

Londonderry October the 4th 1828

Dear Brother Your Letter was received on the 27th of September and I being at home and idle; owing to the mill being out of order and undergoing repairs I left home on the 6th of August purposely to assist Mr. Shank in throwing down the one gable-end of his mill: and without the expectation of commencing the trade before the middle of September; a month and a half the workmen considered amply sufficient for the complete repair of every thing; but in this were they widely mistaken for that much time is gone already and as much more may possibly go before she is wholly completed; so that I do not expect to begin milling till the first of November. When we commenced throwing down the gable end we calculated to throw it down without being under the necessity of disturbing much of the side walls but instead of that we were under compelled to throw down the half of either side wall to the ground, and when this was done they thought it would be better to make the mill something longer and concluded on five feet of an addition. The excavation of these 5 feet by 45 was considerable of a task: digging 15 feet deep; it being that distance to solid rocks. The clay was so soft that we had to prop it up. The roof and inside works were also propped. What made it necessary to take the gable down was this: the water house was made too narrow and the wall though built on a solid foundation was started with very small stones and being also four stories high the immense weight of the wall pressed it in against the water wheels so as to prevent them from turning; or would have done so shortly. If the mill had been in order, we could not have ground more than the third of time; the water being so low: notwithstanding we have had more rain this spring and summer past than for many years before; having had but one dry spell this summer that was in the month of August. The three last weeks of the month there was not a drop of rain: since that however we have had a sufficiency to keep the ground tolerable moist. Last Sunday evening there was a cloud past over us and no further than from Jacob Cosby's to John Oberholtsow in width, that hail'd rain'd and thundered tremendously for a short time. I was in Palmyra at the time where it rained but little and when I was coming home I saw no hail until I came to Clendenen's (our tenant) and from that to our house the fence corners were fairly white with it of the size of hazelnuts: what size the ware of when they fell I can't say; for this was three hours after they fell—there was some behind the barn on Tuesday morning—it battered the rye that was up fairly into the ground. Father commenced sowing wheat on the 24th of Sept. Present prices are, wheat \$1.25 Rye 30 cents corn 40 cents Oats 20. Flour from the last account was 1.00 per Barrel. The cause of the sudden rise of flour is attributed to the destruction of the crops in Great Britain by heavy rains even before it was cut: and it is also ^{of which} that the crops of wheat have partly failed in different parts of the United States: particularly the western part of New York where what the Yankees call the Rust has committed terrible ravages, destroying whole fields. Peter Miller and three others from this neighborhood was in Buffalo and surrounding country this fall or rather since

harvest: and are giving the country a very bad name; they have told that it is very sickly both in town and country: there was as many as fifteen buried in Rochester in one day according to some accounts whether this was thins I cannot say and wheat crops good for nothing. Samuel Harber was in Ohio this spring and did not like it; and intended to go to Buffalo this fall, but whether he will or not is doubtful; so many bad accounts has put him to a stand, not knowing what to do, and for further constation I mean to give Michigan news. I attempt to persuade no man to go to Michigan nor will I, it is not thought of and if Jones its name it will be asked where is it: the Michigan fever I believe will never reach here. The weather has been on an average 10 degrees warmer here than with you it was by Fahrenheit's at from 90 to 99 in August. You cannot hold Freemasonry and the Majority of masons in a greater degree of contempt than I do, but that there is and has been at all times Gentlemen amongst them; you must admit: and that Jackson is a character of that stamp his conduct in life clearly proves; a person that is no respecter of persons and is at present the only man who possesses a sufficiency of the people's confidence to defeat the present incumbent: to stop the progress of corruption: the barter and sale of office: and to cast forever to the ground that line of safe precedents which makes the secretary of State the heir appargut: or as I ago said "by the old gradation, where each second stood heir to the first. But Amos's political lect I might preach as you did on Freemasonry. But to request I had almost forgot it—how the people of the township are as respects the President. The Earlys, Kottering, Hearsby's, Shellers, Geddes, Robisons, W. Gensbergers, widow Bowman's sons, Peter Killinger, Witness, squire Phillips, Hemkerly, Krate & Hazle-roads, John Sawyer. are Jacksonians. J. B. Coleman. Eselman Longnecker, Henry. Andrew Killinger David Mitchell, and Jacob Bowman's sons, sons and Rich. Beam's sons Dashers. Coburgmen. We calculate on two to one for the old General in the township. Our candidates for office are Gen. of Congress Innis Green and Valentine Harmoniel. Assembly Philip Wolfersberger and Peter Kindle. David Mitchell and Thomas Harpur. The first mentioned are on the Jackson ticket and will undoubtedly be elected. Samuel McClure was with us in harvest, having purchased a drove of sheep in Centre county and brought them so far and sold them to J. Wolfersberger; but he did not assist us much in cutting the grain owing to his not being in good health: his trade does not agree with him and the doctors advised him to quit it; and half persuaded he purchased those sheep but after going back he has again commenced at it and will perhaps continue to work at it till he is obliged to quit it; and then what will he do god knows, poor fellow. He had some notion when he was here or perhaps it would be better to say he talked about purchasing some land on some of the tributaries of the Susquehanna where pine timber could be had and erect a saw mill. A very good plan if he was qualified to carry on such a business; because lumber has brought better prices this season than heretofore owing to the opening of the Union Carral: which it was expected by the Philadelphia speculators would be the means of conveying to Phil at a cheaper rate, and greater profit than it could be from any other point whatever: so much were they convinced of the justness of their views that

they purchased all that arrived at a pretty high rate. And would not have been
mistaken in their calculations if the Union Canal had done its duty; but the
breaks that the confounded thing was very now and then making put a stop
to these lads, for they found that they themselves if they continued purchasing
would more than keep it a going at the rate it was going. If the Union
Canal can be made sufficiently tight for boating constantly, the cutting
of and dealing in lumber will certainly be more profitable than formerly
it does not admit of a doubt: and I hope it can: yes it certainly can
but it is at present stopped from Myerstown to Middletown for want
of water: to supply this deficiency they are about raising Flammakers dam
three feet and erecting a new one about Dells. Miss McClure spent two weeks
with Samuel in Holladayburg and she says she likes the country, but if one dare
judge by appearances I would decide otherwise. Samuel told me that he would
have started housekeeping before now if there had been any hopes of living agreeably
with Bell but ~~that~~ he from ocular evidence was convinced; to be impossible
What a misery it is to young persons this starting to their own hand it is a thing
that must be done you may soon not withstanding you are certain you shall
reap nothing but smut; all the enjoyments of this world compared with this
single curse, disease, sickness, is not worth a tinkers dam or as Lord
Byron will have it a potatoe. Doctor McCurdy has made or the dispute about
him Miss McClure and Sawyers mortal enemies and wisdom and her were
out before; so that she has not a friend in the world she does nothing but
rail at lies and liars she wonders the Lord suffers such people to live.
Jane has made a happy escape from contention and Isabel has better times
for they are still afraid that she goes also. Miss Mary Sharon was married
in September to a Mr. Mc Coy of Columbus Ohio and left home shortly
after. She was but 5 years old when her husband's wife died so that she is
at 45 and looks ugly and old enough to be 60 such is likely to be
the fate of our Hanover damsel happier far is Miss Fleming in her grave
- it cannot be otherwise - Shame on you for living till your lips that you may
not say feel she loves you; who would exchange feeling for words.
I am getting so forgetful or careless rather or I might have told you before
that James Kelly had forsake the temple of Venus and was lighted by
Hymen's torch to joys unspeakable. He married the widow Walton. Miss Kerr
the Miss Wilsons Miss Harrison and all the Misses of your acquaintance are still
single. Oh! I forgot Sarah Longenecker was married to a Reider and I think
would have no reason to be offended if Sarah Henry's man was to call him
brother. Mr. Joseph Longenecker has also got branded by Hymen's torch
his lady's ^{name} was Bachman below she lived Campbellstown I was going
say rich, rich, cupid is as blind as ever. a while ago I thought it was
shame for wise people not to marry and now I am sure of it; and not let
fools people the world wholly. James Clark and Walton are single
still James Wilson also and all the call to the Altar. Some people say King
Melony and James Clark will be better yet but this I don't believe and
for Jane's beau Witter I hear no more of him going to get married; poor

fellow has lost heart. He had a slip Jonty for a sweet heart a while but Mike
Düringer rather, yes, wholly worsted him there. I am Walter's friend still and if
time and opportunity should offer perhaps I may make his blood flow throu
his gills a tittle faster that is Mike's I mean: by getting along side of doc
James is a great Adamsomen and is not half so sociable with me as formerly
but still I make free to range with him and I will do worse the first time I meet
for he was expecting to ^{be} run for commissiouner but in that he was disappointed for the
delegates from his townshipp instead of recommending James recommended himself
and was taken up that is the true spirit of the Adamsomen for you. William
Hamilton is moved to Franklin County and ^{purchased} a farm. It costs 50 cents to carry
a barrel on the Union Canal to Philadelphia but I think will not cost more than
30¢ when the thing is fairly started. Direct your letters to Mountjoy Lancaster
County. We are all well and have been so since I wrote and our relations also.

To John Geddes

Wm. Geddes

Campbells Town Pa 1828 25.
October, Mr. John Geddes

Ann Arbor
Michigan Territory

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win