

Detroit. January 7th 1841

Dear Brother,

I am now in Detroit: having come here, ~~the~~ 3rd instant. My last letter to you was dated October 23rd if I recollect right: to which letter I have received no reply. I have received two Lebanon Courier; having the elections returns from that County. The Whigs done well in Lebanon & Dauphin. and in the whole State you have carried the State for Harrison: which is more than I expected this time last year. But you done so well the second Tuesday of Oct. that I expected the 3rd day would still improve the well doing. I see that Lebanon County polled for Harrison & Van Buren exactly the same number of votes that it cast for Porter & Pitner. and that Loudouery had three votes less. I likewise see that by ^{the} census Lebanon County has increased very little in ten years. It appears to be nearly standing beam. In Michigan we have increased some 36,000 in less than three years. Monroe County has decreased and so has Saginaw. in the last three years: The rest of the counties in the state have increased. In Washtenaw the Whigs had 470 majority. We lost some of our majority of last year but done pretty well. The township of Pittsfield gave the same majority it did the year before, 83. There was 209 votes polled in that township. The Legislature of Michigan met on the 14th instant. The first day of their meeting all the members that had certificates were sworn in and took their seats. Objections having been made to the Mackinaw members right to a seat. it was deferred. and the Wayne County members came up. which occasioned quite a spirited opposition from the opposition: and the house adjourned. Next day after the morning business was got through with ^{the} Wayne members was went at again. and after the yeas & Nays had been called seventeen times it was finally decided that the Whig members should take their seats by a vote of 22 to 21. The evidence in the case was this. The Representative box in the township of Hambranch box disappeared mysteriously. before the votes in it were counted: it was found on the Road broken open and the ballots scattered about. The night after the election. the ballot boxes of Hambranch were put into a large box, and that ^{box} box was placed on a cart. in which a horse was hitched and driven towards Detroit. When the Horse and cart &c arrived at its destination. it was found on examination that the Representative box was missing. But how and

when it left its comrades was unknown. All ^{that} those that had these boxes in charge could say, was that they were drunk. The rest of the Van Buren ticket had from 126 to 130 majority in that township of Hamtramck. Whereas the Whig representatives in all of the rest of the Townships had but about 120 majority. It is supposed if the Hamtramck box had not been lost ~~the~~ ^{but} two Whig members would have been elected and the other five members ~~of the~~ would have been Van Buren men. This is conjecture. The Whigs contended that the canvassers of the County ought to have given the certificate of election to the Whig candidates, as they had the most votes that came before them. And then if the Tories could show a better right than the Whigs. They could have the privilege of doing so. If not the Whigs would retain their seats. The Tories have entered a protest on the Journal of the House against the course pursued by the Whigs. Probably that is all they will do. They must take better care of their ballot boxes. I am opposed to such carelessness. If a Township has a drunken board of election, that township must suffer the consequences. It is singular to hear the Whigs say we done right in this affair and the Tories say that we done wrong. Wonderful the prejudices of politicians. The Governor handled in his message to day. He recommends a different system of taxation, recommends employing all the funds of the State on the Central Rail-Road. Says nothing about the Banks, which is not satisfactory. We do not intend to grant another suspension to the Banks. Wheat is $.56\frac{1}{2}$ for Bu Corn 25 Oats $.16$. Corn has sold in Ann Arbor for $.18\frac{1}{2}$ and Oats for $.12\frac{1}{2}$. Potatoes $.12\frac{1}{2}$ and lard Pork $\$3.00$ for hundred for hogs weighing 200 and $\$4.00$ when for Hogs weighing 300 and over. Taxes in Washtenaw one third less than last year. I don't know what your tax is in Pittsfield. In Ann Arbor your tax is $\$1.07\frac{1}{2}$. I have never as yet received any letter from Agrippa. I have spoke to Jane about signing her right to James and Agrippa of Thomas' land. She says she is willing to do what the rest of us are willing to do. To get all of it might be some benefit to them. To divide it I don't ^{think} is worth while; that is amongst all of us. What is it worth?

I want you to direct your next letter to Detroit. As it is probable I will be here until the first of March. The State pays my postage until the Legislature adjourns. Probably it would be as well to direct to me as a member of the House of Representatives. As then any communication directed to me, will be handed to me by the messengers of the House without enquiry on my part. I do not know how to account for not having received a letter from you since I last wrote. It is the first letter that has failed

in our correspondence of fifteen years. Paul Geddes of Lenawee was elected enrolling clerk: he has not arrived yet but is expected in a few days. He made application last year but did not succeed. This year he did not come. His friends have been more fortunate. I hope he may do the duties acceptable to the House. He prides himself on his penmanship, as a farmer he is shiftless. I have not been very well this fall. My health is good now. Robert has been in good health this fall. Our families are in their usual good health. without either of them having increased or decreased in numbers the past year. There has been four deaths in ~~this~~ our school district last year: three females and one male. One of the deaths inflammation in the head: two Inflammation of the lungs, and one Liver complaint. This country is much subject to ~~inflammations~~ and they are rapid dis- I am (Mr Evers) health about as usual. I board these now. whether I will the whole session or not is doubtful. So far my legislative duties are very light the committees are not appointed yet. I want you, or some one else to answer this ^{letter} forthwith. I sent you two newspapers which had some elections returns.

We are furnished here with two Inkstands for every member. Ink. quill & paper. wafers. sand-box & and Seal at the expense of the state. I dont know that I have any thing more to say. Farewell
John Geddes
William Geddes Esq

1781



WJG

William Geddes Esqr

1841

Palmyra
Lebanon County
Pa.

