

Sydenham (Penn township) near Philadelphia
December 31. 1838

Gentlemen:

Two days ago I received from
a friend in Wilkesbarre, "The Advocate" Extra of
the 25th instant containing the proceedings signed
by Asher Miner and others, which have been
talked over at my fireside; and I feel unable to
withhold any longer the poor but sincere tribute
of my heartfelt acquiescence in the sentiments of
the concluding paragraph. History supplies instances
in which heretofore whole communities have been
saved by the conduct of a few individuals, sometimes
by a single one, on great and trying emergencies.
The future historian of Pennsylvania will record
this to be the predicament in which yourselves
and Mr Montelius stand in reference to the recent
events at Harrisburg. Nor will he withhold his
tribute from the Senators who have acted so
noble a part. But to take the lead in ~~the~~

Richard Rush

such a cause was the tug. You had to break party
trammels and face party displeasure - a trial as sore
as when Mutius Scaevola laid his hand on the burning
coals. Yet had you not broken the trammels, who
can say what would have been the state of
things in our happy commonwealth three months
hence, or even at this moment? "The beginning
of strife is like the rushing of mighty waters"
and you prevented its beginning. You will
have the reward of your own approving consciences,
you will be sure of the verdict of after times
in your favor, and among your contemporaries
the calm-minded and well-judging of all parties
~~shall~~ unite in doing honor to your motives
as they cannot fail to perceive the great public
good produced, and incalculable amount of evil
prevented, by your conduct.

I will offer no apology for this letter
though unknown to you. Your names have become
public property at a momentous crisis, and as one

of the community I merely claim to render you
my share of the public thanks for the public tranquility
which you and your associates have so mainly been the
instruments in securing for us all. In these feelings
and with every sentiment of respect, I subscribe
myself your fellow-citizen,

Richard Rush.

Messrs: Butler & Sturdevant,
Members of the House of
Representatives from Lawrence.