12-18-1788

David Ramsay to John Kean, December 18, 1788

David Ramsay

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Dear Sir,

Charleston, Dec. 18th, 1786

Your favor of the 28th UT. was duly received and should have been answered by the return of the [illegible] but for a mistake of its time of writing.

I am now convinced of the sad policy of District elections. The five returned are Mr. Smith, Mr. [illegible], Mr. a Committee are not in my opinion the five best of the candidates. I am sure this does not arise from personal disappointment but from an essential view of the character of the men. Methinks every body now speaks in favor of a general election and I have no doubt it will be so next time.

You have doubtless seen the publications here reflecting the eligibility of your [illegible]...
of the matter? Can a man be said to have been seven years a citizen who seven years ago was that is in the year 1782, man in London and having never been in America from the year 1771 nor till he was in his 26th year or the man ended that is in winter 1783? To all who are now thirty years old citizenship is not a natural but adventitious character. At any point of his acquire by a resident in London from his 21st his 26th year? By no reasonable in my opinion can his citizenship be fixed at an earlier day than his return to America. Do the country people here it was told Dr. Reis for the emancipation of the negroes to the town people he will have no mate in the country because of his sincerity to Nancy therefore it may said if you divide in towns we will get in. These two manuvers
did the business. My being born out of the country was also seriously urged against me. To this it was plain to reply that my citizenship for fifteen years was unquestionable. That the constitution was exclusively meant for natives of other countries is a mere assertion to make a man a citizen by force, not by acquiescence. He must consent to this or else be done by a man out of the country indeed, by a voluntary residence in an enemy country after 21. The contrary is impossible.

Prestant my most heartfelt compliments To Mrs. Mean with my best wishes for her health. They give me every comfort. I am with great regard a esteem your most obedient humble servant

D. Mansfay