

Campbelltown October 21st 1834

Dear Brother, your last was received on the 16th inst. I received a letter dated Sept. 30th 1834 from Harrisburg which was signed S. W. Stillwell who wrote to me to know if I would sell my two quarter sections on 22 and that if I would I should direct to him at New Orleans where he said he resided. I have done so and sent him word that I would not unless an extraordinary price was offered. You will therefore refuse to sell that land I trust at almost any price but who will offer. Who this man is I know not but it would appear he had been in Michigan and was on his way home. Some land speculator no doubt but why he did not wish to buy that on 23 is what I cannot account for. Agrippa intends starting next week for Michigan where I wish you to try to keep him if possible for there are too many of us living a lazy idle life. Thomas came home rather unwell in the spring from Harrisburg but has long since been well enough to attend to the care of business he has been learning with Graydon but he is too unaccountably lazy, and does not have the house scarcely he was too much so even to go to the election on Tuesday last although I urged him hard. Repeatedly for I feared the result would be unfavorable because the exertions of the Jackson or Masonic party was really wonderful. The fuss they made about the Bank and the Gold currency that was about to be introduced in its place I thought would receive very many & thereby we might be defeated but we have done well in Dauphin & Lebanon having carried the whole tickets in both all to one man in the first who is lost by 10 votes only which spites me more than if he had been ~~lost~~ ^{lost} by 200 because if Thomas and ten more such lazy fellows had had laziness but for four hours or so it would ^{not} have happened. I calculated that we would be beaten in Dauphin but that Lebanon would overwhelm them and elect our Congressman and senator in which I would not have been mistaken but Dauphin carried them both itself by 115 votes. Why I thought we would be worsted in Dauphin was just the noise that was made about the Gold which I am told was exhibited by party men all over the county by handbills the magic influence of which was expected to do wonders backed by the unpopular name of Bank which was heard at every corner but it appears it does little harm. My second reason for thinking so was the unpopular bill called a bill to establish free schools throughout the state that was passed last winter and for which the Antimasonic members of Dauphin voted for and which vote I would have ^{but} 20 dollars would have destroyed them both and it would most assuredly have done so had not the spirit of party ran so high as to lose sight of every other consideration. In Sept. we had an election for school directors and the party opposed to free schools carried it without opposition except in Londonderry and the borough of Lebanon in the last place there was 53 votes for free schools & 100 against in Londonderry we had but 8 votes for schools and those were Thomas Borland John Irwin Jacob Brown Samuel Behm David Bigham George Selders Thomas Marks and William Leades against 126 so that free schools is voted down in our county totally but has prevailed as far as I heard partially in every other county and in a great many entirely so that I am still in hopes that it will finally prevail. I was determined that ignorance should not prevail in our township without a blow been made against it as it was boasted it would. What the exact cost of railroads is per mile is more than I can say at present but I expect I can let you know

Shortly after our Legislature meets. If you were to make them in your country as
the are made here they would cost an enormous sum of money ^{to} lay the rails
on stone blocks. The two thirds of the contractors who undertook to make the
railroad from Philadelphia to Columbia were so much mistaken in their cal-
culations of what it would cost that they were obliged to throw up their
contracts to save themselves from breaking and I believe in many instances
the same contracts were let three or more times before they were com-
pleted which was principally owing to the ^{cost of} cutting hauling and setting in
those stone blocks. Your country is easy of excavation twice as much so I would
think as ours which would save considerable. Let the cost be what it would
I would be for it and would be willing to pay a tax of ten dollars per year
sooner than it should be abandoned. For the railways after completion
are superior to canals or any other mode of conveyance as yet discover-
ed. America will be shortly if she is not already the greatest country
in the world for publick improvements and the most powerful nation also
if we remain undivided. Ann was very well pleased with her visit to
Newville and stayed about a month but did not go in time to find Eliza
McAllen there and had no opportunity of crossing the mountains to Ham-
metsburg. Walter Clark is well and driving his trade as usual in Millers town.
John Wolfberger and Adam Ketting intend starting for Illinois next
week and Wolfberger thinks he may possibly visit Michigan - but it is
still doubted by some whether they will start at all. The Revd. James
Sharon Jr. preached at Derry in Sept. some time but made but an ind-
ifferent haul of it - his wife is a very homely woman and has the app-
earance of being thirty. James was generally much pitied by his old
acquaintances for being taken in by such a piece of furniture. He is
a sortly good looking man and you know 7 or 8 years under thirty.
James Clark is still living a single life like yourself and no doubt is putting up
the misery of a married life from year to year. Still saying next year I will like
you - he no doubt thinks he can do as well as his father who married at
fifty and the very first trial raised a "pain o' dem" as an Irishman would say.
The Clarks advertised their land in Sept. for private sale but did not get
an offer and have now advertised for publick the sale to be on the 23 inst. &
perhaps I may detain this to let you know the result. I have had no
offer for ours this fall as yet nor do I expect. I will at any rate I have
rented it for another year. Buryhill Bell's father in law died last summer &
he has made a tolerable haul. His brother in law Hugh Sheller and him fell
out about the division of the effects and are now bad friends. Buryhill is
trying to give me trouble with the old woman about her thirds. It appears
that he has been telling her that she is entitled to the whole thirds of the
produce of the farm and not to the thirds of the clear income which is
all I pay her. That all expenses such as taxes seed grain or repairs of buildings
are to be paid out of the two thirds coming to the heirs. I think I will be under
the necessity of filing an account of the income of the farm for 1833 and 1834 when
the Court will decide what the widow is to have which will silence all clamors
of such unfriendly and mischievous persons. The cost of such settlements amount to
about thirty dollars which I calculated to save by settling with the heirs themselves
but it appears the devils wont have it so his friends the lawyer must have their
share. The clear income of 1833 is \$507.96 from which took the value of seed
grain for the crop of 1834 = \$5129.456.67 the thirds of which I paid her \$152.22

1833

The reason that I took the seed of 1834 off the crop was because one has to wait one whole year till the crop grows to pay for it which kept me charging myself in advance for notwithstanding the crop of 1834 is here there is little or none of it can be brought to market before the first of April 1835 besides that I have advanced the seed of 1835 already at the time I was to be paid that of 1834 which still would leave me a year behind but as I now have it 1833 paid for 1833 and 1834 and 1834 pays for 1835 at the very time the grain has to be advanced which enables me to charge myself with the wheat and ask credit for it as seed sowed which keeps my account square. The balance of personal left by father amounts to \$434.55 to which if we add what you are charged in the Will viz. \$45 = \$479.55 and that divided into eight shares / Alexander not being entitled to a share he having also being charged in the Will \$350 / would equal \$59.94 which is all you were entitled to receive on Nov. 9th 1833 when my administration account was confirmed by the Orphans Court. Which would leave you over paid on that day \$40.00 besides the interest of \$55 from the time I paid you at Detroit till that time and till the first of Oct. 1834 interest on the sum overpaid which was the time I received all the money for the crop of 1833 not being able to get \$1.00 per bu. for wheat or 50 cents for corn till the first of August or more than 50 for rye which I had finally to get ground into flour when I realized 62^{1/2} but of it you can calculate yourself what you are still indebted to me. I have had no opportunity of paying William for the printing of the Philadelphian but will shortly. He was up with his second wife but did call to see me - what he has realized in the money way by this second match I have not heard. Lawyer demanded his fathers papers of me the other day; that we happened to meet at the mothers. He said he thought he ought to have them particularly the deeds and could not see what use they were to me. I told him that it was true that they were of little or no use to me but as they had come into hands by fathers being executor I did not think I would be justified in giving them up nor would not unless compelled by any course of law. I said that I had as good if not a better right to them than he had for he did not get his title by them but by the heirs releasing upon which release he was to found his title to that land if he sold and not upon his fathers deeds. if he had them if he has a good title to that land he had it independant of me and if he had not I would be the last man that would make him one if I could. He said he would sue me for them and I told him he might and as soon as he pleased for that I would never give them up unless compelled by the courts of Justice. But I dont believe he will sue for if he does he will publish to the world that his title to that land is none of the best which might cause his creditors to fall on him these hard times that their money should be lost and if they would it would totally ruin him. He is undauntedly sinking deeper and deeper in debt every year. He wants to sell badly but has found out that he cannot make a very good right in which people are very particular these times, as they always ought to be. Wheat is \$1. Corn 60 Rye 55 Bats 25 Potatoes 50. Wages per day in harvest 50 for makers & binders 62^{1/2} for Crabblers hands by the month \$8.50. What I may follow this winter I cannot say at present perhaps teach if an opportunity should offer. If I could get away I would come with Agrippa and stay in Michigan or Ohio all winter. The vote in Londonderry was 170 Anti. and 31 Jackson in Millerstown 27^{1/2} Anti and 108 Jackson in East Hanover 270 Anti. 47 Jackson. Quatura 189 Anti Jackson 44 Lebanon town 88 Anti. 214 Jackson. Lebanon Township 225 Anti. 275 Jackson. Jackson township 133 Anti. 195 Jackson. Bethel 92 Anti. 115 Jackson. Heideberg 159 Anti. 233 Jackson. Showing that the four first and upper townships of our County voted so unanimously as to beat the five lower ones better than 330. And Londonderry Derry and Hanover in Dauphin

done the same and decided the election in Dauphin. You must let me know
in your next what amount of taxes Robert and you pay and the amount of each
kind particularly the school tax a kind of tax we are likely soon to have on us
notwithstanding we have rejected the school bill at present for this rejection
does not as it did the other cross it under wholly for we are to try every year
unless the legislature should repeal it. Farewell

To John Geddes

William Geddes

John

Campden Town Oct 20th 1834

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John Geddes

John Dillon

Michigan

