

(E. D. aged 26)

(Verbatim et Litteratim)

Providence March 16th 1796

----- Copy -----

Mr. Edw'd Dexter Sr.

I take the Libberty in the most Friendly manner to address you on a Subject of Futer Consequence which has Impressed my mind Ever since you and I parted coming Down the Hill from your Lot ware you are about build'g your House. (1) that Lott appears to me to be too much contracted for its owner & Even Mr. Nathan Waterman made this expression upon it Viz that the Lott was too small and too much pinched up for so good a House as you proposed Build'g. and I assure you that the street too it will ever be a whet muddey way, the natural Springs being such that cannot be got Clear of neither above nor below Ground. I have experienced a somewhat simenular Springey place tho not one Quarter so whet Viz. at the S. W. corner of my lot GARDEN or Gardne below my House. (2) Directly opposite Mrs. Spauldings I have a Drain from under the walls of my Celler that goes down by her house and a Drain on the upper side of the street below my Gardne wall Quite from the north of her Lott, or Directly opposite, till it Enters into the Main Drain that goes Down the Hill, yet if you please obseavre their is a very whet muddey place at almost all seasons below the S. W.

part of my Garden ---- weither you move<sup>or not</sup> pray Remember

that I now tell you that, that place has ever beene whet  
and muddey and ever will remain so and is therefore a very  
unfit place for you to build a good House----I consider you  
as a young Gentleman of Enterprise and as likely to do Large  
Buissness \*\*\*\*\*(illedgeable)\*\*\*\*\* as anyone I am acquaint-  
ed with, why then should you lay out so much of your Cappetell  
in such a contracted mud Hoole and Remote from the Grait  
navigable waters from wenth your welth is to be acquired----  
pray Sr. consider the rise and progress of this Town. Your  
your Farther Smith can inform you, if you have not heard it  
before, that when they was about build'g the first Court  
House, that was burnt Down 36 years ago, their was a strong  
party for build'g it at or North of Olney Elm Tree way as far  
North<sup>as</sup> Capt. Turpins which is north of the preasant Docter  
Hews Dwelling House, and Did absolutely git a long large Rope  
to pull each way those for the north to pull up & those for the  
south or Down Town as then called pull'd to the South & they  
being then the strongest it was built ware the Brick School  
House is. have you not seen ever sence your time that the  
price of House Lotts between the north and south end of the  
Town are constantly altering in Value in Faver of the South  
end is not the Buisseniss constantly crowding that way.  
Clarke and Nighingale once thought a store would not do south-  
erd of Wm. Cushings House, after some years they ventered  
below Nathan Angells and you know ware your Uncle Welcome begun

and how he has crawl southerd with his busseniss, and  
(3)  
all this was before India Bridge was Built and while the  
low part of the Town was almost as muddey the not with such  
natural springs as you have in Going up to your Lott ware  
you have thoughts of Build'g, but I am not without hopes of  
your yet giveing<sup>up</sup> the idea and I Begg you'l <sup>not</sup> Digg a  
single shovel full of the sellar till you have fully con-  
<sup>many</sup> sidered the consequences<sup>^</sup> of which I shall not mention----  
You want a wharf and store of your own and nearor you live  
(4)  
to it the better, the Grait Run of Water that enters into  
the River on this side of Fox Point has already made a Barr  
nearly half over the Channel too Shoul for aney Vessells &  
is much shouler Quite acrost than used to be & you know all  
the Docks above are filling up. I agree thier are Disad-  
vanages ware Lotts adjoin'g the water are too Bleak which no  
doubt is the case from Fox point or Curtis's wharf their  
to the west part of mine at India point which will make it  
bad for Wharfs to stand till the Beds a little southerd of  
that shore are Raised out of Water to keep<sup>off</sup> the Violence of  
the south winds for which purpose nature seems to have placed  
those shel beds as Foundation, while the water all Round the  
said Beds are Deep & will be filled with Large Ships after the  
cannell to Conseticut River is compleated from this Town----  
on the whole to come to the point I want you to Plant your Genn-  
eration in the Vicinity of waters ware (illedgeable)\*\*\*\* you  
know I am old and worn in the service of Navigation. will you  
take my place. the probability is that I shall never again fit  
out the Geo. Washington for India. was you settled at India Point

you could do it better than I could. Go thier, fix on any ground

<sup>you</sup>  
^ wish and enter Immediatly in to the Importation of European Goods by taking the Ship Mary now their if you please, that I bo't of Curtis and with or without Dickens as you Choose send her to Charlestown this spring and let her take a load of Rice to England and return to India Point next Fall with a Full load of Fall Goods and open the wholesale store their. Don't you think every shop keeper will find the way to India Point to buy them. your Friends in Town can Ride to you their with more ease than through the mud to your proposed Habitation on the Hill. You must I know judge for yourself but I think it will be for your futer interest to fix at or near India Point if you do I expect Henry Smith & Benja will both follow and in fact that in a few years their will be houses all the way from India Bridge to the turn of the main street south of your Uncle Welcomes Distillery. What young Fellow has done better than Edw'd Dickens for the time he has beens at India Point. Excepting your Brother Henry who seems Determined to git money by Thousands. I will ad no more

but am your friend,

John Brown

(1) Mem. The lot on which Mr. Brown advises his correspondent not to build his house and which was so "remote from the Grait navigable Waters" of Prov River was on the noth side of George Street where Prospect St now enters Geo. St. and the house which was built there, notwithstanding this advice <sup>has been moved and</sup> is now No 72 Waterman St.

(4) The "Great run of Water" which was making a bar across  
the channel is now the Brook Street sewer which <sup>brook</sup> then entered the  
river north of Fox Point.

"Your uncle Welcome" was Welcome Arnold Esq.

"Your Brother (in law) Henry" was Henry (of Job) Smith of  
Smiths Hill

The distillery was where the Tool Co's works now are on  
Wickenden St.

The "Shel beds" were where the Wilksbarre Pier now is.

(The above letter is in possession of Christopher D. Potter  
140 Walnut Street, East Providence, R. I., great great  
grandson of Edward Dexter. Above copy was made  
from a copy made from original by Christopher  
Dexter grandfather of said Christopher D. Potter & grandson  
of Edward Dexter.)

