

Lundonderry February 3rd 1830

Dear Brother a full month has passed away since I received your letter and still I have scarcely time to write so busily engaged am I in this new occupation and least you might be at the trouble that you were when you last wrote I have lit my candle in a strange house to write you an answer; my want of time I hope will be a sufficient excuse for any omissions of importance. I received your letter on the third of January. We have had very moderate weather this fall and winter till within these last two weeks which have been very cold: the spring the summer and fall was very wet and cool and the winter too till the time I have mentioned. The grain has been suffering very much since the cold spell commenced the ground having been so intolerably soaked with almost constant rains and has been lying bare since the rains have ceased; till yesterday there fell about ten inches of snow. Monday I should have said. My school was small for the two ^{first} months but has ever since been as large as I could wish. I like the business tolerably well it is somewhat confining but the constant motion that it keeps me in makes the time slip away without pain. The only thing that I dislike is the boarding with the scholars which I was obliged to do for two reasons first the smallness of the school at the commencement; and it being more agreeable to the subscribers I dislike it more on account of not being able to read or study ^{at} night which it altogether prevents. I fancy a time dont know where I will lodge untill I have taken the key from the door but this I will shortly remedy. How long I may teach I know not if my subscribers will be satisfied with my teaching it is likely I may stay until spring a year but what I will actually do is as much unknown to me as it probably can be to you. I can make more at it than I could at any thing else but still if I would get an offer in a mill I would perhaps except it. There is money to be made at the Milling at all times and in all places. But with my present business it is widely otherwise unless I were to go to learn myself; so as to qualify myself to teach a school of an another grade. My Brothers in the business in this neighbourhood are John Todd James brother and John Peters Robert Porterfield Adam Grittinger and a son of Abraham Brower. Adam Grittinger was made a justice of the peace a few days before Shultz left the chair of state, and I am certain against the will of three fourths of the people of the township. He however does something at the law on Saturdays and surveys occasionally. He teaches in the ^{Danforth} end of Palmyra and I in our old school room and Peters on the gravel Hill about two miles from us. Peters and I have partly ruined his school. The squire is going to Campbelltown in the spring not being able to

get one to suit him in this town he is going to live, James Nelson lived
in Campbelltown and calculates to get that school if Porterfield leave
it which he talks of doing. Porterfield has at present upwards of sixty
scholars. John Todd at Killingers where Darwin taught last winter
John was at our house one evening last month and said he intended
to go to Ohio in the spring. Darwin is at present employed as a clerk
by Ringle and Co. who are building a large dam above Jonestown on the
swatawa or some of its branches; as a reservoir to supply the Union
Canal with water when other resources fail. The Union Canal carried
25000 tons of to and return loading according to the report of the
managers which was altogether the produce of the country bordering
on it and merchandize for the same; the Pennsylvania Canal not
having water in it only occasionally; that is the Eastern section the
Western section for about 30 miles has been in full operation some
part of the last season and is said to do very well. Our late Governor
called the legislature directly after the Election to devise ways and means
to replenish the treasury which had become empty and one million
and a half worse than empty. The legislature have reported ^{to be} borrowed
four Millions more of money from the bank of Pennsylvania and are
to give that bank a charter for twenty eight years. Interest to be paid half
yearly. The whole debt of the state will amount with that sum to
thirteen Millions and it is calculated that it will ^{take} that to complete
the works under contract. There is a great many rumours of taxes and they
must come at last. The present Governor has recommended the taxing of
money capital of every description. Bonds, notes, Mortgages the capital
of storekeepers as well as Carriages and property of that sort in fact
taxation will be as bad as the Mad democrats fancied it would be if the
Elder Adams had been reelected to the Presidency. It is really unaccount-
able what has become of the anti Canalers at present one million of dollars
raised ten times the full during Gleisters that the whole thirteen does now
with the aid of taxation to boot or you might say actual taxation to boot
Your Country folks have got the mark of taxing completely, thirty
days is an immoderate tax for a road tax. Please to make out the
exact amount of my taxes since they commenced to tax me. I have not
^{paid} William any thing on your paper but if you ^{will} I shall I will this spring
send the whole amount due by some of our storekeepers, as part pay
for my taxes. I would like to know if there are any buildings erected on
my tract of land. Our relations and friends are nearly in the same con-
dition they were in when I wrote last as far as I know for it is but
little that I have heard of either of them since. one of our neighbors was
at the Doctors this winter they were all well then. ^{There} was told by
rumour is President of the temperate society of Newville a worthless
President truly

The sends us occasionally a paper ^{my 3^d} ^{and} ^{led} by the society in some part of
the United States where I can see so little I care about the paper it
is rather an injury to us than a benefit at least that is my impression it
seems to insinuate that we have ~~no~~ ^{no} reform which is rather irritating
like to irritate than to reform at least it would have that effect on my flesh
Father does not drink much at present. James Wilson is single still and the
Doctor likewise. I saw the Doctor in December he was in tolerable health
and is practicing on the Juniatta somewhere. Samuel McClure came
to home in the beginning of December in a bad state of health and
remained with us about three weeks and then returned to Mifflin County
where he staid about three more and then returned as near like a corpse
as a living person can be he is now under the doctor's hand. Poor fellow
has got the consumption and I think has but few days years to live
Isabella McClure has been in a bad state of mind since Mr
Cady left this Country whether it is owing to a liking she had
for him I cannot say or whether it has proceeded from other
causes is yet to be known. She has every appearance of being ^{and}
in ^{body} ⁱⁿ fact more so than ever for she was not healthy formerly
but now looks fresh and weighed the other day 122 pounds ^{and} sister
bertt 115 and Samuel 116. I weigh 160. To give you an idea of her
condition I will ^{state} a few circumstances of her conduct. When Samuel
was here before he was confined bed some and she ^{would} take it in
her head that it was not him and would go up stairs and would
insist on seeing his foot to see whether there was a large scar
on it or no. Last week I got Samuel's watch to carry mine not
behaving right and a day or so after she wondered if it was
me that had got it. James Gore is broken down and no man
can even guess how; defrauding a great many of large sums
he was a man that understood his trade and now says he has
sunk a great deal of money. Isabella will lose 7 or 800 dollars
by him. The Widow Wilsons it is said 1100. My candle is almost
out and I am cold and pen dull and can say nothing more than
that we are all well and have been so since I wrote Farewell

To John Geddes

William Geddes

John Philips broke up last summer

he is
tes to
ate

From Campbells Town

February 25

1830

M^r John Geddes

Ann Arbor.

Michigan Territory

