



USS Constitution  
Museum

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TRANSCRIPTION OF

**Letter from  
Rachel Bradford to Elias Boudinot,  
September 26, 1797**

USS Constitution Museum Collection [985.1]

The plains Sept. 26 1797

My Dear Sir

I do most sincerely unite with you, in gratitude to heaven for the mercy vouchsafed to us all in the restoration of our beloved friend. The anguish I lately experienced on her account the comfortable prospects I now enjoy when I think I shall again see her can best declare how much I rejoice with you & Mrs B\_ in the hope you have of her returning health. Capt prince who is here from Phi<sup>a</sup> says Doct Rush told him that she continued very weak – it could not be otherwise after such an attack, and sometimes the way to get well soon, is to mend slowly. Under the watchful eye of such parents there is no danger of anything being done that may endanger a relapse, therefore I very confidently look forward to a perfect recovery- and most ardently do I pray that the father of mercy & goodness may long very long continue the blessing so well understood, and rightly intimated, and guard the hearth that has so recently suffered such distress from every cause of future sorrow.- Whatever may be my own destination in life, I feel that its afflictions would be less keen, or its happiness more perfect if I know that the small beloved circle, to which my affections are so closely united, have no new cause of distress – and enjoy undisturbed the means of happiness now in their possession. —

How is your Brother, and his family, since his late heavy affliction  
the loss of a woman to whom he was so strongly attached - and the

*This lady married Mr. Boudinot not very long after* [note in another hand]

Mother of such a family of children is indeed a severe calamity  
in which every mind of common benevolence most sincerely sympathizes

The accounts in the papers give but little encouragement to  
hope that the disease of our devoted city is abating. Yesterday  
we had a very cold North East storm which I trust you have  
had also now - and my cold fingers this morning is the most  
cheering sensation I have experienced for sometime as I hope  
it is a prelude to such weather as will enable the inhabitants  
to return with safety to the city. What can the Physicians  
now find to dispute about. I thought the ground of contentions be  
tween them and Doct Rush had been so often trodden over that  
<sup>^</sup>they would have been weary of the hard beaten track..there is a  
meanness among that good mans brethren that leads them  
half to adopt his method, & yet not declare for him <sup>^</sup>openly that  
I cannot tolerate - the want of candour is in my appre-  
hension, so great a want of virtue., that there is scarsly [sic] any  
individual vice I feel more disposed to condemn – I cannot  
conceive it possible that the physicians can really think Doct.  
Rushes practice erroneous after all the fact & experience they  
must have had to demonstrate the truth of his system, &  
therefore are the more cruel to distract their patients at a time  
like this with disputes. I hope the Doct is wise enough to leave  
them unanswered. Time will best refute them – and vin-  
dicate both his reputation and opinions. Time is a sure dis

coverer of truth, and we well know that against the truth man  
~~XXX~~ has been in arms ever since, he left the garden of Eden

I suppose you have seen in the papers which I find are still kept up, an account of the disappointment we have all had in the launching of the frigate – 2 attempts have been made two separate days to set her afloat – yet she has <sup>not</sup> moved fifty feet. The Jacobins have greatly exulted and the Chronicle thus begun of impudent speeches has dealt out many sad predictions and sarcastic remarks, on the failure of the attempt to launch her whilst all the force of Benevolence, and aids of good natured will on the part of the opperate [sic] party - have appeared thro' the mercury to give a handsom coulering [sic] to the business, and sooth the chagrin of the Master Ship Builder who actually appeared to have lost flesh in eight and forty hours, from mortification and vexation – yet it was not want of judgment – but over [obscured text] that gave birth to his misfortune.- The Frigate now [obscured text] about 45 feet from her original station very firmly settled [obscured text] ways. Whilst the Constitution of the United States, is made the band of wit of all orders & degrees of people – on the stage in the streets – the [?] office and every private company but that is not to be wondered at – for a new Constitution is always the subject of much discussion.

I had cheered myself with the hope that by this time I should have been on my way home but at present my expectations are lengthened out to the last of next month when if no earlier opportunity offers I shall accept the offered

protection of M<sup>r</sup> Ollis and in person assure you all how ~~xxx~~  
sincerely I am your grateful and affectionate

RB

please do give my love to M<sup>r</sup> B\_[?]  
and the family M<sup>s</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Butler desire their } regards Rachel Bradford  
sister to M<sup>rs</sup> Isaac Hallince

Miss Bradford  
26 Sept 1797

Hon<sup>l</sup>  
Elias Boudinot Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Philadelphia

Sir there is a part bill for 2 months  
[?] me amt. 8/100<sup>9</sup> Cents by sending  
[?] the amt. you will oblige your  
Humble Servt  
[?] Park