

Chiques December the 21st 1828

Dear Brother. I was not the least surpris'd when I read your letter to find you mistaken in your calculations as to the time and labour that it would take to erect ~~you~~ the saw Mill and other necessary works appertaining thereunto: having been eye-witness to greater miscalculations, and by old hands in the mill building business. When Schenk commenced to repair his mill he and his workmen concluded that they would have done with it, in two months: instead of that four will have elapsed before it will be altogether finished. And I have experienced something of a disappointment in their mistaken conclusions. The workmen having prevented us from working in the mill nearly one half of the time, since we did commence: which was on the first of Nov. But perhaps the witnessing of the making and repairing of the works will be of as much service to me. I have learnt at least something that is necessary for a miller to know that I would not have learned but by experience; if the circumstances of my lot had been otherwise. Upon the whole I am milling well satisfied and would be so altogether had we as much more water or half as much more as we have and I had a less tyrannical master he is as great a tyrant in his sphere of action as Dionysius of Syracuse: notwithstanding his great pretensions to christianity; he is not like Mr Clark a Baptist; nor a minister but a man that has been a devil in his young days and now because he sings and prays in the decline of life when his constitution will no more permit him to walk in the Primrose path: he is a saint or wishes to be considered such. The waters have been and are very low notwithstanding we had frequent showers of rain. The weather has been delightful and times and prices such as makes the countenance of the husbandman beam with joy. The present prices are for Wheat \$1.50 Rye .50 cents Corn .40 cents Oats .22 and Whiskey .22 cent per gallon

The last account from the city flour was 8 dollars and had
been as high as \$10 per barrel and it is calculated that it will
rise to that again before harvest. I received this letter on the 14th of
Dec. and could send an answer no sooner to it and Mr Parson's
proposals. This milling business is a strong one as you may know
that millers are, ^{on many occasions} must attend to all men at a minute warning
You need not tell me to be free in expressing my opinion for I
am your brother in that; and for a long time I say your letter
is well seasoned with inconsistencies. You say in the first place
that Mr Parson's proposal is a good one and then tell me that
wheat is worth 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents cash and again that Hastenaw is before
Hanover: Where Oye and Corn grows tolerably and where land is
at least worth 12 dollars per acre, on an average. The Harrisburg
market adds to the value of the Hanover lands and its likely to increase
in value to them. I have as poor an opinion of Hanover as you can
have but if I had 20 acres of land in it I could get more than
175 or 185 dollars for it. I think his offer is hardly sufficient for
it; considering its situation and its convenience: and the time he asks to
pay in. You should in order for me to make a just estimate of the
value of them 20 acres, have told me whether there was not other
situated as Mr Parson's is: as well as the cost for the cultivation of
an acre of that or some similar land; he certainly calculates to
make the land pay its self in the time he wishes for payment, but
least I should suspect so from the nature of the circumstances. So
much I have said more on account of the seeming inconsistency of
your opinions than having any objections to selling that piece of
land, even at a sacrifice because it is likely that the ^{money} will not come
amiss when I come to Michigan; when I do come, which I think will
not be before May 1831. You may sell that land and give him
till the first of June 1831 if he will give 200 with interest from
the day he gets possession. These conditions would answer me: but if
you can make more by selling at the first offer or the second by
having the use of the money you may do it there shall be no grumbling
on my part let me make ^{or} loose by it. If he does not fulfill his part
of the contract at the time appointed he must give up possession and
perfect all improvements and pay the 25 dollars for disappointment
if you think fit to exact it of him. You will have to take care in
making your contract that he does not play a Yankee trick on

You; because it might unavoidably happen that I could not come at the
time appointed to make him a legal title: and if that should be the
case the three men might appraise the improvements at more than the
land was worth: such a case has happened before now where a man
got possession on some such conditions and when he came to demand pos-
session he thought best to let the man have land and all rather than
pay for the improvements. In contracting with him you must do no
more than to insure him quiet possession of said land until I come
to Michigan or send sufficient authority for making out a legal
title. as to the 240 acres I dont wish to sell them at all at present
because if Michigan is settled as rapidly as Ohio has done land will
be worth 10 dollars per acre in as many years. You conclude very justly
on the prospect of my becoming a farmer in Michigan. There has no
alteration of condition as respects your relations and acquaintances
taken place since I wrote last. I was at home two weeks ago and I
found them all well; father had been at Womelsdorf with a
load of Wheat and got \$1.47 cents per Bushel. The election is over
and General Jackson triumphantly elected: by more than two
to one; in Campbellstown there was 113 Jackson and 61
Adams better than 800 in the county and in Dauphin like that
But I have not been at home long enough to see and laugh at
my opponents and James Clark in particular nothing more at
present so fare well
So John Geddes
Wm. Geddes

I will send you some account of mill affairs in my next.

