

Richard Cranch to John Adams, 24 May 1787

Braintree May 24th. 1787

My dear Bro.

...Your most excellent Book (for one of which I thank you) is eagerly read by Gentlemen of all learned Professions here. It came to America at a very critical moment just before the meeting of the grand Convention at Philadelphia for revising and amending the Confederation, when the Subject matter of your Book will naturally be talked of, and attended to by many of the greatest States-men from all parts of the United States. I have myself conversed with many gentleman here of the first Rank for Learning and Abilities, who, after reading your book with great attention, gave it as their Opinion that you have supported your System of the Ballance in a most masterly manner. I find that the Litterati themselves are amazed at the vastness of your Reading on the Subject of Legislation and Government, from which you have been enabled so fully to bring your Theory to the Test of historical Facts., and to shew, that the Continuance and Steadiness of every free Government, of any large extent, has been and must be in just Proportion to the Perfection or Imperfection of that Ballance between the Powers of Government which you have so clearly and fully pointed out...

Cite as: Adams Family Correspondence, Volume 7, January 1786–February 1787, eds. Margaret A. Hogan, C. James Taylor, Hobson Woodward, Jesse May Rodrique, Gregg L. Lint, Mary T. Claffey, Cambridge: The Belknap Press, 2007, pp. 59-60.