

Thomas Jefferson to James Cheetham
Copy of a letter from Dewitt Clinton to Thomas Jefferson.

[Washington], circa December 10, 1801.

Autograph document, 1 page.

A statement of interests in N.Y. by Dewitt Clinton to mr Cheetham.

It is presumed that no serious evil can result from the designs of the little faction which has existed for a short time previous to the Presidential election, & which is governed by no principle but is solely devoted to the aggrandisement of [*illegible*] an individual. it possesses neither talents, property virtue or any of the attributes of general confidence. it's [*sic*] strength is founded on the secrecy of it's plans, the acts & rapid movements of it's leader, & the prevalent opinion that he has in a great degree regulated the appointments in the gen^l. govmt for his state. the most influential of his adherents have derived their consequence from this latter source.

How far the contagion has spread cannot be ascertained, as the subjects of it dare not expose it. the following have been suspected of being under an undue bias in the respective counties hereafter mentioned, to wit. ~~Su~~

Suffolk. none

Queens d^o.

Kings d^o

Richmond d^o.

New York. you know.

Westchester. none of any consequence.

Dutchess. the same.

Rockland none

Orange. George Gardiner & Peter Townsend

Ulster. none of any consequence.

Columbia. The Van Ness's

Washington none

Clinton d^o.

Essex d^o.

Saratoga. Qu. As to mr Comstock, brother in law of Gov^r. Fenner of R. Isl^d.

Schoherie. qu. as to Geo. Tiffany & brother

Montgomery. none.

Oneida d^o.

Otsego. qu. as to some individuals.

Herkemer. none.

Ontario. qu. as to Oliver Phelps

Steuben. none

Green none
Delaware d°.

Albany d°.
Renslaer d°.

Tioga none.
Cuyuga qu. as to Joseph Israel Smith
Jr
Onondago none
Chenango d°.

So far as Hamilton's weight will go, the federal party will not join him. some however of minor consequence will, and these combined with the renegades of the Republican party will form a curious a compound as history ever recorded. The following representatives may be relied on.

Smith. Mitchell. V. Cortlandt. Elmendorf. Thomas. Bailey.

Two measures will effectively destroy these unprincipled intrigues.

1. An uniform mode of chusing electors.
2. A designation in the electoral balotes of the office voted for.

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This appears to be a transcript of a letter that DeWitt Clinton, nephew of New York Governor George Clinton, who was soon to be elected U.S. Senator from New York in early 1802, wrote to Jefferson. Cheetham apparently requested a copy of documentation to back up assertions he made about Aaron Burr in his pamphlet "An Account of the Plans and Views of Aggrandizement of a Faction in the City of New York," prepared on December 9, 1801.