

Campbellstown January 31st 1832

Dear Brother I have been so busily employed that I could ^{not} write as soon as I promised by a week and have now to do it by candle light or you would have to wait another. I have 68 scholars to attend to through the day which is too much for any man and obliges me to be at half work half of the nights or evenings which leaves me little time to attend other business too little to read the news of the day of which I get a tolerable quantity having subscribed for a Washington paper which is published three times a week and contains the proceedings of Congress which are of considerable importance this winter. Your Member Walling has presented a goodly number of petitions from the Inhabitants of Michigan for divers objects none of which are of much consequence to you or I should not have forgotten them and should have let you know their import. I wrote to William about your paper directly after I received your letter and intended to have written to you after I had given him a reasonable time to answer me whether he did or not knowing his tardiness in matters indifferent. But was not able and now having received his answer further delay would be criminal. He says you if it was his paper first in 1826 and that he received \$250 cents in Feb. 1827 which was for the first years subscription which I suppose was the money that was sent with me as he says he was forbid sending it for the future which I did do at one time. He says he would be satisfied with 10 dollars but I shall pay him the full amount as soon as I can conveniently send it which will hardly be before in March some time or perhaps not till April as none of our storekeepers will go to the city before that time he has waited so long and may that much longer. If you write before that time you may correct his account if you think it not right. Otherwise I will pay him 15 dollars which would be the whole amount paying a year in advance. A sum of money his papers never was worth and would not be for as many years to come, but that is nothing to me and I care not. You have got to be a blue stocking now and doubtless will think but a light matter. I suppose I shall have to listen to a considerable quantity of religion when I arrive but I am getting tolerable used to such things. I attend regular to hear our reverend gentleman but still think more of the man than his opinions. I pity him as much as an unregenerate man can that he has been so unfortunate as to preach all his life to a thoughtless care-less prayer-less as he often says people.

I spoke to Alexander about that tract and he promised to send it as soon as he should get any of them how soon that may be is hard to say for he had ^{had} nothing of such tracts as yet. He and his family were well and Robert begins to stretch himself a little he has started to grow a little. Politicks is beginning to be the order of the day but I am still a moderate politician and will it is likely be condemned by both parties this campaign if I should happen to stay in Penn. for I am still a staunch Jacksonian and possibly vote against Wolf & for Old Hickory which may appear in the eyes of men wholly absorbed by party to be as inimical to consistency or to principle as supporting a bad man for a good purpose. It may happen that I will support both for Wolf has done as well as could be done in his circumstances. Father has become a stronger party man than formerly: him and Uncle James could not ^{agree} at all and I believe that Uncle went away offended at her about politicks. Father is one of the delegates from Lebanon County to the Jackson & Wolf Convention to be held at Harrisburg on the fourth of March for to Choose a Candidate for Governor & President and Vice President. There is but little said about tax law in our township and I think it will go down better than was expected. The four days Meetings were put off till spring I think there has been no alteration in the mode of admitting Church Members they were always made give an account of their faith. It is owing to your ignorance of Church affairs makes you imagine so. Winter has commenced again it snowed yesterday 10 inches the day before it was. William says his brother John & Robert are well and doing as usual a great business they have a Store at New Orleans & one at Mobile. He has heard that they are worth 50000 dollars but not from them - those are his own words. You may make your own comment upon them. His own business he allows is unprofitable though he has abundance of work but he never was made to be rich he ought to go on study under his brothers. Prices are as they were. There has been a great many sick this winter but few died in our neighborhood. I saw doctor Wilson at Church he looks the worse of the wear and is still roving from place to place. James is going to sell off his stock and rent out his farm and live private Gentleman. James Clark is still living as heretofore

Watter has become a daddy his wife had a son not long ago
Polly Sawyer was delivered a few ^{days} ago of a daughter which
makes six daughters and five sons a goodly number for
one pair. No Bachelor ought to despair after such success.
Binghill has his health better than formerly and seems to enjoy
himself well. He does considerable business on the Union Canal
which has been a source of renewed exertions in him it appears
to have created him anew. His wife is childless and is likely to
remain so. Hugh Shiller's wife has had two or three but they
all died shortly after they were born. Of Moses Wilson's family
I can say nothing. There is considerable ado in Congress about the
public lands ^{them} are great many projects or plans are laid to take
them off the hands of the Government. The projectors say Congress
have no need of them any more since the National debt is
nearly paid. Some are for giving them to ^{the} States that they lay in
others for having the money distributed among the
States to be applied by them ^{in any} think fit. I think
that the Government ought to ^{sell} and sell as heretofore
if it was but to prevent lawsuits ^{of} titles and speculators
who never intend to settle on them. ^{the} manner land was
disposed of in Penn. was a mighty source of law suits many
of which are not as yet adjusted. I had frequently a notion
of sending some of my ^{papers} Washington but I find so many
that are willing to read them that I have not. If there is
any thing of consequence done about the lands I will let
you know. It was debated in the house about giving non residents ^{one}
year time to redeem their land but I think it did ^{not} pass
I will be more careful to remember any thing on that point
for the future. You will have to make some allowance for
this letter for it is with pain that I write for I scarce know what
to write to fill up this blank. I would say something about your
but Presbyterianism but do not wish to unsettle your opinions
I care not to make converts to my creed if any attack me
I defend but I attack no one. Farewell. all is well.

To John Geddes

William Geddes

Campbelltown 25

February 15th

1832

Learned Sir

M^r John Geddes

Assisanti
Michigan

that
this is a
son of M^r
and for
ice Presider
burne

Sam. Allen

February 20 1832