

Palmyra July 27th 1838

Dear Brother, yours of the 13th inst. was duly received. And as I have been harvesting since its receipt I have delayed this a little. Harvest was ended with but few exceptions in the two first days of this week. The farmers are now cutting their Oats, at which I made 1/2 days, when I broke two fingers out of my Cradle and was obliged to quit. It is the Cradle that Robert made on a light scale for his own use with a straight Sore and narrow-scythe. I have used it and no other since he left this country and without repairing until this season when I had the two lower fingers renewed and they have went again the first harvest. I took last fall 40 acres of Cloverseed to cut at 25 cents per acre and at it I broke the old fingers they being worn to a shadow. I think this Cradle has run 18 years or more. The wheat harvest was quite an abundant one. The Rye was hardly a half crop, owing to the too long continuance of the rainy weather in the spring and perhaps to two frosts in the last week of May. The Grass was extra good and hay plenty and of best quality. The Oats is long in the straw and well headed but is light in the grain, being nearly burnt up by the heat and drouth of the last three weeks. Our spring was wet and cool, which kind of weather continued to three weeks ago or perhaps a day or two more when the rains ceased altogether and ^{since} we have been nearly burnt up with the heat. The thermometer has been between 90 & 100 degrees nearly every day unto last Friday when it was 100 & on Saturday went down to 52 and it is considerably cooler since but is still dry. If we dont get rain soon the Corn & Potatoes will be destroyed. The dry warm weather unabled the farmers to make hay and cut and put away the grain in the shortest time I ever knew. Harvest wages are 75 cents per day. Wheat per bu. \$1.00. Rye 80. Oats 31. Beef per lb 849 cents. Hadd per barrel No. 1 \$22.25. per lb by the piece 12 1/2 cents. Mackerel \$18. per bar. Butter 12 1/2 per lb. Eggs .08 per doz.

For the first time in my life I attended a fourth of July celebration.
The Van Buren party had given notice that they would hold a
a young men's Convention to support David R. Porter
their candidate for Governor at Harrisburg and celebrate
the day of independence and the Ritner party took it
in their heads to out number them from Dauphin and
the adjoining counties; theirs being a state Conventions.
And we did so by about two hundred which mortified
them very much. Philadelphia City sent 530 Ritnerites
on the Rail Road or we would have been beaten. We had 1400.
Rail Roads are in much better credit with us than with you
all opposition has nearly died away and they yield well in
tolls. The tolls of our improvements so far this year exceed 700,000
already and would in all probability have yielded as
much more before the year would end but for a great
breach that a freshet has made in them from Holliday
burg East. It is said the Canal was swept for 30 miles
a ^{way} that it will take 3 or 4 months to repair it at a
cost of $\frac{1}{2}$ a million of dollars. I wish you would look after
my land occasionally and ^{see} that the wood is not taken off it
by any person. As to giving the railroad the privilege of cutting
timber that I cannot allow on any account nor would
I be willing it should crop my land unless it would crop
it at right angles with my lines. The moment that you
ascertain that they intend cropping my land you will let
me know in what manner they intend doing it and I
will give you full authority to forbid it, or appear
in person and prevent it if it does not suit me. I was
well satisfied that the railroad was located where it
is not wishing it much nearer and never thought of
another one striking my land. I will perhaps make
out the power of Attorney and send it on; in order to
be ready to face the spoilers. I have no news from any of the
name since my last, by letter, but by John ⁴⁰ Kettinger who was in
that country this spring I learn that James & Agrippa are well
and have each erected a house on their land and made consid-
erable

since they are both still single. I cannot attend to your Philadelphia
Taper for a month or two as our storekeepers were just returned
from the city before your letter arrived and I must now wait
until they go again when I will send that man a \$5. or
two years subscription. Had my Lawyer suit tried in the super-
eme Court in June and they decided that I must account
at the citation of any heir no matter whether he has any thing
to get or not. That whether he had any thing to receive was a
question that did not properly come up in such a case but
must be determined in another way. The Court below said I
must account for the money which father according to the
evidence of Doal's administrators received from them. The
Supreme Court said that that was wrong that the Court
below had no right to say for how much I shall acc^t
but only to decide that I shall account and that when
my account came up to be passed upon it was to de-
cide whether I had accounted for all the money father
received so that the whole matter is now when it is of
and when I file my account I will endeavor to
swade Doal's admⁿ not to appear against me and if
I cannot succeed in it threaten them with a suit for
their share of those costs which will likely influence them
more. If I can prevent their testifying I shall defeat my
inveterate enemies. My Counsel advises me to let the thing
rest unless Lawyers push it on and then I must go on. So far
I have prep'd the matter only that old Lawyer started it
in order to see if I could not get such a decision from
the Supreme Court as would put it to rest forever, but in
this I have failed and the matter is left open to be prep'd on one
at any time for ages to come for it appears time will not destroy
the accountability of an administrator. Shall I now file
an account and drive it through and see the worst of
it and be done with ^{it} against the opinion of my counsel
I am strongly inclined to do so and if all are of the same
notions I will still further consult my counsel and get him
to proceed. I have done nothing with Robert's power of Attorney

for executors or administrators cannot be forced until a year has passed and that did not pass till after the April Court and I had to wait to the Sept. Court and now if I follow the advice of my Counsel all must be let rest if the other party let it rest which he thinks it probable they will as their attorneys have little prospect of ever recovering anything off me. All well. Farewell
W^m John Geddes
William Geddes

Palm Beach Fla
July 27th

25
1838

W^m John Geddes
Ypsilanti
Michigan

no
cost