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devoted to a science of which he was one of the founders and fathers.

And so I commit to your care the letter, which, as I said, is precious to me, a very precious document; and I pray that the spirit of Dr. Priestley that shed so much light on the people up there in Pennsylvania, may also continue to enlighten people down here in this wide open country.

You know the persecutions he underwent in his own country, and later in this country, but he loved America, he believed in its future, and the future of our people. He said, among other things, that the American people would act wisely—that was in 1797—that if they followed the teachings of their constitution they would be happy and eventually obtain what they deserved.

EDGAR FAHS SMITH.

NOTE.—At the conclusion of these remarks, which were made immediately after the ninth commencement convocation of the Rice Institute on Monday morning, June 4, 1923, Dr. Smith lifted the first spadeful of earth for the foundation of the new laboratory for chemistry, and from his hands the spade passed in turn to Mr. William M. Rice, Jr., Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Professor Harry B. Weiser, Director of the Laboratory; Joseph L. Gillman, Jr., Bachelor of Science, first president of the Rice Chemical Society; and to Professor William W. Watkin, associated in the preparation of the plans for the building with Messrs. Cram and Ferguson, Supervising Architects of the Rice Institute.

The benediction was pronounced by Dr. Edward S. Ames.

TEXT OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY DR. JOSEPH PRIESTLEY TO  
DR. SAMUEL LATHAM MITCHILL, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

*Dear Sir*

*I think myself much obliged to you and Dr. Miller for so early an admission of my Paper on Galvanism into the Medical Repository. I have sent another article, in answer*

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to Mr. Cruikshank in Nicholson's Journal to Dr. Woodhouse, to be forwarded to the Repository, which I hope you will insert when it is convenient. I am very glad to hear of the extensive circulation of that valuable work, which does so much credit to the conductors, and the country. I shall always think myself honoured by the publication of any article of mine in it.

I wish much to see this new N<sup>o</sup>, especially on account of the article of your own on the colour of black, and the other contents that you mention. Dr. Woodhouse is so good as to forward the N<sup>os</sup> to me the first opportunity after their arrival in Philadelphia, and therefore I hope I shall not be long without it.

My bookseller in London having disappointed me I am at present much behindhand in philosophical intelligence, by which I suffer much. In winter also I am not fond of going much into my laboratory, so that I do very little in the way of experiments, at present, tho in other respects I am not quite idle. I feel, however, the effect of years, and am by no means so active as I have been. Neither have I recovered from the effects of the fever that I had in Philadelphia. I am much thinner and weaker, and this I fancy has been in some measure the cause of the ague which I have had lately, and which I never had before.

You will oblige me if you will call on Mr. Smith the printer, and desire him to send me not the National, but the Universal Intelligences. As I do not want the advertisements, and the Universal contains every thing of value besides. Also I wish he would let me know how I am to pay him. It must be to some person in Philadelphia, as we have no direct communication with Washington.

I should be glad to know how you are accommodated this winter, and what is the price of boarding and lodging, &c. The last winter I heard the members of Congress complained much. In what state is the building of the city, and the paving, &c. What matters of importance have you in discussion?

As I know your time must be fully occupied, I ought not to give you this trouble, but if you have leisure to notice these queries, you will oblige me very much.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely

J. Priestley

Northumberland Jan. 5, 1802.