

Ann arbor, August 3rd 1835

Dear Brother, I would have wrote sometime ago but I have been wait^{ing} on that man that bargained for your land; to know when or whether he ^{could} make or arrangements to pay all down. When your letter came and nothing said about it I did not know what to do. As he had been waiting to hear I saw him in Ypsilanti a few days after and I did not know what to do. But told him I would tell in a week as he appeared urgent. I intended to ask they opinion of our folks and others who I might think was some acquainted with these things and act for the best. Not like Uncle Bobys corporal, like a soldier; but like a man. But one man was against selling for \$5 pr acre and that was Marcus Lane. But your newspapers came and settled that difficulty. James Martin (which is the name of the person) called before the week was up: and I read him your conditions. He had \$600 in cash and a promissary note, which note he was pretty confident he could turn into money in a short time. But as there is frequently is failures in these kind of notes. He asked till the first of August to make the trial. But though he had two strings to his bow, the both failed. His calculation now is to go to Detroit and see if he cannot deal with the Michigan Bank. I think that the Bank will arrange with him. as in money matters it is more profitable to buy notes than to lend money. The note will not be due untill the spring of 1837. When the two weeks is up I will send you a newspaper with the result: and you need not reply to this letter untill the paper comes, if it should be three weeks. He offered me the \$600 when he asked time to arrange the note; but I did not take it. What time would be most convenient for you to come to Michigan. I dont know but suppose that you would wish to be at home election day. And as September and October are the principal months mouths to sell land in. I dont see that you can come now until after the election. Without you are really decided to take the farm yourself. Have you ever made enquiry that you can borrow the money by giving a mortgage: and ascertain ed the fact, or do you only think so. There is often a mighty difference betwixt the two. I am willing to \$50 pr acre for my share and so are all the Michigan heirs. I would have been pleased to have seen you in Michigan this summer and talked over these things: and I was really grieved that ~~things~~ ^{Michigan} ~~should~~ ^{be} ~~so~~ ^{over} hung off so. Land has been higher in the State of New York the past spring than ever before. I hope that Pennsylvania has felt the impulse. But Penns is more tardy in its rises and falls. Michigan has felt it, and was overrun with speculators. There has been some changes in this County, and I hope and think for the better. Those that sell out are generally in debt and those that buy have some money left after buying, which must be an advantage to the Country. Improved farms have not sold to much advantage. They greatest profits is in wild land. The Mill establishment next below do has been sold

To a company who it is pretended are going to drive business. This place has the greatest water power on the Huron: from 12 to fifteen feet head. We have bought that part of section 30 lying south of Huron ^{river} containing 25 acres more or less for \$200 a few days ago. Believing the water power on it well worth the money and for the purpose of holding this company at bay. As they raise better than three feet ago the shore with their dam, which they have no right to do. They were unaware that this fraction was for sale or even that they flowed against it. They persons they bought from having told them that they owned all the land that was flowed and that it was included in their sale to them. It was not pretended this fraction was included, but simply that all the damage done by the pond was on their own land. Just as if a person because he owns a mile on one side and three fourths on another he has a right to flow back to what height he has a mind too: such is not the law of Michigan. They must pay us or draw down their pond. There is as much as seven feet fall on the side of this fraction which is becoming valuable. We bought the fraction from Dexter. The Railway has been revived again and we think there is a prospect of its being made as far as Ypsilanti next summer. \$50,000 dollars has been subscribed in Detroit to wards it and five percent paid down. And this day a man is to take the books to the State of New York and try whether stock can be got there. Washburn has done nothing yet but I think if the rout was permanently laid would do all its able. For my part I would take some stock if it came up the river from Ypsilanti to Ann Arbor. If it does not I wont take any. It is so with others. When that Railway is made. Flour can be sent from here to the City of New York for \$1.25 per barrel. Robert began to cut wheat the 27th of July. Harvest is a week later than usual. Wheat is tolerable. Wages 1.00 per day in harvest and 75 in hay making. Hands plenty. I have been assisting and still intend too, until through. I am nearly through with the logs. And as soon Harvest and Haymaking is over intend to commence on that long talk of house. Raise it; roof it; weatherboard it: build a chimney and then let it stand, until next spring. I dont have lumber to do the inside work. And will not buy. But intend to saw what I want as soon as logs of the right kind come in next winter, and stick up the Boards. In all things we study economy here; and build as much within ourselves as we can.

~~_____~~ and we have come to ~~no~~ conclusions yet. I have written three letters to ~~_____~~ and ~~_____~~ two to me. My last to ~~_____~~ was dated May 9th to which I have been expecting an answer but have received none yet. As you intend to give us a call its probably useless to say much on this subject. If you could make it convenient, to call that way I would have no objections. And ascertain the state of ~~_____~~ health, and ~~_____~~ calculation. If these two things pass I would be willing to risque the rest. If ~~_____~~ calculation is "houbly to waste, to spend, and wear and think no nonsense bought too dear" it will not answer. But if ~~_____~~ manner should be that of a person who regards economy and pays strict attention ^{to} ~~_____~~ business and the run of things (as we here term it) I should not require ~~_____~~ to work the way I do.

That cannot be expected. Calculation is of much more consequence than work. It
directs the grand direction of work. I should be pleased to see ~~myself~~ myself. As my
mind has undergone considerable of a change on Ladies since I came to Michigan
The last ten years has raised women in my estimation; though I am still a Bachelor
and There is a great deal of imperfection in this world and I sometimes think those that
have the least to do with, are wisest, and best off, I am healthy, prosperous, and contented
to a much greater degree than the great majority of mankind and work is one of my means of comfort
and happiness. Matrimony is a lottery so called, so acknowledged by all. Then why cast ones bread and
oneself upon the waters when they are already in harbour. That is my opinion of Matrimony
in reference to myself. It is not so in respect ~~some~~ others. And Ladies in particular I think ought
to marry whenever a good chance offers. They are less able to stand temptation and as soon as the
Jack is neglected, in the way; a trouble to themselves; and others. Religion is then their only hope
their only consolation their only joy. And what a blessing it is that this reality has been provided
to mitigate the sorrows and increase the joys of man who was born to sorrow. And what more evidence
do we want of the wisdom of the heart of man, than to know there are thousands and tens of thousands
that who would ~~would~~ ^{desire} this anchor to the soul both sure and steadfast. In your letter of April 9th was
these words "was with all hypocrite enough to be religious" I was pleased to hear by that, this person inter-
ested themselves so much; there was that much disposition, to do, and indeed I could think of a
more appropriate subject. Say nothing about the benefits of Religion but take it in a worldly point of view
you would ~~not~~ ^{not} have a person listless and lifeless, but up and doing. But think of their age and worldly
prospects. And if you reflect you cannot but rejoice that they have something to engage their attentions and
keep their mind in exercise: something that can afford them satisfaction: something to prevent
their mind from being fixed upon the gloomy prospects before them in time. Let me tell you
Frederick Harper was called a ~~long~~ long ago before he made any pretensions to Religion it
seems he is that yet, what does that prove. It proves that ~~one~~ may make a profession of Religion
and still be the same, and that he is not sincere in his Religious profession. But probably
as sincere in that as any thing else; that is honest and upright. Because their counterfeit is on a
Bank, that does not prove their is not; but that there is a Bank. Is it not the same with Religion
There are many counterfeit, some apparent at first acquaintance; and some well executed. And how
willing would the heart of man persuade the understanding that Christianity is itself, an empty name
rather than gives itself to God, and live to him and not to themselves. Maria has experienced Religion
some time ago and gives good evidence of a change of heart. I wished you gave as good. Robert is
the same. In our little settlement we have 27 Methodists and two Presbyterians. Maria has joined
none denomination yet. Agrippa had two letters arrive shortly after he left this one from Phila. and
the other from Palmyra: but expressed his unwilling that they should take them out of the office
before he left this, so we have not. I am glad you have settled the Caspers estate on two accounts
one that you have been so fortunate; and the other that it will take but little more room in your
letters to me. It was a thing I interested myself but little about. I get along slowly collecting
money. The Washitaw Bank has not gone into operations yet: but will shortly. The fall is the best
time to collect money in this country. Grain is thrashed and sold, and money is had. I shall en-
deavor to get a share of what is going. And some who make it a point not pay until they cannot
help it, I will sue. I will have time to call on all that owes us this fall and endeavor to get their
notes allow them to fix their own pay day, and then if it is not paid collect. I am going to try
this plan, I am done lending money. And when I get what is due me, I will put it into
Land where ever I see opportunity as fast as get it. This Dexter fraction. We would secretly
sell for \$1000. These nonsensical scruples about taking more than 7 per cent for money. I will not
trouble myself about; now when I am going to quit lending. I have been imposed upon long
enough by it. To lend is easy; but to collect is where the mighty labour lies. If when you lend
you could get it again, when you lay just calling upon it; when they 7 per cent might do. But
when you find that that is not the case, and the opportunity you had of turning your money
to advantage is lost: because others held on to your means, you will have different thoughts
I think interest on money like other things ought to be left to regulate itself. In New York
and Philadelphia Money is worth 5 per cent In Ann Arbor, 15 to 20 per cent. Why take five per cent
simply because they can get no more. Why take 20 per cent because they can get it; where is the
difference every thing is worth what you can get for it. Whether it is money, or Ladies, or Bachelors,
we are all held at a price, bid enough and we go. These things must regulate them-
selves, is it not so? Mr and Mrs Owens were here the middle of June Jane was in better
health than I even expected to see her, but still feeble. Mr Owens was well. He is getting
rich in Detroit, there is no doubt in my mind. L. Robert's health is as usual, and so is mine.
Maria has been getting better and talks in an improving manner. Broome County N.Y. shortly
our country is healthy at present. Our summer has not been very warm yet 86° the warmest.
Maria requests me to inform you that she wishes you get Mr Swain's Evidences of Chri-
stianity and read them. I have had no letter from Uncle James for nearly a year. Expect you
will have considerable of news in your next letter. As James, Thomas, and Ann, have ^{been} and are
away from home. As to our circumstances I think they are improving steadily here, in Michigan
and I think I am increasing in property at the rate of ~~one~~ a year but may be not. They rise of prop-
erty in the State of New York, it flux of emigration here, may only make us think so when there nothing
real in it. But be that as it may our income is greater than our outgo, for a certainty
August 9th I am going to Ann Arbor to day if I should hear any news or receive any in the Post
office, I will notice it. Farewell

Mr Williams God des

John God des

August 5th I received a letter to day from [redacted] who would rather I would call this fall I would if I could make the arrangements but dont think I can. Ann and Mr Johnson its thought would [redacted] match yet: Uncle James talks of visiting Pennsylvania this summer

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Am. [redacted] 23
Aug 25

Mr William Geddes
1835 Campbelltown
Lebanon County
Pa.

Received Aug 17
1835 P