

August 17th 1829 Washletonaw

Dear Brother I received your letter of the 27th of June full as soon as I expected one from you, though it was the 26th of July before it came to hand, which I believe was somewhat owing to the bungling or simple manner it was post marked. The post mark superscription was merely "from Campbellstown". When it ought to have been "Campbellstown Pa. June -". This you may think is nothing towards forwarding a letter, but in my way the letter was post marked in Detroit; "Detroit July 24th Mic. J." Who is your Post master now. The Harrisburgh Chronicle arrived a week after the letter. We were pleased to see the bold stand that was taken by the members of the Antimasonic Convention against Freemasonry, even though they were few in number. And we hope that their success may equal their most sanguine expectations. They idea that the society of Freemasonry ought to be operated upon by the Act to prevent vice and immorality, is I think a new one, in the annals of Antimasonry; And shews the true spirit of Pa. upon this subject. They Freemasons were earnest to act as though they thought that they are the Aristocracy of the Land, the most respectable of the land. The success of Antimasonry in Pa. is what to be seen. The factious spirit is to contend with, and a spirit of opposition arising from principles of self defence may being opposed. Thinking it hard to be injurious to their aggrandisement at the present state of affairs; which will have a great effect on their opinion. They cannot see the policy or propriety of making it a political question. Though at the same time they cannot point out a better plan of annihilating the institution. It is likewise pretended to be a prescription of persons who are so unfortunate as to be Freemasons. Without being able to give a single reason why a secret institution ought to be kept in being, by patriots, or Republicans, nor what benefit a Republic can receive from it. It is not against particular persons we are contending; it is against the pernicious effects of the institution; against secret attachments and combinations. On progress through life we wish an equal, advantage or chance. A right that every person will assent to in the subject of standing what his actions may shew to the contrary - You will hear much on the subject of Antimasonry before the 2nd Tuesday in October. So I will close on this subject by telling you our success in Michigan. The Antimasonic Delegate to Congress was elected by about 900 of a majority the opposing candidate was Gabriel Richard, the Catholic Priest. The Freemasons and Headstrong Jacks clung to him with a firmness similar to a drowning man clinging to straw. The Legislative Council is Antimasonic. There was no regular disposition to the Legislative Council in Washletonaw; The object of the Freemasons was to elect the Anti-ⁱⁿ in which they did not succeed, and that in their only hope now. The object of the Freemasons was to defeat the election of the Antimasonic candidate John Bidwell, by a union with the French, but the door was ^{so} ^{arrogantly} ^{open} of their own party were willing to take it. A Pack is less thought of than a Freemason, the position they take of supporting what they say the ^{know} nothing about is contemptible. You will let me know how Londonderry aids in this and our friends, or acquaintances generally. The state of affairs respecting the Grist mill is stationary at present, how long it will continue so I cant say. The state of our minds is probably the same as hitherto; next summer is as soon as I heard about embarking in it. Wages is higher this summer than last at least one dollar per month. We have some repairs to make on the dam, and tail race, as neither of them have ever been properly finished, owing to our being rather behind our business last fall. They have answered without any serious loss, though we had several breaks from which we received but little loss, having promptly attended to them before they became formidable. The lock we have done nothing about yet, nor do we intend doing any thing about it this summer. I dont think that it will ever be required, we shall not build it until it is required. The Chicago road will be found to be a cheaper highway to transport upon than the Huron. The Huron is very low now. Another saw mill on the same dam, with the same head, same length of wheel and same ^{under} throat, would take about all the water we leave. This proving to be the case, we have done very well in buying Boston right, and so have prevented any difficulties that might arise from the want of water. We were of the opinion that the first Machinery erected on a stream would give a right to as much water as that, or the machinery would require; in preference once to that of any other that might be erected afterwards (by a rival on the other side of the stream) and that the last erected would have the ^{stop} when water began to fail. The general opinion here is that the owner on one bank has as good a right as the owner on the other, and that he can claim half the water, and maintain his claim, at what his distant day he may choose to call upon it. (Without a special act of the Legislative Council to the contrary.) This is saying the right of pre-emption to one side entirely; which is of considerable of importance in law, and which would ^{have} some weight in this case. If a man mows a marsh belonging to the U.S. it gives him a right to the hay. This is a settled point

Our Saw-mill does better than it did at first without any repairing either. I can now easily average 1000 feet per day of Oak stuff. There are no saw-mills, nor gristmills, erecting in Washitena this season. There are fifteen Saw-mills in Washitena at present which will answer for some time. And five grist-mills, three with one run of stones and two with two runs. These will answer for home consumption a short time. How much these Saw-mills cut in a year is a question that may be guessed at; something more than 100,000 feet apiece on an average; or 16 or 17,000,000 feet in the whole. There is two carding Machines in Washitena. Grain, Wheat was good; Rye but little is raised. The Corn looks well. Oats is not very good. There is no settled price for grain this season yet. Flour was four dollars per barrel a few days ago in Detroit. As to the weather the last day of May was the warmest day this summer. On the first day of July in the morning the Thermometer was as low as 43°. Two degrees lower might have had a slight frost. August 1st 50°. The warmest day in each of the months of June, July, and August, June 1st 89°. July 26th 86°. August 7th 84°. The weather has been dry, so far this summer and healthy. We have been making hay this two weeks, and not done yet. Robert calculates making 18,000 tons of hay. The hay is all made in the marshes. The clover Robert sowed he never mowed, not being worth mowing. The clover after being sown sprang up and looked afterwards, whether the ground was not cultivated long enough, or whether the necessary matter was wanting; is the thing. I think that Gypsum will be necessary before it will be much good. I have saw some tolerable fields of clover. Timothee does well. Gypsum abounds near Dandusky, it is of the white kind, so that it can be had cheap in this country. Two weeks making hay is all the work I have done in the farming line this summer. I cradled Robert, Oats in the two weeks. I have neither cut nor bound a sheaf of wheat this season. Robert was in no want of help, and I had plenty to do on the saw-mill. Robert has not built a barn yet, and I think will not this summer. A matrimony is an era in a persons life, and building a barn is another. Two eras in one year is scarcely to be expected. His crop this year is 11 acres of wheat 10 of corn and 1/2 of Oats. He has broke up 4 or 8 acres of new ground this summer and thinks of breaking up some more. Fruit that is wild fruit is plenty this summer, such as Strawberries, raspberries, Whortle, Berries, plumbs. ~~And~~ ^{As to} the Grapes we have none but chicken grapes. Apple Trees, Robert has about 100 that he planted together until he would have a more convenient place, prepared when he had when he purchased them. They are natural fruit. There is Thirteen Peach trees and three Cherry trees, produced by the stones you brought to Michigan. The cherries of the Peach trees. The have three peaches on them. The cherry trees are those the first sprang up. I expect the will be set out next spring. Robert thinks of transplanting his Apple trees next spring. You would probably wish to know how we pass our time on a Sunday. I go to meeting rather oftener than one Sunday in three, two in five would be near enough. Presbiterian meeting generally, occasionally to Methodist, and Episcopal. (we have variety of the Land) When I dont go to meeting I write, or read, or go and see some of the neighbors as I have not become so indolent yet, as to sleep, or go to bed, after rising in the morning, at night comes. Robert dont go to meeting half as many times as I do, reads some what sleep some writes little or none, has not wrote a letter this two years. Jane has been once or two miles to go Robert has four, that will likely make the difference. Maria says give her best regards to you and friends. We are all well at present; you may think it is short it all I have to tell you. Is Ritner a Jacksonian or not.

Love well
John Geddes

To William Geddes

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Am Arboon
the 19th day

Mr William Geddes
Campbelltown
Lebanon County
Pa.

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Jacob Hefft Jun