



# **Case #2: Reverend Doctor Blackwell**

### Letter #1: George W. Campbell to Dr. Benjamin Rush, October 17, 1793

that the Rev. Dortor Blackwee has been Chilly the third hast of this day, his byes are esomwhat fufficed, he has a violent head ait, Rubse formale & quick, & the is much dejected. I took about 15 Dunces of M. Pood At 2 D' Clock ; & at 5 Mars Blackwell gave him a Rouder of Jalan & balomer (Iknow not how much ) it is one of thefe put up by your direction: he is now taking a folition of bream of Fastar means, to affirst the opera - tion & induce a free perfueration ; if this Should not produce the defined affect, I Ahall Depead the Nowder in the morning. As it is probable you cannot come over be pleafed to favour ome with your advice; & particularly, whether it will be best to Bleed again tomorrows Vam, with refnest your Leo: Mampbele Dorton Ruch

Gloucester Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> 1793 9 O'Clock P.M.

Dear Doctor,

It is with regret I inform you that the Revd. Doctor Blackwell has been Chilly the chief part of this day, his Eyes are somewhat suffused, he has a violent headach, Pulse small & quick, & he is much dejected. I took about 15 ounces of Blood at 2 O'Clock; & at 5 Mrs. Blackwell gave him a Powder of Jalap & Calomel (I know not how much) it is one of those put up by your directions: he is now taking a solution of Cream of Tartar warm, to assist the operation & induce a free perspiration; if this should not produce the desired effect, I shall repeat the Powder in the morning.

Is it probable you cannot come over, be pleased to favour me with your advice; & particularly whether it will be best to Bleed again tomorrow.

I am, with respect your

Humble Servant

Geo. W Campbell

Doctor Rush

Letter #2: Mrs. Blackwell to Dr. Benjamin Rush, "Thursday Evening" (No Date), Page 1

Thursday Evening My Scanst Griend My mind is starcely composed enough to consite to you I am all distraction - M used with a good reducts appeared very like yesterday he was toke with Shills succeeded in a Vewer he complains of his Head & is a little Sommer to to se fu m & by mus request Blooded him He has taken one of Powders made at Boldwins It shavend get green and I have braught nothing meeting aut with mice. I call upon your Grienddage & now Judgment If you cannot come conderne instruction - one in whom 2ne you have the greatest confidence a is not acquainted with this Peaces I pray -Camponel you to write also to M? Blackwell is amazing by low quited lend forme he apopetida - I need support for I fear I that wink under this adpliction. De as sparty as pofily

Thursday Evening

### My dearest friend

My mind is scarcely composed enough to write to you I am all distraction – Mr B was seized with a Cold which appear'd very like the Influenza yesterday to day he was taken with Chills succeeded by a Fever he complains of his Head & is a little Queamish at his Stomach. Dr. Campbell was here to day to see him & by my regret Blooded him He has taken one of your Powders made at Baldwins. It has not yet operated. I have brought nothing necessary out with me. I call upon your friendship & your judgment. If you cannot come to me send some Physician, one in whom you have the greatest confidence Dr Campbel is not acquainted with this Fever I pray you to write also to Mr. Blackwell he is amazingly low spirited Send some asafetida - I need support for I fear I shall sink under this affliction. Be as speedy as possible

Letter #2: Mrs. Blackwell to Dr. Benjamin Rush, "Thursday Evening" (No Date), Page 2

Por his die! Tell the heaver what is necessary to get I frend the consequences of this Secres- do my Working friend unite your prougers with mine Por our preservation & and me all the apristance in your power. Of home puty on me. I am with Gol beling at Glowcester I dearcely know what ? have wintten H Blackwell I wish some of your powders as Can not sa = tisfied the whether those are properly made The my griend would in wen poprible you could be with me purpages it is dover me some Glabber Salty I should mention that his Blad a very little if any inflamitry I have such extreme Plushes perpetual on me they have on Doubt whether I am warm

Tell the bearer what is necessary to get for his diet. I dread the consequences of this Fever-do my worthy friend unite your prayers with mine for our preservation & send me all the assistance in your power. Oh have pity on me. I am with Col Ellis at Gloucester I scarcely know what I have written

### H Blackwell

I wish some of your powder as I am not satisfied whether those are properly made Oh my friend would it were possible you could be with me perhaps it is do send me some Globber [Glauber] salts

I should mention that his Blood is very little if any inflammatory

I have such extreme flushes perpetualy on me they leave me in doubt whether I am warm or cold

# Letter #3 Mrs. Blackwell to Dr. Benjamin Rush (No Date), Page 2

(Page 1 Not Included)

Te is this day exceedingly desection - Quar will vinte under it - The family are so alars hat none go near hime they express so much to me as to render me miterable. I had to have gorgotten - to mention to you - when en geto up - he spears to feel the' not abo cold yet a disposition to be imme dialety no if he could not bear the cold. cannet come to me - be partied may take - he has not nurtinment apetite I is very week I dea ander thet weaknep. I should also tell qual Disposition to slie

<u>Text:</u>

[Beginning at Arrow]

He is this day exceedingly dejected – I fear will sink under it – The family are so alarm[ed] that none go near him. They express so much to me as to render me miserable....

Letter #4: Joseph Blackwell to Dr. Benjamin Rush (No Date)

my D: Dad Rush Mour two favors of the 28 ms. I red. Her hart for which I am under many oblig gations to you . I am very happy to hear that my Brother was a little better but I am still very any eavy about him, please to let him know That I have written to time you enquiring after hig health & that I have not fore atte but desire my love to him - I hope by the merey of God he will recover & That I shall have the salesfaction of seeing him again in health -I must beg my B. ficend that you will add to the obligations I can under to you by leting me hear from your again respecting my Brothey health in I am D. Jer. your much obleged freend Those heard that fus. los: Blackwell Markwell is not with my Brother. Pleaselet me know where she is & if the is will 9 Ba

<u>Text</u>:

[Beginning at First Arrow]

...I am very happy to hear that my Brother was a little better but I am still very anxious about him, please to let him know that I have written to you enquiring after his health & that I have not forgotten him....

[Beginning at Second Arrow]

Your much obliged friend

Jos. Blackwell

I have heard that Mrs. Blackwell is not with my Brother. Please let me know where she is & if she is well. J Ba.

## Letter #5: Mrs. Blackwell to Dr. Benjamin Rush, November 2, 1793, Page 1

a fordanto to save the blefoing, God. bether. - They have tin watchtal care over him - I have by doothing convolation supported, we and one the deverest trial I ever experiances. like gardian Brigele they came menigh 5 my relief ~ when my spirite were quite exhausted. - Entirely alond - my Husband

My very valuable friend

Receive my grateful acknowledgements for your – & your dear Mother's attentions & goodness to me & to my dear Mr. B.K.A.

Much is indeed due to those worthy young Men for their affection to me- & for their skill & assiduity to save him – which mean with the blessing of God! I trust they have accomplished. They have only observed a watchful care over him - & have by their soothing consolation supported me under one of the severest trials I ever experienced. Like gardian Angels they came one night to my relief – when my Spirits were quite exhausted. Entirely alone – My Husband

### Letter #5: Mrs. Blackwell to Dr. Benjamin Rush, November 2, 1793, Page 2

Selinous - & no mortal - not even a Black would approach mo. - Three Days & Hight I attended him by my self in this setuction. Judge you my dear Guind - what I must have watter's - but thank Heaven ! and - ther day smiles upon me & I can again promise my self gelicity. Eternal thanks & prairies to Good! for having spared your precious hife to your sweet & amiable Jamely & to the Publick. I hope happing will soon dawn upon our unfortunate fits & that we shall again meet to be blest. I have no doubt but that your inectaticable Geal in second your fellow creatures will meet its merited reward in the save and app - Canves of your brethren. Mordhouse, & Coxe, " gow honor \_ I congratulate you

delirious - & no mortal – not even a Black would approach me. – Three Days & Nights I attended him by myself in this situation. Judge you my dear friend – what I must have suffer'd – but thank Heaven! another day smiles upon me & I can again promise myself felicity. Eternal thanks & praises to God! for having spared your precious Life to your sweet & amiable family & to the Publick. I hope happiness will soon down upon our unfortunate City & that we shall again meet to be blest. I have no doubt but that your indefaticable zeal in serving your fellow creatures will meet its merited reward in the Love and applauses of your brethren. Woodhouse, & Coxe, do you honor – I congratulate you

## Letter #5: Mrs. Blackwell to Dr. Benjamin Rush, November 2, 1793, Page 3

on turning out such bright ornaments young Men - my blefoing une of Heaven attend them. they ever be prosperous Dhappy. Q ever like yourself regour in ad ! these you & yours adien ! Blackwee Gloucester November 2 14.93

Text [Entire Page]:

on turning out such bright ornaments to their profession They are cha[rming] young Men – my blessing [and] the blessing of Heaven! attend them. May they ever be prosperous & happy - & every like <u>yourself</u> rejoice in doing good.

God! bless you & yours

Adieu!

H Blackwell

Gloucester

November 2 1793