

an A. L. S. of Henry Wisner, October 9, 1778, one page, somewhat stained, otherwise in good condition; and an A. L. S. of George Clinton, August 2, 1794, referring to supplies for the frontiers of New York, one page, in good condition. Livingston was one of the drafting committee of the declaration, while Clinton and Wisner's votes were recorded in its favor; but, unfortunately for their fame, all three were called away from Congress by public duties at home, before the final engrossment of the document on parchment for the signatures of the members—Livingston even before the vote upon its passage; but all were in hearty accord with the measure, and in full faith that the times and the circumstances demanded its adoption.

There is also in the collection an A. L. S. of John Dickinson, of the Pennsylvania delegation, September 8, 1787, in good condition. He had for many years been one of the most steady and powerful opponents of the arbitrary measures of Great Britain against the colonies; but when independence was brought forward, he opposed it in debate and vote as premature. There was no better patriot in the country; and though temporarily retired from Congress, he was the next year made a brigadier-general of Pennsylvania militia, and two years later re-entered Congress as a member from Delaware. His services were important to his country. He died in 1808, in his seventy-sixth year.

Mr. Niles, in his *Weekly Register* of January 3, 1818, relates this interesting incident of Dickinson, "as showing the power of the *mind* abstracted from personal sensibilities: "Fifteen or sixteen years ago, then residing at Wilmington, Delaware, as I passed the house of the late venerable John Dickinson, at 12 o'clock in the day, he was standing in the door, and invited me in. After reproving me for not having called to see him, for he had been a little unwell, he said that he would have a glass of wine with me—the first that he had drank for six weeks. After taking a couple of glasses in instant succession, he suddenly sat down, and abruptly asked me, what I thought of the discussion then going on in Congress on the great question about the judiciary?<sup>1</sup> Having very briefly given my opinion, he said in a

<sup>1</sup> This discussion occurred during the session of Congress of 1801–02.