**Source: www.dsdi1776.com/Signers**

**Excerpt from a Letter to John Adams**

**from Dr. Benjamin Rush**

*“The silence and gloom of the morning were interrupted, I well recollect, only*

*for a moment by Colonel [Benjamin] Harrison of Virginia, who said to Mr.*

*[Elbridge] Gerry at the table: ‘I shall have a great advantage over you, Mr.*

*Gerry, when we are all hung for what we are now doing. From the size and*

*weight of my body I shall die in a few minutes, but from the lightness of*

*your body you will dance in the air an hour or two before you are dead.’ This*

*speech procured a transient [momentary] smile, but it was soon succeeded by*

*the solemnity with which the whole business was conducted.”*

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