

**James Craik to George Washington, November 25,  
1757, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.  
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**FROM DR. JAMES CRAIK. <sup>1</sup>**

FORT LOUDOUN Novr. 25th. 1757

DEAR SIR

The disagreeable news I recd. by Jenkins, of the Increase of your disorder, is real concern to me—I had been flattering myself with the Pleasant hope of seeing you here again soon—thinking that the change of Air, with the quiet Situation of Mount Vernon would have been a Speedy means of your recovery—however as your disorder hath been of long Standing, and hath corrupted the whole mass of Blood—it will require some time for to remove the cause—And I hope by the Assistance of God and the requisite care, that will be taken of you, where you now are; that tho' your disorder may reduce you to the lowest ebb; yet you will in a short time get the better of it—And render your friends here happy, by having the honour of serving once more under your Command—As nothing is more conducive to a Speedy recovery, than a tranquill easy mind, Accompanied with a good flow of Spirits—I would beg of you; not as a Physician; but as a real friend who has your Speedy recovery Sincerely at heart; that you will keep up your Spirits, and not allow your mind to be disturbed, with any part of Publick bussiness; that perhaps may not be going on so well, as your concern for the Publick could wish—Any little slip of this kind, that might happen, would be trifling to the Neglect of yourself—The fate of your Friends and Country are in a manner dependent upon your recovery—And as I am sensible of the regard you

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have for both I make no doubt, but that you will use every endeavour that will be in the least conducive to your recovery—so that both may still rejoice in the enjoyment of you—I am very much Surprised at Doctr. Browns Neglect in not coming to see you, I cannot see how he can Account for it.—I wish Doctr. Jameson could be got, I have a great oppinion of his judgment and I really believe he would be of Service to you —

Colo. Stanwix I am inform'd is to continue in Winter Quarters at Lancaster—If it is agreeable to you, I should be glad of your permission to go there, in order to see my Cousin Captn. Stewart—The Sick in the Hospitall are very few at present, which emboldens me to apply for leave—As reading & writing must be very troublesome to you in your present Circumstance—I shall only Pray God, who is the best of all Physicians, that he in his infinite mercy, may restore you, to your wonted health, and preserve you in the Command which is so agreeable to many, and none more so, than to him, who has the honour to subscribe himself with the greatest Duty & Esteem

Dr. Sir Your Most Affe. & Devoted hume. Sert. JAS. CRAIK

P. S. Please hint to me in a few lines, if your disorder hath yet taken a turn for the better

<sup>1</sup> Dr. James Craik (a lifelong friend of Washington, and his attendant in his last illness) was born at Obigland, Scotland, in 1732; married, in 1760, Marianne Ewell, daughter of Colonel Edwin and Sarah (Ball) Ewell; and died on his plantation, "Vaucluse," near Alexandria, January 6, 1814.