New York, July 23, 1808

My dear Sir:

I have received your favour of the 14th instant and rejoice to hear that a publication of the writings of our late most estimable friend, Mr. Ames is proposed. This design if judiciously executed, will be honourable to his memory and to our Country; besides, the other motive suggested by you, is of itself sufficient to secure my best wishes and every aid which I can possibly contribute. I possess a considerable number of letters from Mr. Ames; most of them are I believe at Litchfield; several of them were written on subjects, strictly confidential at the time. What my impressions will be respecting the propriety of making any or all of them public, under present circumstances, I cannot now determine. I shall have an opportunity to select these letters from my other papers, in a few weeks and shall be willing to consult you on any question of doubt, which a perusal of them may suggest to my own mind.

The death of Mr. Ames, though not an unexpected, is to me a most afflicting event - he was one of those friends whom I most highly esteemed and tenderly loved - he was a rare man: though the elevation of his genius and the profundity of his wisdom have been equalled, yet among our distinguished men, it will be difficult to name another, who having derived his information principally from an actual observation of mankind, was so wholly unaffected by the passions and uncontaminated by the vices of the times.

Be pleased to present my sincere respects to Mrs. Quincy and to accept assurances of the esteem and attachment of

your Friend,

OLIVER WOLCOTT

Josiah Quincy, Esq.