

Campbelltown Jan. 3rd 1835

Dear Brother. I would have been to see you this winter if that estate of Carper had not demanded my presence here, for I am long since dissatisfied with my idle life. I would have liked to have seen Isabel before she left this world and had I known she was so fast sinking under the hand of Melancholy or of a disease so near allied to the Colic as that Bilious Diarrhoea. I would most certainly have come and endeavored to have aroused her spirits which is the only remedy against such slow working diseases. On Wednesday the 25th of Nov. that Case of Carper was tried before the Supreme Court and gained so far as I am concerned but lost to Old Samuel Carper who lost his pay for services rendered before and since fathers death in toto and will consequently have to pay the costs of the appeal to the Supreme Court and fifty dollars out of his own pocket in all making little less than 300 dollars for he has yet to pay over the money now in hand and make a final settlement with the heirs which will cause him to expend fifty or sixty more. It will cost me 100 before all is done and possibly more. I gave our attorney 25 out of my pocket as a fee before we first tried it but nothing since and he got from Old Sam 25 and out of the estate 20 in all for a good fee for passing an administration account. The attorney on the other side rec'd but 10 on the first trial and perhaps as much more on the second but a little more than a fourth part of ours. I was determined that our attorney should be better paid than theirs if they had went to 100 for I feel persuaded that the heaviest fee has considerable weight in every cause and I firmly believe that if father had promised his attorney when he commenced that suit five instead of one hundred dollars he would not have had to give the same but would have got the money without much difficulty out of old Haaks estate. The court was held for two weeks exclusively for Dauphin and Lebanon Counties. I was up on Tuesday of the first week but ours being the last trial on the list I saw there was no chance of a trial that week I returned home and went up on Tuesday of the second and on the next heard it tried, which was done in about an hour and with great satisfaction to myself. The judges ridiculed and laughed at their plea which was that the administrators had neglected their duty; or otherwise they could have got that money from Adam Haak without trouble let alone an expensive lawsuit. Consequently they were entitled to pay all those expenses out of their own pockets and not out of the estate. They depended much on the testimony of Philip Wolfenberger who swore clear and more positively against us in the evidence he gave for the trial before the Supreme Court than in that before the Orphans Court so much so much so that I myself was a little staggered at it and our attorney doubly so and had it not been on the ground to insist on the goodness of our cause and encourage him to make a stout defence we would have been defeated altogether. Wolfenbergers evidence was this. That Robert Gradis, Samuel Carper & John Wolfenberger the administrators all lived in sight of Adam Haak's and were aware at the time that Haak sold the land to bitmer that he had sold it and that

he had got about \$17000 dollars for it - that they had not demanded
the money of Haak when he got that money although required to do
so by himself and others; but on the contrary were told by Leedes to mind
their own business and he would his: that Haak was loaning out mo-
ney at that time and would have ^{paid} this if it had been properly managed
and when Greber ~~got~~ ^{bought} his land Haak got \$3500 several years after
and still there was no demand made on Haak for this money and no
action brought till Adam Haak had spent all this money and then
they sued Michael Haaks executors. All we had to defend us against
this stubborn testimony was that the money to be collected was coming
to the two youngest heirs and they were minors and one of the Guardians
had squandered all the money he had got and was bankrupt. The judges
asked their attorney how Wolfersberger could know whether Haak
would have paid that money if had been demanded Haak might
say he would and have ^{not} the least notion to do so. And supposing they
had demanded and got the money would they not have had to lend
it out again on account of it belonging to minors whose guardians
were no longer safe and it might have been put in wrong hands and
all lost and what then why blame them for not leaving it where it was
The Judges asked them if Michael Haak's estate was not good for the
money and finally did pay and if the land held by Witham and
Greber also and according to their own account Adam Haak was getting
rich at that time instead ^{of poor} he had got so much money and instead
of throwing away was loaning it out so that the administrators must have
thought they had the best security possible and were fully justified in
leaving the money where it was and if an expensive lawsuit was the conse-
quence it was no fault of the administrators who could not foresee that and which
might have been the consequence if they had got the money and put in other
hands. Mr. Norris father's attorney got his \$17 without having to say a word
The Judges said it was not too much for a 15 years lawsuit. So that I
have beat them the second time and I have better reason now to hope that I
will finally do so and if Mr. Carper has been beaten it is his own fault
for if he had taken my counsel he would not. When John Wolfersberger left
home he said as much as that he would visit Michigan but it appears to me that he
was disappointed in what he expected to see in the Western World, that he had formed
to high an idea of the glories of West America from what he had read in lying news-
papers and heard from such enthusiastic characters as himself who had traveled
through that country. I called the next evening after he returned but was unable
to get little out of him he was unwilling to converse with me on the subject and
I have frequently called since but all to no purpose so that I am ^{not} able to give you
his views of the West. The reason undoubtedly is because I have triumphed and singly &
that over an host of them in that matter of Carper's which has made the whole
connexion my bitter enemies and well it might for what touches both purse and
intellect as that does is too, too bitter to be digested, but must forever remain in
and corrode the very manly feeling towards me. What I have learnt from others is
that he has but an indifferent opinion of the West. He was but about a month away.

And went no further than Cincinnati and both back and forward by stage or
steamboat which is no way seeing a country and I think he himself feels rather
more ashamed than pride of this journey. There is not many places in the United
States that surpasses Loudonery in any view you take them. Aunt in Newville has
been unwell but is recovered. The rest are all well as far as I have learnt. William's paper
I have still neglected it occupying my memory still when ^{an} opportunity offered. When Thomas
took Isabel M^r Olue to the Philadelphia Hospital I can't think why I forgot un-
less it was my Court business put it out of my mind and now I can't say when
I will have an opportunity. Isabel's Manover relations and his Reverence M^r Sharon
were continually insisting on their sending her there and James Thomas and
Arippa wishing to leave ^{home} shortly it became necessary to send her in accordance
to the wishes of the one and the necessities of the others. Her relations on the M^r Olue
side have left the old woman to understand that they expect Isabel's Money
at her death as it came by the father's side of the house and that she must take
good care of it. That is a match for your Michigan twenty per cent men. You know
what I said in one of my former letters about going into partnership with a
stranger and that a Yankee. Better not build a mill at all than do so. I believe I
would sell if I was offered what you say but that I have not been by any body but
Wolfsberger and him I refused because I feared his circumstances and my fears
were fully realized last spring when he could scarcely with Young Samuel Carper
to back him meet the demands that were made upon him without ours which
would have overwhelmed him and been obliged to take back the land. John Behm
if you recollect had offered \$13000 but finally flew the course. And if I do sell
you will certainly see me in Michigan health and strength permitting. ~~And then~~
we will see about that mill building but till then you ought to defer it. I
could do considerable towards so but I think it best not and James wishing
to make a start in the world as he ought next spring and as I can't sell
I have engaged to loan him four or five hundred dollars in order to do so and
perhaps in another year I can give him the ballance coming to him out of
the two thirds of father's estate. You may expect to see him in Michigan next spring
where he will likely purchase a half mile square of land and I hope you will
be able to spare time to assist in looking out a good situation. I think he ought
to go somewhere between Lake Michigan and the head waters of the Mississippi
where it is contemplated to make a canal capacious enough to carry steam
boats. I sent you a paper or two containing a report on that subject with an
account of the expence of Rail Roads and Canals. At father's death he owed to
Jacob Behm on a bond \$331.50 and when I was prepared to pay it Alexander
requested me to ask Behm for the loan of that money which I did and had
to go his security a thing I did not like to do but could not avoid it without
offending him and have lent him in addition \$300 more which is rather too
much to risk in a storekeeper. And in consequence ^{have} drawn upon him for \$150 on
New-year's day and have agreed with him to draw Robert's share of Isabel's
he being Guardian so that I will settle with you for both shares when I come to
Michigan. I would like to know the amount of each share in order that I can settle
with him as soon as spring arrives. He is doing a good business and is in good
credit but you know better men have failed in such business especially in these times.

Robert G. Graydon is in good health and is a lively intelligent boy and appears to enjoy himself well under a stepdame. he begins to stretch himself considerably and will from present appearances be a taller man than his father. Wheat is 87 1/2 Rye 55 Corn 50 Oats 25 Potatoes 50 Clover seed 1.25 Timothy 2.50 per bu. We had twenty inches of snow on 29th Dec. Poor Squire Phillips was sold out the 26th Dec. and I hardly know what will become of him shortly if he lives he has become a real brute by drink and can no longer maintain his family. The poor house will be his fall at last but I believe I will go security to the purchase of his house for the rent for a year and save him so long from so humiliating a fate. David Dasher is pretty much ditto only not so poor but will ere long. Isabel Cotheart or now Broadgrass was not expected to live for some time past. Walter Clark has got to be Captain of a volunteer company in Millerstown and cuts quite figures. I paid James & Thomas \$35 on their shares of income for 1833 intending to receive the rest for my trouble in looking after them. The Clear income was I think I told you \$456.96 of which the widow got a third and I can't see why you could not find out what your share would be. No room for any thing further Farewell. All well here.
 To John Geddes
 William Geddes



16.99^{rs}

John

1835

1/30

Palmyra Pa } 25
 January 3rd }

Mr John Geddes
 Ann Arbor
 Michigan Territory

