. This also I peremptorily, and positively forbid—you may stay with him $\frac{1}{4}$ of your time, and the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ with me. He is but a Member of Assembly, I am a Judge!!!! Fail not on your peril.

Affectionately

WM. VAN NESS.

As I have before remarked, people seemed to find winter, when there was sleighing, a propitious time for visiting. This definite record of a visit from Gen. Morris to Arbor Hill interests me very much. Isaac Cooper was the son of Judge Wm. Cooper, and James Fenimore Cooper in one of his novels, gives an account of a similar visit to another great house of the early days.

From Gen. Morris.

Butternuts 10 March 1808.

Dear Sir.

On Saturday the 25th ult, with my daughter Sarah, and her companion Miss D. Hanson, I started in a sleigh for Delhi, to make you and your family a visit. We arrived at your house about 7 o'clock in the evening of that day, and were received and entertained in a polite, friendly, and hospitable manner, by your son and the ladies. I regretted much your absence, for your company and conversation are at all times most agreeable to me. After passing our time very pleasantly till Saturday morning after breakfast with your good wife and the rest of the family, we returned by way of Walton, and came home that evening. Having thus paved the way, I flatter myself we shall not be long without the pleasure of a visit from you and Mrs. Foote.

Mr. Frederick Foote promised if there should

be sleighing after your return to bring his bride and the young ladies to see us, and as it is probable there will be sleighing for some time, we shall look for them, as will my son-in-law, Mr. Isaac Cooper, to whom I gave him a letter. We found the sleighing very good by the way of Walton, but further than the other way. Our public concerns look rather squally,—if we submit to the late decree of Napoleon at Milan, we will submit to anything—it is aimed at us alone, is subversive of our neutral rights, and is just cause of war, which in the present state of the European world, would, in my weak judgement, be a salutary measure, saving us from greater misfortunes, and preserve our honor and independence. Mrs. Morris unites with me and my daughter Sarah, in respectful compliments to yourself, Mrs. Foote, Mr. Fred Foote and his lady, and to the young ladies. I remain Dear Sir,

Your friend and obedient humble servant

JACOB MORRIS.

C. E. Elmendorf writes of a federalist meeting, at which L. Gansevoort was chairman, and adds:

. . . Have you seen old Tim Pickering's letter. It ought to be written in letters of gold, on a table of steel.

C. ELMENDORF.

The next is from my grandfather, Charles, speaking of the Embargo, of Mr. Jefferson's partiality for France, and the forced general training of the day. He had left Judge Van Schaak's, at Kinderhook, where he studied law with Martin Van Buren—whose coming out to Arbor Hill I have spoken of elsewhere—and was now in New York, in the law office of Josiah Ogden Hoffman, Esq.

New York April 7 1808.

My dear Father.

. . . Captain Evertsen said something about Sergt Major for me, if it is attended with little trouble and less expense, and he can put in a good word for me, I should be glad. Some such berth would be very convenient, and save both training and fines.

Very respectfully and affectionally

CHARLES.

POLITICAL BETRAYAL

The next few letters I have hesitated about including, but the injustice and trickery were so abnormal I copy a part of the story.

From General Morris to Frederick Foote.

Butternuts 31 March 1808.

Dear Sir.

Lest the Committee appointed to promulgate the intelligence may be remiss in their duty, I take the opportunity to inform you that at a large and respectable County meeting of the Electors of this county, at Cooperstown on Tuesday last, the 29 inst. your Father was unanimously nominated as a candidate for representation in Congress in this district.

It is the earnest desire of your Fathers friends in this county, who are sanguine of his success, that this information should be made public in Delaware without delay. With respectful Compliments to your Father and all the family, in which my family unite, I remain your friend.

And obedient servant

JACOB MORRIS.

The next is a part of a letter written by Ebenezer to Judge Cooper of Cooperstown, as a partial justification of my honest and upright relative. The whole story is too personal and infamous to transcribe.

E. Foote to Judge Wm. Cooper.

Delhi May 10 1808.

Dear Sir.

From my long acquaintance with you, and the

cordial political and personal friendship I have always entertained for you, and from a belief that these feelings are in a measure at least reciprocated I now take the liberty of addressing you on the disagreeable subject of the late election, and hope that my observations will be received and treated by you with that candour, for which you have always been preeminently characterized. In order to impress you with a just sense of my feelings in the occasion, I must be permitted to repeat a plain unvarnished tale in the language of confidence and friendship. You must know then that just as I was about to set out for New York on business that could not be dispensed with, I was informed by my friend Gen. Chamberlain, that I was nominated at Cooperstown to run as a candidate for Member of Congress. This was the first intimation I ever had that such a thing was contemplated. My friends insisted on my accepting, and said I would be supported, so I left home accompanied by the pleasing reflection that I should receive the support of honorable men, although I did not expect to be elected. . . .

The story of the base means used to elect an opponent I omit.

From Judge Cooper's son, Isaac.

Butternuts June 3 1808.

Ebenezer Foote, Esq.
Sir.

I received by the hands of your friend, Mr. White, yours of the 1st inst, directed to my Father. As he is not at home, I have taken the liberty to peruse and answer the same. On the 26 day of March, the federalists of this county had an uncommonly large and respectable meeting at the academy in Cooperstown. It was resolved almost unanimously, to support yourself for representative in Congress, from this district. So far from intriguing for this nomination, I be-

lieve I was the first person to mention your name as a suitable person, which I did some days before the meeting. Sir, you may rest assured that the proceedings of the committee from your county were not seconded by any of our family, and how these *gentlemen* under the respectable standard of Federalism, could assert this falsehood, I cannot conceive. I give you full authority to tell these honorable gentlemen!!! that when they assert that Judge Cooper and his two sons were at their meeting, they assert what they know to be false. With my best respects to your family, I remain Yours

ISAAC COOPER.

From Gen. Jacob Morris.

Butternuts 3d June 1808.

My Dear Friend.

Mr. White has this moment handed me your favor of the 30th ult. The first intimation of the intrigues and manœuvres practiced by a knot of contemptible fellows from your county to defeat your election, was given me by Mr. White in a letter of April 30, but which did not come to hand till 20 May. I feel extremely indignant at such conduct, knowing your integrity, your independent principles, and your uniform attachment to the Federal cause. Notwithstanding the tricks practiced by a number of people unfriendly to you, and pretended federalists, I never for a moment entertained any doubts. My son-in-law, Mr. Isaac Cooper, is now on a visit here. His father is absent on a journey to the west. He informs me that not one of the Judges family ever gave the least sanction to the measure you complain of. I cannot conceive how it happened, but will endeavor to search out and inform you. We contemplate with much pleasure a visit from you and some of your family this summer. Believe me, Most affectionately your friend and humble servant,

JACOB MORRIS.

The next from Justin is important as touching the Embargo of 1807 to 1809, concerning which I copy an extract found at the New York Public Library.

The Act was passed Dec., 1807, by Jefferson's recommendation, to force the repeal of the Berlin and Milan decrees of Napoleon, and of the British orders in Council. It had the same effect as a blockading of American ports. New York was the most severely crippled of all, because of her immense trade with the West Indies, all the Southern ports of North America, and much of South America. Incomes dwindled to nothing, ships decayed in the harbors, and grass grew on the silent docks.

Federalists denounced the measure hotly. It was repealed in 1809, after ruining hundreds if not thousands of honest men.

To any who have read up to this point, it will be no news that for many years Justin had owned vessels trading with the West Indies and Southern ports, more particularly with North Carolina, where a partner took charge of a store at Murfreesborough, which Justin visited frequently.

Justin writes from his summer place at Newburgh.

Newburgh July 30 1808.

Dear Ebenezer.

Your favor of 13th inst came safe to hand, via New York. That you should discover by my last letter, an unusual depression of spirits is not to be wondered at, as I am not in the habit of cloaking or disguising my feelings to you. I was to be sure almost sick, but that was not all for by the continuance of the rascally Embargo, I was, and am, prevented from placing myself in a situation not to have ruin constantly staring me in the face.

A total stop put to all my business both here and in Carolina, with a heavy debt constantly brought into view by Bank operations, vessels lying idle and food for worms, with a daily expense to take care of them, beside a considerable amount of property in the hands of the Hubbards, with no immediate prospect of collecting and great prospect of losing a large part if not the whole,—all of these put together, with the addition of a debilitated constitution, is rendering my life extremely unpleasant, but as my health is now better, I am less disposed to complain and think less and eat more than for some time past. It is a current report here that the Ulster and Delaware turnpike stock is now worth little or nothing, and that the stockholders will have to make a new road, or never get any income. If so, I shall lose \$3,000. I think from present appearances, that I shall not have the test of scripture applied to me,—viz., that it is easier for a camel to go through, &c. How it will end God knows. You will see by your Herald that Bonaparte has got the grip on the Spaniards. If some one Spaniard, more fortunate than the rest, be able to reach the rascals heart, it would immortalize his name, and relieve mankind of its greatest scourge. That the good Lord may have you in his holy keeping, is the prayer of your brother

JUSTIN.

One from Barent Gardinier, New York, is full of Federal hopes, and speaks of what he has written for the "Evening Post."

From Conrad Elmendorf.

Kingston Aug 9th 1808.

I am directed by a number of free and accepted Masons, who have obtained a dispensation &c from the Grand Master of the State of New York, for a new lodge in this place, to apply to you to install the same on the 29th inst, if your

business and arrangements will permit. Your answer by the next mail is desirable for reasons which are obvious.

Your obt. servant and brother

CONRAD ELMENDORF.

Thomas P. Grosvenor writes an amusing letter, ending with, "I declare myself your friend forever, and hope to have the honor of seeing you at your house in '1 fortnight.'"

The Embargo again. A broadside endorsed, "Resolutions of Freeholders of Chenango County respecting the Embargo. . . ." Dated at, "Norwich (Chenango Co.) 17 Sept. 1808. Hon. Joel Thompson in the chair. David Buttolph Esq. Sec."

Isaac Foote, one of the numerous committee. I copy a few lines:

Your memorialists have viewed with deep concern the total decline of trade and commerce under the ruinous prohibitions, restrictions, and provisions of the aforesaid acts, and feeling in the most sensible manner the distressing effects of these measures of our government, we are constrained to come forward with an earnest request for their immediate suspension, accompanied with our anxious and increasing wishes for their final repeal as soon as the congress of the U. S. shall be assembled.

My grandfather, Charles, married Marie Baldwin, Oct. 10, 1808, as I know from the genealogy, but not a single letter have I concerning the act, which I should value so highly as I do the few words of their subsequent journey back to New York from Arbor Hill, where it would appear they had come for their honeymoon.

From Charles A. Foote.

New York 22 Oct 1808.

My dear Father.

We were somewhat longer in coming to New York than we expected to be when we left home, and after all contrived to ride during the whole of the only two rainy days we had in the time. Mother was very well when we left her at York (her old home, Yorktown). There is not much news worth mentioning, except the report of a French war, which I do not believe is correct. It however made a great stir among the wiseacres here and nothing else was to be heard of yesterday. Pennsylvania and Jersey have both gone to the devil, so that Pinckney and King run very low just at present. Maria has concluded to get only a part of her quota of furniture now, everything is so abominably high. If we were at war with all the world, they could not ask more for everything from abroad.

Respectfully yours,

CHARLES.

Another allusion to the unreliability of the postal service.

From Abram Van Vechten.

Albany 23 Oct. 1808.

Dear Sir.

. . . I wrote you in the way I did, to prevent any discovery by unfaithful postmasters. New Jersey and Pennsylvania are against us. Our hopes therefore of a federal president are at an end. The Circuit court is still sitting here, you will therefore excuse my brevity and haste.

Yours sincerely

ABRAM VAN VECHTEN.

Daniel Tompkins succeeded Governor Lewis.

From ex-Governor Lewis.

Staatsburgh Jan. 24 1809.

Dear Sir.

I know not how it happened, but your letter reached me but two days since. It certainly otherwise would have received an earlier answer. My engagements I assure you are not in politics. It is true the presidential election interested me considerably, not from hostility to any one of the candidates, but from a real conviction of the superior talents of, and a personal attachment to, the successful candidate. I do assure you I have not one particle of interest with the State administration. Tompkins I neither have, nor wish any intercourse with. I despise him most cordially, and really feel almost a contempt for anything connected with his administration. Present my best wishes to your family, and believe me to be Yours faithfully,

M. LEWIS.

From Albany committee.

Albany Jan. 16 1809.

The circular letter inclosed herein, is sent you in the fullest assurance that you will not allow it to be copied, nor permit it to get into the papers. It is intended solely for the information of our political Friends. We remain Sir, with great respect,

Your humble servants,
LEONARD GANSEVOORT,
ABRAM VAN VECHTEN,
WM. PITT BEERS.

From Judge Isaac Foote.

Sherburne Jany 18 1809.

Dear Brother.

I perused your letter sent by John, and can assure you it would give me almost consummate pleasure to visit you this winter in company with

Gen. Morris and his lady, but there are sundry obstacles in the way. 1st, a meeting of delegates from all the counties in the Western district is appointed to deliberate upon National Concerns, and my attendance is insisted upon, but you must note, that it is in a peculiar manner Federal concerns. 2d, on proposing the visit to your sister, she demurred, alleging inability to take such a journey in the winter, but upon a critical examination, I discovered (as I thought) a little pride at the bottom, our equipage would not be quite equal to Morrises. However, I believe I could get over this difficulty if there was nothing else in the way, but you will be going to Albany about the time our Western congress will rise, and have had it in contemplation to visit Albany myself this winter. These few lines will be accompanied with the most cordial affection of your brother and sister.

ISAAC FOOTE.

There are a good many letters from Thomas Tillottson, but as they disagreed in politics, I am wondering what the bond was.

From Thomas Tillottson.

Rhinebeck March 7 1809.

Dear Sir.

. . . I have seen nothing, nor heard anything worth communicating since you left the Flats (Gen. Schuyler's place). The Embargo is to be raised the 15th inst, by the bill as it went from the house of Representatives, and conclude from the course pursued, it will pass the Senate. If this does not please you Federalists, what will satisfy you. Madison shows a disposition to meet you on neutral ground.

If your hostility should be as unceasing vs him as vs Jefferson, his overtures for peace will be treated as acts of open hostility. Make my best

respects to Mrs. and Miss Foote, and Believe me
to be,

Yours sincerely,
TH. TILLOTSON.

From General Morris.

Butternuts 15 March 1809.

. . . I have been anxiously looking my dear friend for a line from you, not having had the pleasure of hearing a word from you since you left us. We hope you and the young ladies reached home in safety.

Just at the time of receiving the happiness of the visit from you and your daughters, I began to flatter myself and thought I saw through the dark cloud of democracy that has enveloped our unhappy country for years past, a dawning to cheer the spirits, that we should again, ere long, have the light of sober reason and correct principles, to save us from our then impending fate. But although I had seen several evidences of a return to good sense,—and loss of confidence of the people in the miserable Embargo tools—who with Jefferson presided over the destinies of the nation—yet when I came to converse with you, I lost confidence in my own judgement. Now however I can with pleasure assure you, that we begin in a degree to realize the fond hopes and expectations I then entertained. Things look more favorable when I tell you that at the late Town meeting, we gained 14 Supervisors, federal, out of 20, a number we have not had in years, and we hope for Assembly. The mail this week will bring us an acct of the rising of Congress, and the last expiring struggles of the most detestable and Jacobinical house of Representatives of that body that ever this country was, or I hope ever will be cursed with again. If they have not plunged us into war with Great Britain, we may bless our stars, and our country may hope to be saved. My family unite with me in affectionate

regards to you and Mrs. Foote, and all your children.

Your friend and comrade,
JACOB MORRIS.

Three letters from John Suydam, all on political hopes. I give the last.

Kingston March 21, 10 at night.

Dear Sir.

Mr. Elmendorf has just returned from Albany, and brings the information that Philip Cosine has resigned for senator, and that Elisha Williams or J. R. Van Rensselaer will be that candidate. We will of course send you tickets by the next post, should you feel that conveyance safe. The mail on Friday will bring us the name of the person agreed on.

Van Vechtens speech, &c., accompany this.

Most truly yours
JOHN SUYDAM.

From Harmanous P. Schuyler.

Albany March 29 1809.

Dear Sir.

We send you some packages containing Lyon's letters which we think may be judiciously distributed among the moderate democrats, and add some other papers. I am in haste Dear Sir,

Your obt. Servant
HARMANOUS P. SCHUYLER.

From Elisha Williams. A letter too long to copy, with discussion of what sort of an address would reach the greater number of people, where to distribute bills, and ending:

. . . We groan under the Embargo. The word itself is a vote in our favor. In your county it will be less unpopular. . . The exchange of candidate for Senator is as you wished it to be.

Most affectionately Yours,
ELISHA WILLIAMS.

From Abram Van Vechten.

Albany April 6, 1809.

Dear Sir.

I rejoice that your county is so well organized. It is important at this season to bury all private differences. Your brother committeeman is I believe perfectly understood here. Our friend the Judge thinks pretty much on the subject as we do. Our committee is very industrious, and if we fail it will not be for lack of exertion, but we have the most sanguine expectations. I am Dear Sir,

Yours most sincerely
ABRAM VAN VECHTEN.

From Philip J. Schuyler.

Albany April 8 1809.

Dear Foote.

. . . Should have written before but politicks and other concerns have made me put off till tomorrow. Our reports from the state are much more favorable than for many years. . . . When we meet again, Heaven grant that we may speak of our successful labors.

Yours as ever,
PHILIP J. SCHUYLER.

THE CLOSING YEARS

I much regret to say that I have nothing from this one of April 8, 1809, until the one following from Governor Clinton, March 4, 1818.

Although differing in politics, Dewitt Clinton, at this time Governor of New York, and Ebenezer were very good friends, as see the following extract from one of the many small memorandum books kept by Judge Foote, all now lost, except one to which I am denied access. But this one leaf I have is interesting in connection with Governor Clinton's letter, as it was he who made one of the appointments.

Copied from leaf of memorandum book:

Mem. April 1828—I was appointed First Judge of Delaware Co. for the 3d time. Under my first appointment I served until I was 60 years of age, a term beyond which I could not Constitutionally hold the office. I was then appointed a Judge, and served until the new Constitution was adopted, when I was again appointed First Judge, and having served the term of five years, was again appointed as above stated, and what is rather unusual, my three last appointments were made by men of different political sentiments from myself.

From Governor Clinton.

Albany 4 March 1818.

Dear Sir.

Your letter gave me . . . pleasure, because the esteem of estimable, and the praise of laudable men are in my opinion, the rewards as well as the

evidence of at least . . . The course which I have marked out for myself will be with a single view to the honor and prosperity of our Country. I have lived long enough to know that the only solid foundation of character, is to consult the public good, regardless of the denunciation of bad men, and the conspiracies of folly and vice against purity of reputation, and elevation of views. I am with perfect esteem,

Your most obedient servant

DEWITT CLINTON.

Early in the 1900's I met Mr. Smith, then editing the "Delaware Gazette," Delhi, who said to me: "I have just found in the Gazette wood house, in the bottom of a barrel, a valuable book, in which you will be interested, and why or by whom it should have been put there, is a very singular thing." We discussed the matter, and mutually agreed that so malicious an act should be dealt with. I was much occupied but supposed of course that Mr. Smith would see that the book should not again be lost, and as the appended article appeared in the next number of the Gazette, I delayed trying to see the whole book until after Mr. Smith's death. I found it was not at the church, and I have never since found anyone to admit having seen it. The following is taken from a slip cut from "Delaware Gazette," 1905: "By the Editor. A valuable record. Accidently there came into our possession on Monday a book which for many years has undoubtedly been regarded as lost. It contains a complete record of the acts of the vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church in this village, from Sept. 13, 1819, to July 5th, 1851. The first page reads as follows":

1819. We certify that at a meeting the congregation who have heretofore worshipped at the

Courthouse in Delhi, according to the rites of the Protestant Episcopal church in this state, met for the purpose of incorporating themselves into a church by such name and style as shall be adopted, and also for electing two wardens and eight vestrymen, and transacting other necessary business, holden at the courthouse aforesaid, on Monday the 13th day of Sept., 1819, pursuant to notice already given, according to the statute in such case made and provided. The Revd D. Huntington in the chair. The meeting proceeded by ballot to choose two wardens, and eight vestrymen, and on estimating the ballots, it appeared the following persons were duly elected.

Wardens—Ebenezer Foote, Samuel Sherwood.

Vestrymen—Gideon Frisbee, Benjamin Barlow, Samuel L. Judson, Thomas Landon, Frederick P. Foote, Oliver Peak, Jabez Hitchcock, and Homer R. Phelps.

1819, Oct. 11. It was resolved that the name of the church be St. John's Church, Delhi. In the year 1831 the church appears to have been completed, and the thanks of the vestry were presented to Levinus Monson, Esq. (Hobart), for his services in obtaining a liberal and munificent donation from Trinity Church, New York City. Said donation consisted of \$1,000 and a stipend of \$125 (missionary).

Why good, kindly Mr. Smith should have neglected to put the book in the church again, or if he did, how the miscreant who endeavored to destroy it the first time, should have been tempted more successfully to do the work a second time, we cannot know.

The church was not completed in 1831, but sufficiently so to hold services, but without, alas!, the prime mover, Judge Foote, who had died in 1829.

I find among my papers the following marked,

“copy,” evidently taken from the lost book, and for some reason copied.

At a convocation of the vestrymen of St. John's Church, Delhi, holden at the Courthouse in Delhi on Monday the 13th day of Sept. Anno Domini 1819. The Rev. David Huntington in the chair. On motion of Mr. Sherwood resolved: that Ebenezer Foote be, and hereby is, appointed a delegate from this Church to the State Convention of the Episcopal Church. Extract from Minutes.

SELAH R. HOBBIÉ, Secretary.

From a package of invitations I am including a few, to show the fashionable dinner hour of the important people of the day.

The Governor requests the Honor of Mr. Footes company at Dinner on Wednesday next at Three o'clock P. M. at the Tontine Coffee House.

Thursday.

The next from Chancellor Kent.

The Chancellor begs the favor of Mr. Foote's company at a family dinner, tomorrow at two o'clock.

Mr. J. V. Henry requests the favor of Mr. Ebenezer Foote's company at dinner on Saturday next, at 3 o'clock.

The next from Gen. Philip Schuyler.

Mr. Schuyler's compliments, he entreats the favor of Mr. Foote's Company at dinner on Monday next, at 3 o'clock.

Friday Jan. 17.

Mr. Gansevoort requests the Honor of Mr. Foote's Company at dinner on Thursday next at 3 o'clock.

Whitehall, Feby 21st.

It seems to have been an honor to belong to the Bible Society, and there are many papers showing this membership, as well as the ones about the Agricultural Society, though we should find it diffi-

cult today to realize why this should have been so.

People came up and down the Hudson in the many sloops running, and in the earliest days Ebenezer was met by a horse to ride out from Catskill. But in the next letter, 1821, Frederick is asked to bring a wagon. Shad were still plentiful in the Hudson and were salted down, but two barrels of them and one of mackerel at one fell swoop shows how the great houses of the day had to be provided for against the constant demands on their hospitality.

New York June 21 1821.

Dear Frederick.

I intend to leave this city on Saturday of next week, and wish you to make arrangements to meet us at Catskill, so that we may leave there the Monday following. Bring with you the best cushion to lay on the back seat. Mrs. Van Antwerp will come with us, and I think Miss Bogart also. Sam Foote is here (Sam Foote was the brother of Mrs. Lyman Beecher, and the favorite nephew of Judge Foote. K. F.), but sails for Cadiz in about ten days. He carries out our Ambassador, Mr. Forsyth. There will be two bbls shad, and one of mackerel, which if any teams are coming out, had better be taken on. I shall put some few things on McKinstry's vessel, but they will not get up by the time I shall, unless they have a very fair wind. Do not fail of being in Catskill on Sunday.

In haste

E. FOOTE.

Harriet, the oldest daughter of Ebenezer, goes down to visit her grandmother Baldwin, and Aunt Catherine Bruen, and Pompey, one of her father's slaves, goes for her.

Newark Oct 1st 1821.

Dear Father.

I this moment received your kind letter by Pompey, who arrived safe and well with the horses and wagon. We were rejoiced to see him and hear from Delhi. . . . Be assured my dear Father that your fears that my long stay will render me discontented with Delhi, are groundless, although everything has been done to contribute to my enjoyment, and make my visit pleasant, yet I can return without one regret. Pompey says, "I could have done as well for Mr. Foote myself, as Dr. Whitmarsh did."

Stephen Verplanck was one of the Great Proprietors, and his letter may be a sort of explanation of the interest in the Agricultural Society, viz., that the big estates were working under difficulties to improve their stock of animals, trees and plants, and co-operation availed then, even more than now.

Fishkill Landing, Sept. 21 1821.

Dear Sir.

I have ordered our man to keep the best of three young bucks we have left for you. He is at your service whenever you choose to send for him.

We can give you at the same time, a new pig, a cross between the English and Chinese breeds, if you think it will be an improvement to your Delaware breed. Tell the ladies I showed the plant to Dr. Torrey, an eminent botanist from New York, who told me it was called the Side Saddle plant, from its resemblance to the horns of a lady's side-saddle. They may rely on this important information with as much faith as if they had it from Dr. Mitchell himself, as Dr. Torrey upon matters of Natural history is even better authority than that great man.

Yours respectfully

S. VERPLANCK.

Col. Foote.

“The Patroon” hopes to take E. by the hand soon, and has a bed and stable at his service.

Ebenezer writes to Thomas Tillottson on business, and adds:

. . . I must now be permitted my usual freedom to speak on the subject of politicks. The personal friendship I feel for you and your connexions (Livingstons) forbid any reserve on my part, and I could wish the same freedom on yours. I am fearful we shall differ more widely on the questions that now agitate our country than we have for many years past, if I interpret your ideas right from some observations contained in your letter, &c., &c.

I have just found this letter, and it seems to explain, somewhat, the relation of the two men to each other.

This from the Patroon is all I have for 1823.

Washington Feb. 3d 1823.

My Dear Sir.

I enclose a newspaper to your address, containing a report of a contest which has excited considerable interest among the friends of the Presidential candidates. It proved abortive, the papers were mutilated, but by whom they could not ascertain. The appointment I think will produce a new state of parties. Spencer altho' an able Judge has yet not my sympathy. I received your enclosure safe.

In haste Yours &c.

S. VAN RENSSELAER.

Samuel Foote was one of the uncles of Henry Ward Beecher, and so fond of his Uncle Ebenezer that he as often called him father as uncle.

New York 17 August 1824.

My Dearest Uncle.

Lafayette is here!! Can it be possible that you do not fly to meet him,—to take him by the hand, to renew your age, to recall the associations of your youthful days, of those glorious times when Washington and Hamilton and Lafayette shone together the bright Examples of an astonished world,—when they achieved for us those blessings which Democracy and faction and corruption have not as yet been able to destroy.

Indeed my dear Sir, my dear Father, I think you cannot choose but come; so in that thought, I shall remain here a few days longer,—notwithstanding you had the heart to go from New York the day before my arrival. Best love to all the family.

Your affectionate son

SAMUEL.

My grandfather, Charles Foote, was in Congress, 1824-5, and I am copying the few letters I have and a part of the cards and invitations of those years—not unique, but I do not believe their replicas are a drug in the market in this year of 1926. General Lafayette's card is very small. His name is written, and below it, "For Mr. Foote." He was a relative of my great grandmother, *nee* Margareta de Hart, and perhaps a little story may follow of a Sunday he spent with her when here in 1824.

The Carusi Assemblies were a counterpart of the Philadelphia Assembly, which continues to this day, and were called, as a writer in the *Century* a few years ago on "Old Washington," explained, "the exclusive Carusis." Mrs. George Parker, a granddaughter of General Root, told me that when living in Washington in her girlhood,

they were still going on, and invitations much sought after.

The first one of the two I have was sent in 1823.

The honor of Mr. Charles A. Foote's company is requested at Mr. Lewis Carusi's Cotillion Parties for the season. To commence on Thursday Evening, the 4th day of December next, at seven o'clock at the Washington Assembly Hall, and continue on every other Thursday.

Washington, November 3d, 1823.

Miss Louisa Lee and Miss Georgina Schuyler were two internationally-known residents of New York. Miss Georgina is no longer living, and Miss Louisa Lee is so confirmed an invalid that she can see no one, except for a short time by appointment. They were considerably older than I, but our great-grandfathers, Gen. Philip Schuyler, Gen. Alexander Hamilton, the Patroon, etc., had known each other well, and perhaps on this account I had the very great privilege of "carte blanche" to their Sunday afternoons, where one met very charming people, and which I appreciated most fully.

I copy a part of a note from Miss Georgina.

570 Park Avenue.

Dear Miss Foote.

. . . The enclosed was found among cards left on my Grandmother, Mrs. Philip J. Schuyler, when making a visit in Washington, D. C., 1846-7. Carusi's Saloon will interest you. . . . If you are so kind as to come, wait until next Sunday, please, as I am obliged to attend a service, and should miss your visit, did you come. Come early as we are in from Three o'clock on. Do not return the Carusi.

Yours truly,
GEORGINA SCHUYLER.

Mrs. Philip J. Schuyler was the daughter-in-law of General Philip, and many letters from her husband have been included here. Mr. Buchanan was the Secretary of State in 1846, not yet President. One notices that the hour for assembling, in the twenty-three years elapsing since the first one was sent, has been advanced from seven to eight o'clock.

Mr. Buchanan requests the honor of Mrs. Schuyler's company on the evening of the 23d of January at eight o'clock at Carusi's Saloon.

My Aunt Catherine went down with her father to visit her grandmother and aunt, Mrs. James Bruen but, unlike her sister, missed Lafayette.

They stopped at West Point to visit another aunt, Mrs. Thompson, the mother of the gallant soldier, Gen. Wiley Thompson, murdered by the Indians so atrociously in the Florida War. My aunt had kept the bill of two gowns made for her visit, and gave me the little yellow slip before her death.

To H. RANDEL, Dr.

To making two gowns	\$1.87½	cts.
“ ⅝ long lawn58	“
“ two skeins sewing silk16½	“
“ tape and thread11	“

I find on looking it up that the City Hotel was the “mode” in 1825. My grandfather had left for the moment, to pay his respects to Newark relatives, and this graceful note was left for him. The signature is delightful.

New York, City Hotel, Friday.

My Dear Sir.

Allow me to introduce to your acquaintance, our mutual friend Major Flagg. By report he must needs be known to you, and to that, I shall only

add, that his good humour is no less a part of him, than his good principles. I regret that your ride to Newark, prevented me from seeing you, but I hope to meet you here on my return on Tuesday. Meanwhile, I remain with great respect,

Yours truly,

EL ROSWELT.

Charles Foote, Esq.

From the Patroon. The "Charles" is my grandfather.

Washington Jany. 12 1825.

My Dear Friend.

. . . With respect to the Presidential question, Charles and I will not differ. Old Hickory is a good General, and a popular man. He will suit the Democrats, and wild and turbulent men. You and I are too old to fear any molestation from him,—we were not Hartford Convention men, but good federalists. Jackson says "he knows no difference between parties,—good and bad are in both. He will always select able and virtuous men who love their country."

This is all fair. Adam's friends promise to be liberal, and this is a time for promises and courtesy. Write to me at your leisure.

Charles is well. In enjoy good health in this climate.

Ever your friend

S. VAN RENSSELAER.

I have so few of my ancestor's letters that I cannot refrain from putting in this touching one telling of his losses, and especially of his blasted hopes over his two sons, both of whom he was to survive.

Delhi September 1st 1825.

My Dear Brother.

Your letter to me by your grandson is before me. The truth is, my cares and perplexities allow but little time for writing, other than what my business renders absolutely necessary, and I find that, as much as my eyes will enable me to do. Sickness in my family, or in some of its branches, has been constant for more than four years. It has deprived me altogether of the aid of my son Frederick, who, I once expected to be the staff and support of my old age, and for a year past Charles has been in such a state of health as to excite the most alarming fears, and my daughter Harriet, who has had the charge of his children since the death of his wife, is not now able to take care of herself. Frederick's wife will probably not survive many days, and his daughter, one of the finest and best girls in the county, has strong symptoms of the consumption. . . .

Your affectionate brother

EBENEZER FOOTE.

As will be seen from the next, Charles was no stranger to Washington. Even before his election, business took him there, as well as to New York, for practice in the higher courts. I regret the slang, so different from the letters to Judge Foote, but one wrote differently to a sister, I suspect.

Charles to his sister, Harriet.

Washington December 14 1825.

Dear Harriet.

I have just returned from Mrs. Adams'. It was the old thing, gay and splendid as ever. Gen. Lafayette was there, and all the "big bugs."

She always contrives some method of rendering her parties attractive. Last year she shewed

Jackson on the 8th Jan. and now the Marquis. It is to be hoped that another year will not change the scene as much as the last one has, for I imagine that as to her Talapoosic show, if she thinks anything about it, she wishes "her trump back again." The old General (Lafayette) had his hands full again,—talked to everybody, and really appeared to be, what he seemed to be, a kind-hearted fatherly old fellow, who had just returned among his friends and family after a long absence. I told him almost half a lie just to please him, that I had traveled almost a hundred miles to see him, and was disappointed after all. He was exceedingly sorry and very much obliged for the attentions and respect shown him, and all that sort of thing. . . . Kiss the little ones for me.

Your affectionate brother

CHARLES A. FOOTE.

From the Patroon.

Ho. of Repy. Feb. 26 1827.

My Dear Friend.

. . . Poor Brown is no more, his tricks are at an end. As to my Jacksonianism, I love the Yankees too well to submit to the South without a struggle to their damnation. Calhoun is to succeed Jackson if they are successful, and poor Clinton is relieved from the mortification which awaited him. Van Buren is to be our Gov. I hear he says he does not want it,—perhaps so! Mr. Clay's book has worked wonders in Virginia, and Carolina, but whether sufficient to turn the scale, I know not. The common people are for Adams in both states, but the influence of the Richmond Club is extensive, something like our Albany Regency. The South are determined never to have a Northern President again. The tariff alarms them, and I fear they will defeat the present bill before us.

Your friend

S. VAN RENSSELAER.

From Cornelius Bogert, a very well known man of his day.

Jamaica L. I. 30 Sept. 1828.

Dear Sir.

In overlooking my old letters, I find I have been culpably negligent of an old and valued friend, who lives or did live recently, in Delaware co., in the neighborhood of the Great Road. In admitting my inattention to you, be assured it was confined to mere correspondence, as I never forget my old friends, and one especially whom I so highly regard as yourself. It was a matter of much regret to hear that you had lately been in the city, and had it in contemplation to make me a visit with Mr. Van Vechten. I am sorry you relinquished the project, as a visit from him and you would have been a great gratification to me. If another occasion presents itself, be pleased to present my best regards to him, and bring him with you to Jamaica. All my children are about to take up their winter quarters in the city, and I have made up my mind to follow them in November, until which time I shall be happy to see you here. My residence in town for the winter will be at Mrs. Cowans, Murray St., a door or two from Broadway. As you and I have never differed in our politicks, I presume you think with me, that a Southern Tyrant and Murderer ought not to be preferred to a son of Massachusetts. If such an event should occur, we shall be degraded as a nation, and deserve to suffer all the ills that must inevitably result from it. As to our State affairs, Thompson and Granger are my men, in which opinion I am assured you will concur. So much for the Commonwealth, now for self. Can you say what is doing with lands in your county. Is it possible to give them away.

I wish not to be misunderstood as regards the President, I am an Adams man. Accept my best wishes for your happiness.

C. BOGERT.

Judge Foote was to live one year longer, but this is the latest letter I have. Both his sons, their wives, and two grandchildren, had died, and to these bitter sorrows was to be added the superficial regret of the election of General Jackson. Truly, "Whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth."

Of the few invitations I am putting in, the first one (written) has a singular mistake in spelling, —done by a secretary, of course.

The President requests the favor of Mr. Foote's company at dinner on Saturday 22 inst. at five o'clock. The favor of an answer is requested.

Jany 15 '25.

Mr. and Mrs. Adams request the favor of Mr. C. A. Foote's Company on Thursday Evening the 8th of January 1824.

Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun request the favor of the Honble. Mr. Foote's Company at dinner on Thursday next, 5 o'clock. The favor of an answer is requested.

Dec. 5, 1823.

A number from Mrs. McLean, printed; this, more intimate, written:

Mrs. McLean requests the favour of Mr. Foote's Company at Tea on Friday evening the 4th of February next, at 7 o'clock.

28th January.

APPENDIX

COPIES OF TWO ORIGINAL LETTERS FROM GENERAL HAMILTON TO HIS EXCELLENCY, GENERAL WASHINGTON

Sir.

Your Excellency will, I am persuaded, readily admit the force of this Sentiment, that though it is the duty of a good Citizen to devote his Services of the public, when it has occasion for them—he cannot with propriety or delicacy, obtrude them, when it either has, or appears to have none—The difficulty I experienced the last Campaign in obtaining a Command, will not suffer me to make any further application, on that head—As I have many Reasons to consider my being hereafter, the bare possibility of undergoing an equivalent, will not justify to my Scruples, the receiving any further Emoluments for my Commission—I therefore Renounce—from this time, all claim to compensation attached to my military Station, during the war, or after it—But I have motives which will not permit me to resolve on a total Resignation—I sincerely hope a prosperous train of affairs may make it no inconvenience to decline the Services of those persons, whose zeal in worse times was found not altogether useless—but as the most promising appearances are often reversed by unforeseen disasters, and unfortunate events may again make the Same zeal of some value, am unwilling to put it out of my power in the line in which I have heretofore acted, to resume my exertions in the common cause—I shall accordingly retain my rank while I am permitted to do it—And take this opportunity to declare that I shall be, at all times ready to obey the call of the public in any Capacity—Civil or military (consistent with what I owe to myself) on which there may be a prospect of my contributing to the final attainment of the object, for which I embarked in the service—I have the Honor to be very Respectfully—
your Excellency's Most Obedt. Servt

A. H.

Philadelphia, March—

N

Sir.

I need not observe to your Excellency that—Respect for the opinion of Congress, will not permit me to be indifferent to the impressions they may Receive of my Conduct—On this principle, though I do not think the subject of the inclosed letter of sufficient importance to require an official communication of it, yet I should be happy it might (in some way) be known to the members of that Honbl Body—Should they hereafter Learn, that though retained on the list of their officers, I am not in the Execution of the duties of my Station—I wish them to be Sensible it is not a diminution of zeal which induces me voluntarily to withdraw my Services, but that I only refrain from intruding them, when Circumstances seem to have made them, either not necessary or not desired—And that I shall not Receive Emoluments without performing the Conditions to which they were annexed—I also wish them to be apprized upon what footing my future Continuance in the army is placed—That they may judge how far it is expedient to permit it—I therefore take the Liberty to request the favour of your Excellency to impart the knowledge of my Situation, in such manner as you think most convenient. I have the Honor to be with perfect Respect
your Excellency's Most Obedt & Humble Servt

A. H.

COMULODUNUM OR COLCHESTER

Somewhat back from the North Sea, on the Essex border of England, stands the old, old city of Colchester.

It is conceded that it is the oldest Roman Colony of England, but Wm. Andrews (British) takes it back to —5 B. C. However that may be, 43 A. D. we are sure of, and the great wall built by the Romans still stands today. He says also, "In the Civil War, Colchester stood for the King. In 1645 it was besieged by Lord Fairfax, but its thick old Roman walls made it a sort of fortress, and it was able to resist for three months."

Near this big city there was, and is, a small place called Shalford. On January 27, 1608, a man lay dying there. He was Robert Foote, our earliest known ancestor. Conscious of his approaching end he dictated the will following.* Rob-

* Through the courtesy of Supreme Court Justice Nathaniel Foote of Rochester, N. Y., I have access to this will, which he rescued after considerable effort on both sides of the Atlantic, with details for which my editor refuses me space.

ert, Jr., was made Executor, and on February 15, 1608, he proved and probated the document, showing that Robert, Sr., lived scarcely three weeks after it was written. From its provisions Robert must have been what was then called "a man of large substance."

I have had to omit a good deal that seemed unnecessary, but all that follows is verbatim.

Will of Robert Foote. 1608

Being sick in body, and commending my soule to the mercy of God in Christe, I do hereby dispose ordayne and make this my last will and testament. 1st—a sum of money to be distributed to the poor of Shalford and Wethersfield, at the discretion of the Church-wardens and Overseers of the poor.

2d.—To my beloved wife Joan,—the rent during life of a certain tenement which I hold through the grant of Sir Chester Knight,—also a yearly annuity of lawfull money,—also to my beloved wife, such part of my movable goods, and household stuff as hereinafter recited, viz.—my best bedstead, best featherbed and bolster, four paires of my best sheets and pillowberes,—two tablecloths and a dozen napkins.

Note—I have been taught that as early as 1608 even the great nobles had few table cloths and no napkins. I have not time to follow it up, but in the Cannon Library I get: "History of Table Setting," by C. Q. Murphy, page 8—"Hands were usually wiped on the sides of the tablecloth, for napkins were not in general use." Relative to spoons—"Guests in the very old times were obliged to carry their own spoons, whether they staid for one meal or many."

Poor folks as well as rich must carry their own spoons. These were of tinned iron, and were called Latten spoons, but their owners were placed near the salt (which divided the table) while they who could only bring wooden spoons were placed at the fartherest end. Joan is given not only brass spoons, but silver, so that they must have sat far above the salt when they went abroad.

Next, Joan is given:

. . . My next best table but one,—three stooles, and six greate cushions, towels—many sortes of platters, three stooles and six great cushions,

towels—many sorts of dishes, platters and bowls,—also a yearly amount of wood, as long as she resides in my house.

Looks as if Joan was not to marry again.

There are nine children named in the will, five of the names are constantly repeated in the Foote genealogy down to my great-great-grandfather, Daniel (b. 1717). They are Robert, Daniel, Mary, Elizabeth, and Nathaniel, especially Nathaniel, which came straight down for eleven consecutive generations, and is still extant in our Hon. Judge of Rochester, who rescued this precious will. And there may be many others I know not of.

To return to the paper. Each child is given a sum of "lawfull money" and several servants and friends are left varying amounts of money.

Next—To Joseph my son, I bequeath my hop ground of Plomley, with all the hop poles thereon, beside 250 hop poles, which I have at home.

Next—To my son Robert, I leave my Mansion wherein I now reside, with all the appurtenances thereof, together with all the lands belonging to the same, as the same is now in my occupation, with all my stock of hop poles, being upon any of the hop grounds of the premises,—as well new poles as old.

Lastly—My legacies paid and my body decently brought to earth, the residue is to be equally divided among all my children.

As Robert was the father of nine children, he must have been born rather early in the 1500's and lived in the days of Good Queen Bess, as well as have been a contemporary of Shakespeare, who did not die until 1616, eight years later, and who, instead of leaving Anne Hathaway his best bed and sheets, etcetera, left her only his second best. A little low of Shakespeare, it seems to me, especially as he had only three children to Robert's nine, and they were married, or dead like Hamlet.

Perhaps this would be the place to put down the fact that Robert had a brother living in London, whose son, Sir Thomas Foote, was Lord Mayor of London in 1649-1650, who would have been the first cousin of our settler, Nathaniel.

NATHANIEL, THE SETTLER

Our first American ancestor, Nathaniel, was fifteen years old when Robert, his father, died in 1608, and it has been learned that Robert, Jr., thus become head of the house, apprenticed Nathaniel for a term of years to a wholesale merchant in Colchester, or as often called in those days, "a grosser," or one who sold by the gross instead of by the pound or small quantity.*

Mr. Goodwin found long ago that Nathaniel was married to Elizabeth Deming, sister of John, in 1615, and that at least two of their children were born in England, but I believe I am right in saying that His Honor of Rochester, before mentioned, first found and procured a certified record of their baptism. According to this, Elizabeth, oldest child of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Deming Foote, was baptized in St. James' Parish Church, Jan. 14, 1617 (or according to our reckoning, 1618), and of Nathaniel, their oldest son, baptized March 5th, 1619 (1620), both in the same church of St. James', Colchester.

Nathaniel could not have turned Non-Conformist until later, or the children would have been baptized in one of their chapels, as some of the others may have been, as we know nothing more until 1630, when we find our relatives as part of the contingent of Governor Winthrop's 1500 coming at that time, Nathaniel with Sir Richard Saltonstall being in the brig "Annie," and settling at Watertown, Mass. (See Benjamin Trumbull's History, Conn., 1798). Later on, a large part of the Watertown settlers, consisting mostly of the Colchester party, went on and formed a new settlement on the banks of the Connecticut River, which they called Wethersfield, after the old Essex town they knew so well. Besides Nathaniel, we find included the names of Robert Francis, Thomas Welles, and John Deming.

John Deming was the brother-in-law of Nathaniel. He came over with them and followed all of their peregrinations. He was a Patentee in both the first and second Charters and a Magistrate in the Colony for the greater part of his future life.

Concerning the important office of Magistrate in these early days, Trumbull says, (Vol. I, P. 111): "Beside the court in each town, there was the 'Court of Magistrates,' the 'Particular or Supreme Court.' This held a session once in

* I am indebted to Miss Caroline Foote Lester, who discovered this last interesting fact, over in England.

three months. To this lay all the appeals from the other courts. For a considerable time they were vested with such discretionary powers as none of the courts of this day would venture to exercise."

Nathaniel died in 1644, aged 51, so that he had not many years over here.

In order to realize how early in the history of New England 1630 was, I will again quote from Trumbull: "The Patent of Mass. Bay was not signed by Charles the First, until March 4, 1629. Salem, the first settlement, was begun in June, 1630, and Charlestown soon after, and Boston and Watertown in July. Gov. Winthrop himself settled at Charlestown, Sir Isaac Johnston, the unfortunate, at Boston, and Sir Richard Saltonstall and his people at Watertown, and chose Mr. Phillips as their pastor."

Later on Sir Richard and his party, including Mr. Phillips, went on to Wethersfield. Of the latter, Mr. Trumbull says: "He had been Minister at Boxford in the county of Essex, and most of these emigrants had been under his charge there, or were from other parts of Essex."

In 1632 came over from Chelmsford, Essex, the well known clergymen, John Cotton and Thomas Hooker. Also with them came John Haynes, afterward Governor, leaving his fine estate, Copford Hall, to three of his children, one of whom, John, entered the ministry and settled at or near Colchester, in Essex.

In 1646, Elizabeth married Thomas Welles, who had come with them, and outlived him as well, he dying in 1660 and she not until 1683, aged 88 years.

Of our somewhat distant stepfather, Thomas Welles, I have gleaned these facts from Trumbull and other sources: In the eleventh century (1000 and something) William the Conqueror gave to one of his knights the name of Welles, and created him Baron Richardus de Welles. From him descended the Thomas who married Elizabeth. He became a Non-Conformist, his property was confiscated, and he had been summoned to appear before the Star Chamber. Over here his name is in the Hartford records of 1637 as a Magistrate of the Colony. He held the office every other year for 22 years. In 1689 he was made Treasurer of the Colony, holding the office many years until he asked to be relieved. In 1649, he was made one of the Commissioners of the United Colonies; in 1654, Moderator, to the General Court, and Deputy Governor; in 1655, the fourth Governor of Connecticut.

He died Jan. 14, 1660, having been Governor or Deputy Governor for the last twenty years of his life.

From Trumbull again we learn that, in 1662 "King Charles, the Second, granted a new Charter to Conn., confirming what Charles the First had granted. It begins, 'A goodly number of men shall be, forever after, A body Corporate of the English Colony of Connecticut, in New England and in America.'"

Among the names given are John Deming and Thomas Welles. Unfortunately poor Thomas had died too soon to reap the honor, but I dare say Elizabeth went about plumbing herself over the fact of having had both a brother and husband on the list of the new Charter.

Nathaniel's youngest daughter, Rebecca, married Lt. Philip Smith. Of him Cotton Mather says in his "Magnalia": "Philip Smith was murdered with an hideous witchcraft." (Book 6; Chap. 7.) Thus connecting us with those days of superstition.

EBENEZER FOOTE

Descended from Robert Foote of Essex, England, and his wife, Joan, through Nathaniel, The Settler, and son of Daniel of Colchester, Conn.

Born April 12, 1756; died Dec. 28, 1829; married Oct. 10, 1779, Jerusha Purdy. She died Nov., 1818. He married, 2nd, Matilda Rosecrans, the widow of a New York lawyer, and whom I once saw, but have no data.

From the Pension Office, beside tradition, we know that he served in 1775, at the siege of Bunker Hill, as a boy of 19. From the same source we find that he was a Corporal in Colonel Wolcott's regiment, was in the battles of Long Island and Turtle Bay. In the latter he was taken prisoner. Details of his escape are printed in many places, notably in John Parsons Foote's "Life of Samuel Edmund Foote," and in the New York "Commercial Advertiser," of Jan. 7, 1830, which we quote:

In the battle of Turtle Bay Mr. Foote was taken prisoner, but escaped at night from the old Bridewell prison, and crossed the North River on a board in the month of December. He was several hours in the water, finally floated down by the tide, and landed on the Jersey shore. He could not stand, but after awhile succeeded in crawling to a house where he was taken care of, but his

constitution received a shock from which it never recovered and enfeebled his health through life. He was however permitted by Providence to enjoy the blessings of prosperity, and unusual esteem through a long and busy life, and I recall to mind his beautiful Mansion on the Western branch of the Delaware, and his warmhearted hospitable reception of his friends, with mingled emotions of tenderness and respect.

The foregoing incident necessarily took the young patriot home to recruit, but there is something a little indefinite about his being with the French Fleet until they returned to Boston, when he returned home again. The account continues:

Still far from strong and unable to endure the privations of regular Army life, his patriotism would not allow him to be idle and he obtained a position as one of the Commissaries of the "Northern Army of the U. S." under the direct command of Gen. Washington, of whom he saw much.

The unit was called the Staff Department of General Washington, and although not considered in the Regular Line, had the same pay and whatever distinction as their ranking called for, as I have learned.

He began with the rank of captain in this enlistment, and in 1780 was raised to major, remaining in the service until his unit was disbanded in 1782.

He was stationed during all this time at Crompond; and chiefly occupied in the counties of Westchester, Dutchess and Putnam, but we find him at Hartford and out at the Great Lakes.

I have no letters previous to 1778, and only four of that year. So many of the writers bear the name of Foote that it becomes necessary to speak of these dignified gentlemen by their first names.

A public document says: "Ebenezer Foote having died at a date prior to the passage of a pension law under which he would have been entitled, there is no statement on file of his services during the Revolutionary War—made by himself—in the usual form of an application."

His widow was his second wife and had only the most general knowledge of his army life, so that I am especially grateful to a government which found much in Connecticut records, and to the Hon. John Davenport Clarke, who sent them to me from Washington.

There are two genealogies, but they do not take the place of all those letters destroyed, of which I speak later.

Ebenezer let Andre go by his quarters as told later in letters.

After the close of the war he started in business as a merchant at Crompond, going in a few years to Newburgh, as letters show—in the late '80's—and began his successful political career which lasted until the downfall of his party in 1800.

We find his name as Postmaster, Supervisor, Church Warden, Trustee of New Academy and Assemblyman from Ulster until he came out to Delhi in the spring of 1897, when he was elected State Senator, County Clerk, Assistant District Attorney and from their beginning, Senior Warden of St. John's of Delhi and President of Board of Trustees of the Academy. And, with one interval, Presiding Judge of the Common Pleas, of our county, until his death in 1829.

With the sacrifice of his wishes and interests, he gave up a flourishing business, great comfort and hosts of pleasant friends to come out to this almost trackless wilderness.

Of this period I found at the Cannon Library, in Valentine's "Manual": "In 1800 the whole U. S. was a vast untamed wilderness. Jefferson coming to Washington as President, had to come on horseback through forests and over miles of blazed trails. Fifty miles from the seacoast it was almost impossible to sustain life."

This seems an exaggeration as regards the mere act of living, for one hewed down trees to find a place for an habitation, game and fish disputed one's claims to territory, wild grapes and cherries and plums looked in the new-made windows, and berries of all sorts could be used with the sugar from the pervading maple trees of Delaware. But tea and coffee and needed articles for building were difficult to get brought, after they had been ordered through uncertain mails or through the charity of a friend going "back on horseback" to Albany, Kingston, or New York; to the latter place, leaving his horse at Catskill, which seems to have been the usual place, and taking one of the many sloops for the rest of the way. The letters tell all we can now know of details of E's life.

Ebenezer Foote was born Monday, April 12, 1756.

Jerusha Purdy was born Tuesday, Dec. 15, 1755.

They were married Oct. 10, 1779, at Yorktown, N. Y.

Ebenezer died at Arbor Hill, Delhi, Dec. 28, 1829.

Jerusha died at Arbor Hill, Delhi, Nov. 9, 1818.

The children were: Frederick Parsons (b. March 15, 1783; Charles Augustus (b. April 15, 1785); Harriet (b. November 9, 1787); Margaret Parsons (b. March 9, 1790).

Ebenezer married secondly Matilda Rosecrans, widow of a New York lawyer, who survived him, and I saw her once when I was a very little girl, but she went back to her own people and I have no data.

Frederick married Charlotte Welles of Kingston, Feb. 6, 1808. He died Feb. 3, 1827. She died in 1824.

Charles Augustus married Maria Baldwin Oct. 10, 1808, daughter of Jesse and Margaretta De Hart Baldwin of Newark, N. J.

Harriet married, 2nd, John Foote of Hamilton, N. Y.

Margaret Parsons married Rev. Ebenezer Maxwell of Schenectady, one of the first pastors of the First Presbyterian Church, Delhi.

DANIEL FOOTE

(From Goodwin's Genealogy.)

Nathaniel, a grandson of the Settler, was born at Wethersfield in 1648. In 1701 he projected the new settlement of Jeremy's Farm, later called Colchester. It is on the road between Hartford and New London, Conn. He did not live to remove there, but his family of nine did after his death, and there my great-great-grandfather, Daniel, was born, a son of the 5th Nathaniel.

He married Margaret Parsons.

His obituary says: "He was a professor of religion, a grave and venerable man of the highest respectability, and a Magistrate for 60 years." With the exception of a few letters, occasional mention of him, and several notices of a long treatise or essay on the subject of "Original Sin," I can find nothing additional about Daniel, and the mention in family letters are too personal to be included, but they carry out the idea conveyed in the obituary.

Through his children Daniel became the ancestor of Mrs. Seward, wife of Governor and Secretary Seward; Mrs. Williams, wife of Supreme Court Justice Nathan Williams of Utica, N. Y.; Roxana, wife of Dr. Lyman Beecher, both of whom were clever and became the parents of eight clever children, of whom Henry Ward Beecher and Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe are the best known.

Daniel's tenth child, Ebenezer, was the man addressed in these letters, who was well known throughout the State during his life.

PURDY or PURDIE (French Huguenots)

Our Line.

Francis Purdy died in Fairfield, Conn., in 1658. When he came over is not known, but this excellent account of his children I find in library at Rye, N. Y.:

Francis begat Joseph, a leading member of the community, in 1677. Joseph begat Daniel, who owned a thousand acres in Cortlandt Manor, 17—. Daniel begat Daniel, who begat Abraham, my great-great-grandfather.

Abraham, born, 1716; died, April, 1778; married Phoebe Strang, born, 1721; died, 1759.

Their children were: 1st, Abraham; 2nd, James; 3rd, Frances; 4th, Jerusha, born Dec. 6th, 1754; died Nov., 1918; married Oct. 10, 1779, Capt. Ebenezer Foote, later Major, later still Judge Foote of Arbor Hill, Delhi, N. Y.

Bolton's history of Westchester says Abraham's oldest son, Abraham, begat Alvan or Elvan, who erected the family homestead at Crompond in 1775. Also given as agent in land bounty rights in 1781.

Abraham is quoted as paying rent for land in 1760, presumably a part or the whole of the thousand acres which his grandfather, Daniel, owned, as we learn from the same books.

It should be remembered that none of the great Manors gave a warranty deed for lands sold, and therefore Abraham and undoubtedly his sons and grandsons continued to pay rent until "Anti-Rent" days of Delaware and other counties put an end to the exaction. But the rent had become nominal, and until the law was changed, was legal and had to be collected. To us of Delaware County, who know of the tragedy of the resisters, disguised as Indians, killing young Osman Steele, while in the performance of his duty as an officer of the law, it would seem a better way might have been found to settle their grievances. Belonging to one of the best families in the county, young, energetic, just married, and fitted to become an honor to the community, he was ruthlessly shot at first sight.

Scharf's History says that Abram and Phoebe Strang, his wife, lived opposite the Presbyterian Church, and Daniel Strang and his wife, Phoebe Purdy, lived on Crompond Street in Yorktown, 1752.

In 1730 Daniel and Samuel Purdy were appointed to appraise the property of Stephanus VanCortlandt, recently deceased.

All of the Purdys and Strangs seem to have been in the Assembly at Albany and in other offices.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS FOOTE

Born April 15, 1785 at Newburgh, or Crompond, N. Y. Died August 1, 1828, at Delhi, N. Y. Married October 10, 1808, Marie, the daughter of Jesse and Margareta de Hart Baldwin. She died August 29, 1824.

Their children were: Frances (b. 1809; m. Charles Marvinne); Catherine Bruen (b. 1811; d. 1898); Rensselaer William (b. 1813; West Point, Capt.; killed Gaines' Mills); Harriet (b. 1815; d. 1815); Charles Augustus, Jr. (b. Mar. 18, 1818; d. Feb. 28, 1896; m. Adelia Johnson, Sept. 11, 1845, who d. Aug., 1888); James (b. 1821).

One of Marie's sisters married the well known lawyer, Judge Aaron Vanderpoel of New York. While in Congress, Mr. Vanderpoel was one day called the "Kinderhook Roarer," which, as often happens, clung to him through life. When I was taken to see him as a child, I remember him as the mildest of white-haired old men, and much interested in Charles' little girl. The family now spell their name in various ways as regards capitals.

Another sister, Catherine, married James Bruen of Newark, N. J., a brother of Matthias of New York.

One of her aunts, Laura Waldron, was the wife of the English Minister to France.

Jesse Baldwin was an importing merchant, silks and wines, doing business at 161 Broadway, living at Newark.

Charles attended private schools at Poughkeepsie and Kingston, until he entered Union College, Schenectady, where he was graduated in 1805, going at once to study law with Judge Peter Van Schaack at Kinderhook, then to Judge Josiah Ogden Hoffman, New York. While with the latter he married, and soon after, at the solicitation of his father, came back to Delhi to live, and began practice in the different courts of the State, which he continued until his death. He was in Congress, 1824-1825. His wife having died in 1824, he sank gradually into a melancholic state that increased until his death in 1828, but little over forty years of age.

He served in the militia in the different grades, being at the time of his death Colonel and Inspector of the 6th State Division. He lies in the family burying ground at Arbor Hill, the estate of Judge Ebenezer Foote, now owned by the Hon. John Davenport Clarke.

Justin had died in 1827; Charles, his only remaining son, in 1828; and the stricken father followed in 1829.

Charles, Jr., a little fellow at the time of his father's death, became in time a merchant, good, honorable, and filled some of the best local offices with great credit, never forgetting his courteous manners to all. The village paper said at his death: "The last gentleman of the old school in our midst, has passed away."

"ARBOR HILL"

(Reprinted from "The Binghamton Press.")

Arbor Hill was built nearly 130 years ago by the first county clerk of the then recently formed county of Delaware. Today in the main essentials it remains the same as when its builder held his house-warming which was attended by some of the great men of the time in state and national affairs and their consorts.

No baronial hall of old England or the European continent gives more the impression of feudal times. The approach to the house from the main highway on the west side of the river is across a footbridge suspended between high, thick stone abutments and walls extending for some distance along the banks of the river. Nothing more is needed to remind the seeker for the romantic of the moat and drawbridge of the feudal castle of old. But should more be needed there is still the story of the old secret spiral staircase built into the walls of the house, which led by underground passage to the river, so guests of the owner or members of his family might pass safely beyond the lines of any marauding savages to bring aid from the outside when the place was besieged as often happened in the early days. Practically all signs of the underground passage have been obliterated by time and the secret shaft which was discovered by workmen who were making some modern improvements to the interior of the house has been walled in, but tales of thrilling and hairbreadth escapes from the mansion by its means in the late days of the eighteenth and the early days of the nineteenth centuries are still told by the older residents of the county as having been handed down to them by their ancestors.

The exterior of the house remains practically unchanged from the original. Inside some changes have been necessary to provide for modern improvements and Twentieth Century standard of living demands, but even here every precaution

has been taken to leave the original lines intact so far as possible.

The house was built by Ebenezer Foote, who was born in Connecticut on April 12, 1754. When the Revolution broke out the Foote family was inclined to remain loyal to the King, but the sympathies of young Ebenezer were with the Colonists and he ran away from home to join the Colonial forces near Boston. He fought at Bunker Hill and eventually attracted the attention of General Washington, who promoted him until he became a major and a member of the staff of the commander-in-chief. He was captured, imprisoned in the prison ships of the British in New York Harbor and escaped on a bitter December night by swimming the ice-lined Hudson to the New Jersey shore. He never fully recovered from this exposure. After the war he entered business in Newburgh and served in the State Legislature from that district. When the county of Delaware was formed in 1796-97 he moved to the new county, of which he had been one of the promoters, and was appointed the first county clerk on March 30, 1797.

For his services in the war he had been given a grant of land near what now is Delhi and early in the year 1797 began the erection of his manor house. It is easy to conceive that its building must have taken months when one considers that the lumber that went into the work must have been sawed and planed by hand. But that the workmen of that day were true craftsmen is proven by the fact that in 1927, 130 years later, not one timber or even one smallest panel has been replaced and all apparently are as sound today as when first passed upon by the master builder.

As one enters the front doorway, charming in its colonial design, the large and altogether splendid proportions of the hall which extends from front to rear of the house captures and holds the eye. From this hall to the second floor leads the "grand staircase," imposing in appearance with its railing of simple but truly wonderful design and its paneling of such splendid workmanship as to be the envy of modern artists. This panelling, perhaps, is one of the most delightful things about the house. In one room alone, about 12 feet square, are more than 100 such panels, exquisitely done, and there are eight or 10 other rooms in the house similarly panelled, although not quite so large.

The library has massive arched doorways with deep mouldings and built-in bookcases of fine workmanship and a capacious fireplace with splendidly wrought mantel.

In all there are seven fireplaces at Arbor Hill—two small

ones with openings scarcely more than two feet square, three that are of ordinary size and two that are of large dimensions. One of the larger ones is in the living room and is very attractive, but perhaps the most interesting as well as the largest is in the dining room in the basement. This apparently was the kitchen in the old days, for in the fireplace here, which is built of brick and stone, is a large iron crane on which to hang the kettles that our ancestors used for cooking their meals. The opening is five feet high and six feet across and the mantel is nearly out of the reach of a tall man. At one side is the old Dutch oven in which bread and pastry were baked more than a century ago.

The hardware on the doors is all massive and hand-wrought. The door-knobs are small and exquisitely fashioned of brass. The locks are independent of the mechanism of the knobs and of immense size, their iron casings being fully a foot long and more than half as wide.

When Major Foote built Arbor Hill, the western reaches of the Catskills were sparsely settled, in fact were but one step removed from the wilderness. It was many days' journey to the nearest settlements of any size and still the manor soon became widely known for its hospitality and some of the greatest statesmen of the times were entertained there. The Van Rensselaers and the Livingstons were close friends of the Foote family and were among the earliest guests at the manor, the early records show. General Schuyler also was a frequent visitor. Others who at one time or another enjoyed the ready hospitality of the pioneer were DeWitt Clinton, Martin VanBuren and Aaron Burr.

Major Foote was appointed county judge of Delaware County in 1810 and held that office until his death on Dec. 28, 1829. He is buried in a little private burying ground a short distance below Arbor Hill. His grave is marked by a plain marble shaft bearing the inscription:

In memory of Ebenezer Foote, Esq., who died Dec. 28, 1829, in his 75th year. He was a man of spotless integrity, unwearied diligence, and perseverance, and by his own intellectual powers and moral worth, he arose to an enviable distinction in society and has left many memorials of honourable fame as legacy to his Posterity. Cherish the Memory of the Wise, the Great and the Good!

Here also are buried his wife, Jerusha, who died in 1818,

other members of his family and the Rev. Ebenezer K. Maxwell, who was the first pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Delhi, known to history as the "Old Flats Church." Mr. Clarke, into whose stewardship this remnant of a nearly forgotten era of hardship and romance has passed after many vicissitudes, believes that he is doing his best to obey the admonition contained in the last sentence of Major Foote's epitaph by loving care of the hallowed spot in which rest the remains of those who laid the corner-stone of old Delaware and in planting the seed which will bring back to her hills and dales the glory of her early days—her forests.



