Item: Letter from Edmund Burke

Call Number: MS-6-3 - Box-folder 1.1

Additional Notes:

A two-page letter from Edmund Burke to unnamed correspondent, dated February 17, 1776.

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Dear Sir,

I am heartily obliged to you for your communication of a plan proposed upon such humane and equitable principles. I shall read the bill with attention, & communicate to you any remarks upon it that may occur to me; though the persons most likely to be useful to you on the occasion, are those who are most conversant in the details of the execution of municipal justice and provincial economy. As to the principle itself, of penal labour, I confess (whatever it may do in other Countries, with whose politics I am not acquainted) I have no extraordinary opinion of it in England. It is indeed an easy exchange, if there be no other, for the butchery which we call justice. Transportation always seemed to me to be a good expedient for preventing the enormity of capital punishments, the danger of letting wicked people loose upon the public, or the infinite charge and difficulty of managing those wretches whose disposition it is to be mischievous. If Nova Scotia, the Channel, or Newfoundland are not adapted for the reception of these unhappy wretches, to be sure, some correspondece of this kind will become
become necessary at whatever cost or trouble. I am glad to find the town in the hand of the author of the local laws, that Ministry supported. I am with great esteem, your friend.

Dear Sir,

Gentlemen and Officers,

Robert Hamilton

Sunday, Feb. 17, 1776.