

THE WRITINGS
OF
SAMUEL ADAMS

VOLUME IV.

1778-1802

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THE WRITINGS
OF
SAMUEL ADAMS

COLLECTED AND EDITED

BY

HARRY ALONZO CUSHING

VOLUME IV

1778-1802

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS

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To Richard F
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To Horatio G
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To John Burg
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in this Life within moderate Bounds, and it is time
for me to reduce them to a narrower Compass. You
speak of "Neglect," "Ingratitude" &c. But let us
entertain just Sentiments. A Citizen owes everything
to the Commonwealth. And after he has made his
utmost Exertions for its Prosperity, has he done more
than his Duty? When Time enfeebles his Powers &
renders him unfit for further Service, his Country, to
preserve its own Vigour will wisely call upon others;
and if he decently retreats to make Room for them
he will show that he has not yet totally lost his Under-
standing. Besides, there is a Period in Life when a
Man should covet the exalted Pleasure of Reflection
in Retirement.

I thank you, my dear Sir, for the information you
gave M^{rs} A of M^r Dugans coming. Pray let her
know that I receivd her Letter & am well. My
Comp^{ts} to the Circle about you.

Your affectionate,

ARTICLE, UNSIGNED.

[*Boston Gazette*, April 16, 1781; a draft is in the Samuel Adams Papers,
Lenox Library.¹]

Extract of a Letter from the Southward.

"BEFORE this will reach you, your Countrymen
will have finished the important business of electing
their Legislators, Magistrates and Governors for the
ensuing year. I hope they have made a wise choice.
At least, from the opinion I entertain of their virtue, I

¹ Endorsed by Adams: "The foregoing was sent to M^r Edes by the Post
Mar 27, 81."

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am persuaded they have acted with all that deliberation and caution which the solemnity of the transaction required. They may then reflect, each one on his own integrity, and appeal to the Monitor within his breast, that he has not trifled with the sacred trust reposed in him by God and his country—that he has not prostituted his honor and conscience to please a friend or a patron—that he has not been influenced with the view of private emolument to himself and his family, but has faithfully given his vote for the candidate whom he thought most worthy the choice of free and virtuous citizens—I congratulate that Legislator, Magistrate & Governor, who *knows* that neither smiles, entreaties, gifts, dissimulation, intrigue, nor any base and dishonorable practices have procured him this exalted station. His fellow citizens, *unsolicited* by him, have called him into their service, from the opinion they have formed of his integrity and adequate abilities.—He feels himself happy in their opinion of him—happy is he indeed, if he *is conscious he deserves it*.

But our countrymen will not imagine, that having filled the several departments of government, they have no further concern about it. It is, I humbly conceive, their duty and interest to attend to the manner in which it is administered by those whom they have entrusted. How often has the finishing stroke been given to public virtue, by those who possessed, or seemed to possess many amiable virtues? GUSTAVUS VASA was viewed by the Swedes as the deliverer of their country from the Danish yoke. The most implicit obedience, says the historian, was considered by them as a debt of gratitude, and a virtue.

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