



Case #2: Reverend Doctor Blackwell

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

Gloucester Oct. 17th 1793
9 o'clock P. M.

Dear Doctor,

It is with Regret I inform you that the Rev. Doctor Blackwell has been Chilly the chief part of this day, his Eyes are somewhat suffused, he has a violent head ach, Pulse small & quick, & he is much debilitated. I took about 15 ounces of Blood at 2 o'clock; & at 5 M^{rs} Blackwell gave him a Powder of Jalap & Calomel (I know not how much) it is one of those put up by your direction: 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.

As it is 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 Regard Your
Obedt^l serv^t
Geo: W Campbell

Dr. Rush }

Text [Entire Page]:

Gloucester Oct. 17th 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 Dearest Friend

My mind is scarcely composed enough to write to you I am all distraction - Mr B now seized with a ~~fever~~ which appears very like the Influenza ~~fever~~ yesterday ^{to day} he was taken with Chills succeeded by a Fever he complains of his Head & is a little ~~uneasy~~ at his Stomach Dr Campbell was ^{here to day} ~~sent~~ to see him & by my request Bled 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 Campbell is not acquainted with this Fever I pray you to write also to Mr Blackwell he is amazingly low spirited Send some Affidetta - I need support for I fear I shall sink under this affliction. Be as speedy as possible

Text [Entire Page]:

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

For his diet

Tell the bearer what is necessary to get ^{me} I dread
~~the~~ 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 how
pity on me. I am with Col Elliot at
Gloucester I scarcely know what I
have written

H Blackwell

I wish some of your powders as I am not sa-
tisfied whether these are properly made
Oh my friend would it were possible you
could be with me perhaps it is I send
me some Globbes Salt

I should mention that his blood is very little
if any inflamed

I have such extreme flushes perpetually on
me they leave ^{me} in doubt whether I am warm
or cold

Text [Entire Page]:

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

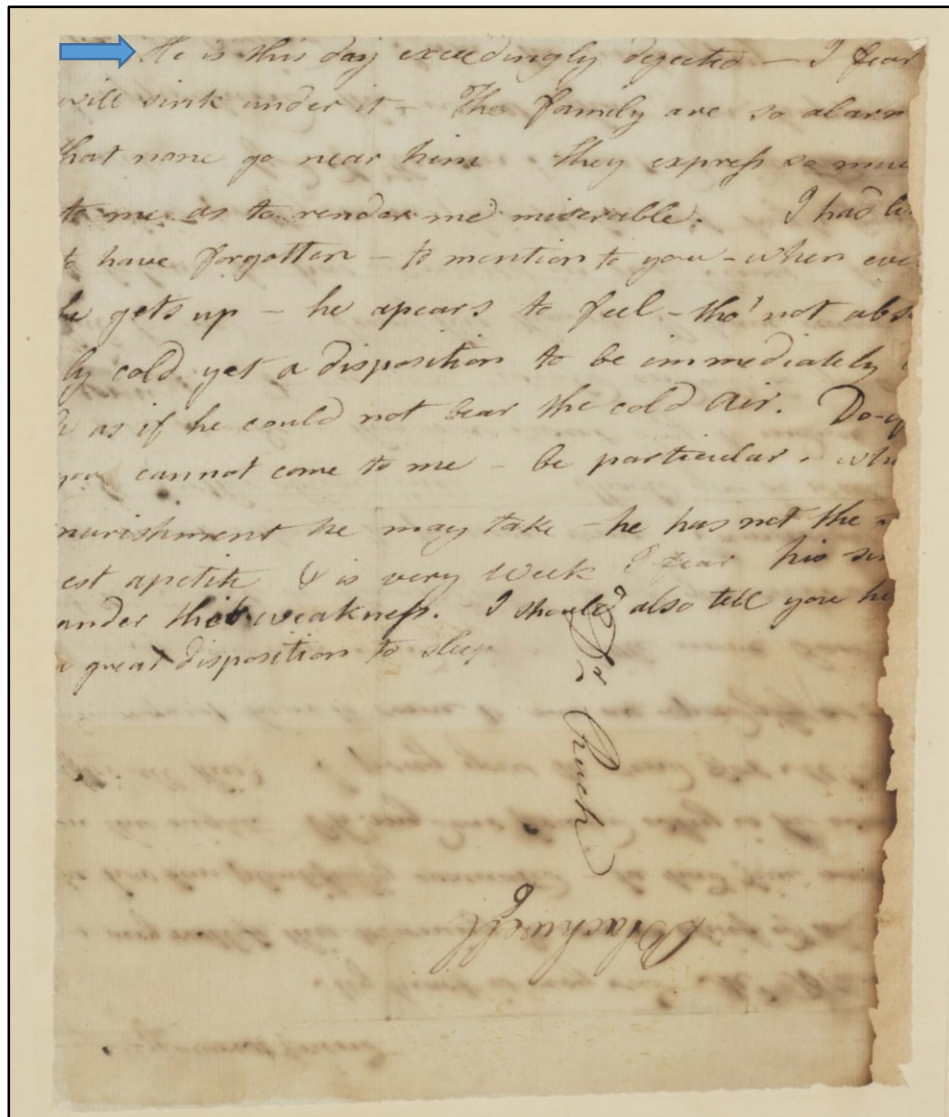
H Blackwell

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 perpetually 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)



Text:

[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^r: Doct^r: Rush
Your two favors of the 28th Ins^r: I
rec^d. for which I am under many obli-
gations to you. 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 ~~him~~ you enquiring after
his health & that I have not forgotten him &
but desire my love to him - I hope by the mercy
of God he will recover & that I shall have the
satisfaction of seeing him again in health -
I must beg my D^r: friend that you will
add to the obligations I am under to you by
letting me hear from you again respecting
my Brother's health - I am D^r: Sir
your much obliged friend
I have heard that Mrs.
Blackwell is not with my
Brother. Please let me know
where she is & if she is well
J. B.

Jos: Blackwell

Text:

[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**

My very valuable friend

Receive my grateful acknowledgements
for your & your dear Mother's attentions
& goodness to me & to my dear Mr. S. K. W.

Much is indeed due to these 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 truly observed a
watchful care over him - & have by their
soothing conversation supported ^{me} under one of
the severest trials I ever experienced.

Like guardian Angels they came one night
to my relief - when my spirits were quite
exhausted. Entirely alone - my Husband

Text [Entire Page]:

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

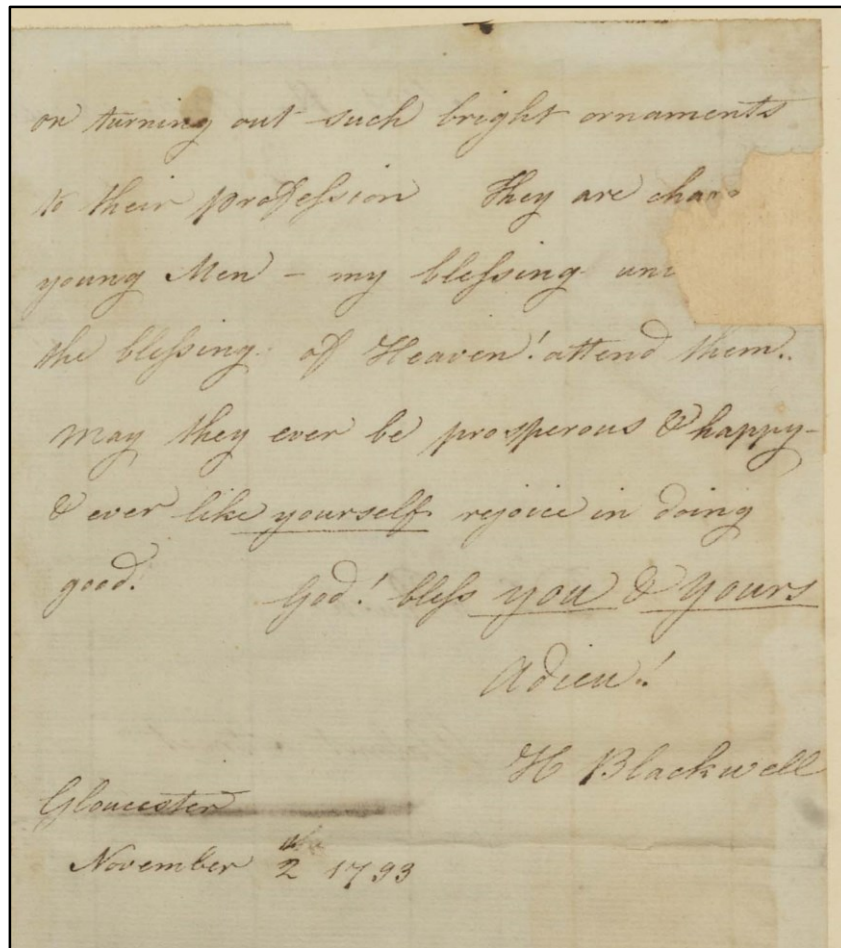
**Letter #5: Mrs. Blackwell to Dr. Benjamin Rush,
November 2, 1793, Page 2**

delirious - I 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! ano-
-ther 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 dawn upon our unfortunate City
& that we shall again meet to be blest.
I have no doubt but that your indefatigable
zeal in saving your fellow creatures will
meet its merited reward in the love and
-causes of your brethren. Woodhouse, &
Coxe, do you honor - I congratulate you

Text [Entire Page]:

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 indefatigable 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
to their profession They are charo
young Men - my blessing and
the blessing of Heaven! attend them.
May they ever be prosperous & happy -
& ever like yourself rejoice in doing
good. God! bless you & yours
Adieu!
H. Blackwell
Gloucester
November 2 1793

Text [Entire Page]:

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

God! bless you & yours

Adieu!

H Blackwell

Gloucester

November 2 1793