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THE CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC PAPERS

OF

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JOHN JAY

FIRST CHIEF-JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES, MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, MINISTER TO SPAIN, MEMBER OF COMMISSION TO NEGOTIATE TREATY OF INDEPENDENCE, ENVOY TO GREAT BRITAIN, GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK, ETC.

1794-1826

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CONTENTS OF VOLUME IV.

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xi

	PAGE
To Rev. Uzal Ogden . . . . .	203
Christianity and "The Age of Reason."	
To Judge Lowell . . . . .	204
Demagogues must be expected—Good men inactive.	
From Lord Grenville . . . . .	205
Friendly and complimentary letter.	
From President Washington . . . . .	206
"My answer yesterday to the House will set a host of scribblers to work."	
To Lady Amherst . . . . .	207
Returns thanks for prints.	
From Walter Robertson . . . . .	207
Desires to paint Jay's portrait.	
To President Washington . . . . .	208
The New York Federalists will support his measures.	
To Lord Grenville . . . . .	209
The treaty will be accepted in America—Hopes impressments will cease.	
From President Washington . . . . .	211
Friendly letter—The mass of Americans mean well.	
To Tammany Society . . . . .	213
Declines to order the public flags to be raised in honor of their anniversary.	
To Rev. Dr. Thatcher . . . . .	214
Gov. Hancock's son—Has faith in the intelligence of the country.	
To William Vaughan . . . . .	215
Reflections on society and reformations.	
To the Mayor of New York . . . . .	217
Recommends the purchase of Bedloe's Island by the State for a lazaretto.	
To George Hammond . . . . .	218
As to the West India commerce.	
From Lord Grenville . . . . .	220
Orders renewed against impressments.	
From Dirck Ten Broeck . . . . .	222
Has secured accommodations for Gov. Jay in Albany.	

of any of them, we shall, with the Divine blessing, secure peace, union, and respectability."

With sentiments of esteem and regard, I have the honour to be, sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

JOHN JAY.

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JAY TO REV. UZAL OGDEN.

NEW YORK, 14th February, 1796.

DEAR SIR :

I am much obliged to you for the books you have been so kind as to send me, and which, with your friendly letter of the 11th instant, were delivered to me yesterday. Except while at church I have employed this day in reading the first and part of the second volume, and expect to finish the perusal of the remainder next Sunday. I have long been of opinion that the evidence of the truth of Christianity requires only to be carefully examined to produce conviction in candid minds, and I think they who undertake that task will derive advantages from your enumeration of many interesting facts, your remarks on various heads and topics, and from your references to numerous authors proper to be consulted, and some of whom are but little known.

As to "The Age of Reason," it never appeared to me to have been written from a disinterested love of truth or of mankind, nor am I persuaded that either of those motives induced certain characters to take such singular pains to distribute and give it reputation and currency in this country. Religion, morality, and

a virtuous and enlightened clergy will always be impediments to the progress and success of certain systems and designs, and therefore will not cease to experience both direct and indirect hostilities from those who meditate or embark in them.

With the best wishes for your health and happiness,  
I am, dear sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

JOHN JAY.

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JAY TO JUDGE LOWELL.

NEW YORK, 29th February, 1796.

DEAR SIR :

I have been favoured with yours of the 15th inst. by Mr. Parkman ; am much pleased with him and his fellow-traveller, Mr. Cooledge. Their representation of the state of things in Massachusetts corresponds with the hints on that head suggested in your letter. There is too much intelligence in the Northern States to admit of their being greatly and long deceived and misled ; and I hope the same remark will in time become equally applicable to all the others. Considering the nature of our governments, a succession of demagogues must be expected ; and the strenuous efforts of the wise and virtuous will not cease to be necessary to frustrate their artifices and designs. They will always be hostile to merit, because merit will always stand in their way ; and being actuated by envy, ambition, or avarice, and not unfrequently by them all, will be diligently at work, while better men will take their rest.