

Washtenaw, December 6th 1831

Dear Brother, As I am not very well to day, and the first of Dec. is past. I have set down to make out my regular letter to you, as well as to all those who feel any interest in our welfare, or curiosity in our fate. Our health with the exception of Luna has been good, who has been trouble with the ague, she has not had a fit for a week or, ten days and as she has been wearing it out, as she terms it. that is dont take any medicine to throw it off. She will (it is probable) have no more of it this season. I wish a decided advocate for using means to both break, and keep away, the Ague. The other opinion has numbers on its side. they are generally the ones that try every thing, according to their own story; But in fact only trifly with every means they use, and then blame the means: when themselves are to blame. If I am not mistaken the inclination and nature of the person does more towards confirming their belief than any evidence whatever: an indolent person will take an indolent method. It requires but little to convince them that a little work is the worst thing in the world for the Ague, their inclination supports the sentiment so strongly, that reason, and evidence, lose their effect, and the person becomes the mere creature of an indolent will, or lazy apathy. The Fever and Ague is a prevailing, and trouble ^{some} disease of this country, and there is very few who come here (who have not come from a more sickly region such as Rochester &c) who dont have a trial of it in the course of five years. some have it light, and some otherwise. and among so many cases and so many different constitutions it is not strange that there so many ways of treating it. This past season has been called a healthy one, though many sick; and I believe more deaths than formerly. The hardest cases are generally new comers, and strangers, who may be said to have no home, and I fear dont have that care they ought to have, amidst the conflicting differences of opinion are let run down, and rise no more. It is supposed this country (owing to the fires not running over it as they did when we first came here) is not as healthy as formerly; I dont wish to scare you; neither do I think you are easily frightened: especially at the Ague, or ^{intermittent} fever. I am sure I am not afraid of it and am more exposed to the causes of it, than any other person in the neighborhood, as I have been on the Sawmill every morning (with a very few exceptions) half an hour before sunrise and as late as I could see to set: in the evening through the whole summer, and fall; Our summer and fall has been rainy and wet, the Huron has been higher this summer and fall, than it has been since we have been here. The fall has been tolerable favorable for business. But winter has set in about a week ago. (its snowing now.) It is earlier than we wished it as there is considerable of corn to husk yet. Though the corn is generally cut up, so it can be hauled in to the barn and husked, where there is barns. We intend to run the mill night and day this winter, during the sleiding, thinking ^{we were intending} to saw Poplar for the third ^{to have} some more Poplar logs than formerly; and wishing to encourage it by sawing their share of the logs as they haul them, so, that they can haul their lumber home as they go back. The logs will have to be hauled seven or eight miles, and passed Dix's sawmill, which is three miles from us; Dix is a very unpopular man, there is no accommodation about him, and after he does have their logs sawed and divided, if the owner does not take it home right away, he must calculate to lose more or less, especially when there is a great demand for lumber as there was this past season. Taking all these things into consideration we think if we can but saw their logs so that they can have them home in boards, we will remove the distance in a great measure, and the disposition to Dix, will likewise aid them to pass him and will gratify ^{their} feelings. Dix takes ^{half} for sawing, Oak Lumber we sell at five dollars per thousand. Poplar is worth seven and an half, and is easier to saw, by a quarter, so we cant lose anything by it. After all a great deal depends on the sleiding, if it is good the sawmill will be profitable next summer; if not it may not be very profitable but it will worth something. I wont be too sure, though, notwithstanding we intend to make greater efforts in that line of business than we have done yet: if the sleiding will permit. Winter has began rather early to continue, ^{cold} but it may. The sleiding is middling good now, snow probably six inches deep, and weather cold. The thermometer has been as low as ten degrees two days ago, it is this 2nd of Dec. at noon 22°. Robert has two hired hands the commenced for the winter, yesterday. He is to give one of them ten and an half dollars per month, to pay him the money when his time is up the first of May; wages is high. Do the give any more a month in the summer in Pa. Robert intends to pack his team ^{to} (to skin rather) hauling logs this winter, calculates to haul considerably many. I thought he cant make it profitable. That damn that I believe I told you of some ^{year ago} that was to be erected across the Huron is ^{now} ^{erected}

they were so long working at winter set in, and stopp them, and the spring freshet sweeps
away what they had done. After long consideration they began it this fall again, but it is nothing
like done yet; and I don't think they can finish it this winter. And consequently we think they
will not stock the country, we don't think many will risque hauling in logs. So on the whole
we conclude sawmilling will be profitable another year. I really wish I had half the time
you have. I would certainly come to Pa. this winter; my will is in favour of it but circum-
stances forbid it. I wish to see you all once more face to face on our native shore. But
as Ulysses said "The laws of fate compell and I obey" at this time at least. I hope I shall
one day burst the bands that binds me so close to business and breathe a freer air.
We attempt to drive business with two few hands, which hurries us more or less all the
time. cold weather come on a week too soon for me, and the snow three weeks too soon
as they are beginning to crowd in the logs now, before we are prepared to run the mill night
and day; and the days are short so that I cant saw much. We have never weatherboarded the
mill yet nor have any fire out. Both of them must see, before it can be run night and day
with any degree of comfort. If you were here now I would give half a dollar for attending
the mill twelve hours, I would attend the other twelve myself, and learn you so that in one man
you could if necessary attend alone. Business is brisk here, grain is a good price which is the
life of Business. Wheat is 1. Corn .50 to .62½ and Pot. 40 to 50. Buckwheat .50 and Potatoes .25
these are the Cash prices. Pork is 5. per hundred. It is the Emigration that keeps up the
prices. But still the Detroit market has some effect. Farming is profitable which raise
the price of wages, as every farmer will hire if he can afford it. and the farmers have all
their farms to improve, and finally the people of Michigan are industrious. And why sh
it be otherwise; as one year work will buy eighty acres of land; with such a prospect w
would not exert themselves. These times may not always hold that true. But when they
are is the time to improve. that is the time to be up and doing.

Anti-masonry does better here than with you, though it does nobly in London derry, how can
I be otherwise than an Anti-mason when born and raised in a Township so unanimous in opinion
which breathes forth such a spirit of Antimasonry, to grow up encircled by that though latent
principle and not be impressed by it: would bespeak a singular mind if nothing else. If
the subject of Antimasonry could have come upon Pa. fairly; even as fair as it come up
here, the result would have been the prostration of Freemasonry at the first effort. Be-
cause there is a strong a very strong Antimasonic in Pa. if it could only be properly directed
that it cannot be I am truly sorry. But I am strong in the faith that it will rise over all obstacles
and shine forth with that effulgence, that true noble and patriotic principles ever do shine and
rise amongst a free people; What an insult to our country to our liberty and to the people of a
free soil is it to suffer such an enemy of equal rights, and not only suffer but protect. Becau
the way to eradicate may be offensive to sensitive persons. Who if I am not wrong are more
governed by men than principles. The principle of Antimasonry not one will object to. It's political
its political nature that is so exceptional. But was it not political Antimasonry that checked freemasonry
in the State of N.Y. in the first place and it that principal that checked it every where, that it has been
checked. A Meeting of Freemasons a short time since was held in Ann Arbor and Twenty, signed a
paper saying that they considered the institution at present useless & some of them were coming
out more plainly; others had consciences scruples. For my part I am willing to be easy, as co
as the nature of the case will admit of. If the help us to make out a ticket and support that, by the
votes, we will consider them with us, if they will not vote with us I shall consider ^{them} against us.
For my part, I consider the struggle to be over with in this County. I am well pleased with the
nominatation of William Wirt and if Clay does not come up, I think he will be elected. I like
wise think if Wirt and Jackson, are the only candidates that Wirt will have a majority in Pa. & I
think Jackson's popularity is fast declining. the bubble has burst. You may think that I am not
very "easy" nor moderate in my Antimasonry I certainly am decided. I support the principle
where I do not like the men. I am not so unreasonable as to make my own likes and dislikes to
men to overrule the principle I wish to support. I preserve that many men in the revolution
were opposed to the arbitrary course of the King but would not go the lengths of the Whigs and so
settled down Tories. It was not moderation that hurled the King the tenth from his Throne. It is
moderation though that sacrifices Polish blood to Russia's yonets. Just make a republican
a king once, and his moderation will be known to all men especially where the rights of
men are agitated. Louis Philippe of France is a specimen of this kind of moderation. Indu-
sation of a free people does rise up against him, I am done with the subject this time I don't
want any offence to be taken at it as I do not intend any. I wish you would tell me how much
tax is raised in Pa. (The state tax) I am sorry that my countrymen are so unreasonable
in paying taxes. I think the Legislature are perfectly right in laying on a tax, and that the
were very moderate, and think it strange that there any opposition to it. I am in favour of in-
ternal improvement, and in favour of raising money by tax to defray the expenses. Your
taxes are nothing like as much in proportion to the property labours are. Robert Road Tax is 30 da
worth every year. In raising a bridge over the river below our Sawmill this year he works
more than 30 more. So there is 60 days work this year on roads & Bridges. County tax besides
is ^{only} 28 cents on an hundred dollars. If a railroad could be made in Michigan
and want of money is the only obstacle I would willingly pay one cent on the dollar.
Paris in Detroit the beginning of October. Mr. Cuvers and Jane were in good health
Mr. Moses Clark and us have finally settled our difficulty we have agreed to pay him
twenty dollars and he has to release any claims that him and his heirs or assigns, may have
now or hereafter to Damages from the flouting any land or lands own by him

1835
1836
1837
1838
1839

~~Address to Mr. G.~~
~~Dec. 11. 1835~~
Mr. William Gelder
Campbelltown
Lebanon County
Pa.

Pa.
Haverburg
Matthew Haynes

Post

Please to send me another half
quire of ruled paper - if your father
has the half of the last one on hands
yet you may send that if not and
he gets a quire ruled he may send
the whole of it and I will send the
money with father when he goes to the
Jackson Convention
William Gelder