

Ann Arbor, October 12th 1837

Dear Brother. September has passed away and you have not got here yet: consequently we may take it for granted that you are still in Palmyra. I would have written last week but I had to attend the Sawmill all of the daytime. I have a hand on the Mill now but he does saw enough for me. He does not understand the business. And I don't intend to keep him long. Mr Bull has gone on to Wisconsin he would have given you \$2000 cash down in New York Safety Fund notes. Which is the best paper money we get here. The merchants pay five per cent for it and give Michigan that is the country Bank notes. Since Mr Bull has gone another man has been along. a Mr Hulce His offer was not I believe as good as Mr Bull's as he wanted time to pay part of the money. I did not give him much encouragement. Or I did not think it probable you would sell until you come to Michigan yourself. I did not tell that you talked off \$3000 for I thought no one would give that. Mr Welch who was along with Mr Hulce wanted me to tell you to write all the particulars that is what is the lowest you would take and what time you would allow to pay in $\%$. That is a laughable request. I ought to have told him to write to you himself and ask questions such as he would want to have answered. There one thing I can tell you, you need not expect \$3000 this year nor next. Indeed we thought that \$2000 cash was a good price these times. as purchasers are scarce and but few can sell. And if you were here you might laid out the money to good advantage in land in younger settlements. You not being here is a great barrier in the way of selling your land here. Or you might have shaved with your money as high as 50 per cent from that height down to 7 per cent. But I suppose you would have been content with 25 per cent. This great per cent is a great enemy to punctuality in payments. Those that owe find that it is their interest or rather that it is cheaper to not trouble themselves about their debts but put off paying them as long as they can and then suffer themselves to be sued and take the stay of Law than to pay sometimes as high as 50 per cent if the money has to be borrowed. This year in particular people are more indifferent about paying than before. Indeed there is but few that when their account or note is due that will come and pay you. Still you must not blame this on the Shavers. It is the selfishness of man. It is the principle of getting what they can and keeping what they have got. and displaying and living on what does not belong to them. They time has been in Michigan that 7 per cent was nothing like an affair equivalent for \$100 one year. And it is not now if money is counted like every thing else at what it will bring and is this a better test in the world to tell the worth of anything. Still this high per cent is every man for himself. It is a true Ishmaelite.

The times dont become any better here though Wheat contrary to all our calculations not only keeps up to 1.00 but is I am told this week in Ypsilanti 1.18 $\frac{1}{2}$. It will fall as soon as the frost closes the Navigation. But we think it will be up again next spring. Oats is ready sale at 37 $\frac{1}{2}$. What can be the reason that money is scarce and grain a good price it must be because the country is in debt to the Merchants, and they must have their pay, as that part of the community has suffered more than any other I dont know but that we might ^{except} those that have to depend on their daily labor for subsistence. And notwithstanding that the General government is not a little to blame for this state of things, and still perseveres in its specie plans. What an host their is that still stick to Van Buren. In our election for Representative we were out voted by about 1100 in State. We carried Washtenaw 159 majority. In Ann Arbor the Whigs had 73 majority. Our election for Governor takes place on the first Monday ^{of November} and the following day. It will be a warm and a close contest, but I think the Vans will carry. There is a powerfull foreign influence here that goes against us which probably turns the scale. Your election is over. And we shall hear the result. Have the convention altered the qualifications of an elector in Va. What prominent alterations were made in the Constitution of Va.

There is a difference in the date of Thomas' death, on which you did not give an opinion have you ascertained which is correct, or do settle up such little things or let them pass. We had a letter from Uncle James two months ago. They were all well. He wished to know the particulars of Thomas death, which I sent him no other news. I see there is another arrangement with Philadelphia Observer (The former Philadelphian) and I see nothing of William's name in it. I presume he is disconnected with it. What is he doing, and how has he come out, rich or poor or so, so. If there is any news from James and Agrippa it will always be acceptable. We have a fine fall for business. My House is not finished yet but is progressing and, I think I will certainly be in it in a month. I have dug a well 27 feet deep 4 feet of water. The new Sawmill we have finally let rest for this season. There will not be as many logs in the Mill yard the middle of Dec. as there was last December. We let the new Sawmill rest because we thought our outgo was going to be considerable more than our income. As Sawmills cost more to build at the present time than they did when we built the other one. And though we sell all the lumber we saw we credit more this year than last. The new tarrace cost about 250 dollars (board & wages) and my house costs me something. And it is poor time to drive much business. As the business will not find the means or money to do it with: consequently there is an outgo of cash and an increase of dues. As way of getting rich I dont think much of. The Engineer has been along and has explored a rout on each side of the Huron between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, which will be determined on is yet to be known. Its said it will be decided in a month when the rout will be surveyed, explored & let out to clear and grade. In my next letter, I think I will be able to tell you how we are suited with it.

The Rail Road between Ypsilanti and Detroit, is progressing its said rapidly Christmas is fixed upon, as the day when the cars will run between those two places. The loss of the fourth instalment to Michigan may effect our internal improvements. Our two Senators, Norvell and Lyon, both voted against letting the United States have it devoted as they are to the Van Buren party. Norvell has great influence in the government of this State and was well aware of the great benefit of money in hard times. Mr Ewers folks are well or were well the last accounts. We are in our usual health. Robert children as they were three months ago. Nails are .10 ^{per lb} in Ypsilanti and .12 ^{per lb} in Ann Arbor. The Washtenaw and Ypsilanti Banks have each ^{of them} built a ^{new} house for Banking purposes this summer. And considerable building done in both places this summer. I dont recollect any thing else. The School section of Land are selling this summer at Auction and sell high. I do not know what the terms are. Some say one fourth down and some say a tenth and the rest in ten annual instalments. Its said the sale of the School lands in this County commences on the 17th of this month. I will endeavor to inform you in my next what some of the Sections sell for.

Forewell. John Geddes

To Mr William Geddes

ms
96
21

nt. School section
c. N. W. 37. The S. E. qu
ty acres average 35
acre. The sell to suit
less than eight dollar
One tenth cash down
ist. payable yearly



1837

sections in the county
but little sold
eighty and one hundred
procure the cream

1837 20
1831

NOV 20 1837
Mich

William Geddes
Polingra
Lebanon County
Pa.

Oct. 18th. The 4th of
N. E. quarter \$40 per acre
in lots of ten and twenty
The S. W. quarter \$20
lot in 4th of 1/4 of a town
section average \$14 per
purchaser. most bid
an acre will be taken
and interest on the

ms
ms

The other School
dull sale; in fact
here and there an
and sixty acres
of the section