

William Smith to George Washington, November 10, 1757, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM THE REVEREND WILLIAM SMITH. ¹

PHILADA. 10th. Novr 1757

SR

You'll perceive your name in the list of those who 'tis hoped will encourage the enclosed Magazine,² & I hope you'll forgive the Liberty we have taken as you are placed in good Company & in a good design. Tis a work which may be rendered of very general Service to all the Colonies. We shall be under particular Obligations for every Subscriber you can procure, to give the work a general Run. I have not been unmindful of the Papers you sent relating to the French Memorial, & you would have seen proper use made of them before now, if they had not been designed to be inter [mutilated] in the general History of the present War, which you find promised in the Magazine I shall therefore, be greatly obliged to you for every Light you can throw upon that Subject, relating to the Representations made by the Ohio Company, the first Steps taken by your Government with the French & Indians from 1749 to 1753, & from thence to the Defeat of General Braddock. As you acted a principal part in all these Affairs, and as it is our design to do the utmost Justice to all concerned, & especially those Patriots & brave men born in America, who have distinguished themselves in the present war, I must rely on your Assistance, so far as comes within your knowledge. I doubt not you have Journals of every Thing, & you may depend the most prudent Use shall be made of them. To you in particular we

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shall do all Justice, without suffering our Friendship to influence us farther than the world shall confess your just merits require. As this history is to be a full one & will probably be long preserved, I flatter myself that your Regard for your Country & Desire to have its Interests understood will excuse this trouble, & induce you to send me as soon as possible what I have requested. If we delay long, the Thing may fall to other hands, less inclined to a disinterested Execution of it. I have already had many Materials from the Northern Governments. Send the Subscribers Names for the Magazine to me, but do not mention my name to any Body. I am with much Esteem

Your obedt. Servt. W. SMITH

1 Provost, of the "College, Academy and Charitable School of Philadelphia," was a Scotchman, educated in the University of Aberdeen. During the Revolution Dr. Smith and other trustees of the Institution were accused of "Toryism," the charter of the college was annulled, and the University of Pennsylvania, with Dr. John Ewing at its head, established in its stead.

2 Probably the American Magazine and Monthly Chronicle for the British Colonies, the second periodical of that name published in Philadelphia, and volume i. of which appeared during this time. There is, however, in Washington's Ledger an item of interest in this connection showing his subscription to the "Pennsylvania Magazine" (so he calls it) at "50/. deducting 25 pr. ct."