

Palmyra Dec. 19th 1840

Dear Mother

I have been partly laid up with a very bad cold and cough for four weeks and am not quite rid of it yet and I was teaching school at Spring Creek from the 10th August to the 10th Nov. these with other hindrances have prevented me from answering your letter to this time. I however sent you two papers with the result of our two Elections, which circumstance would show you that I was still in the land of the living. I received your papers and was glad to see that you are so popular as to nearly beat the old General; with us our Assembly man fell far behind the ticket. We still beat you for majorities in our townships & County Lancaster, Lebanon & Dauphin our 3 adjoining Counties gave Harrison upwards of 6000 majority. I always set Pennsylvania down for Harrison but never calculated on more than 1000 majority. The most of the Whigs in our township thought we would lose it in this state. The Van Buren^s were confident of success here and throughout the Union. They counted New York, Pennsylvania & Virginia to a certainty and when I told them that they would lose the whole they laughed at me. Never were men so sunk in despair when the result was known, that they were so shamefully defeated. I do not believe Mr. B. Buren felt it more keenly than many in our district, it fairly made them sick to think of it. Never has a man been honored more in the whole world than Harrison has by the recent Election. And I am fully satisfied that we could have carried another man. If the Whigs now charter a National Bank to collect and disburse the revenue and reenact the Tariff so that it will a little more than defray all the expenses of Government and distribute among the states the proceeds of the public lands we can 4 years hence elect H. Clay without any trouble. The tariff and our share of money from the lands will secure Pennsylvania. The establishing of a Bank would do no injury if it would not further strengthen us here. The present Bank has sunk very much in credit, but not justly. She paid too much for her charter and that pretty much cash and had to pay 7 millions & better to the United States and had to sell her branches of the Old Bank on long credit and was worse than all was obliged to subscribe to Rail Road stock to a large amount and take much of it for old debts instead of receiving the money, which has reduced

her available means very much, and stocks of all kinds being so low she could not sell but at great sacrifice and so had to shut down for self preservation. The whole weight of the General Government was always arrayed against her and it is a miracle she has stood at all. She has been sued from time to time for millions and forced to pay 12 per cent. interest and it was nothing but government funds that was thrown into private hands to haul her up to destruction. The influenza has prevailed very much in our neighborhood lately and there has been a good many deaths amongst old people. The following persons died within two months old John Earnest, Old Mrs. Dauglas, Old Granny Oberholzer, the Widow Songrecker, Daniel [Widow] Watter Clark, sister Jane, a daughter of Mr. Sharon, Old David Pighams sister a very old, old maid and I was on Thursday at the burial of a man of 51 at Campbelltown a stranger to you. We had 18 inches of snow a couple of weeks ago but at present there is not more than 3. The thermometer was 18 this morning it has been as low as 14 deg. above

- We have had a fine mild fall but rather dry mill streams are rather low to do more than half business and good mills are dry. Prices are Beef 5.50 Pork 5 per cent. Wheat 85 cts Rye 45 Corn 40 Cato 25 and all dull at that. Nearly all the thrashing is done with machines which throws the produce into market at once and earlier in the season than heretofore which has a tendency to lower prices. Cloverseed has been abundant and sells at 4 per Bu. I have heard nothing of James or Agrippa. I received a letter from Newville lately. His mother is in a very delicate state of health. Ann and Mr. Johnson and son in good health. The rest of relations then in good health also except old Uncle who wastes away very slowly. I have now been 8 years and better her since father's death and during that time struggling continually at law - but thank God I have no cause at issue now - and father and his children have now after a contest of 30 years rest from that curse. The law here is that when a man dies his debts are a lien on real and personal property for 7 years after and cannot be recovered after that at all unless sued for within those 7 years and the suit still pending. Unless the debt is secured by a mortgage which holds 20 years

I have now lived the 7 years the full limit of law in the face
of fathers enemies and not only defeated them all but non-suited
them which completely prevents a renewal of all claims.
The loss to the Estate is a trifle, but to me it is not so, I am
going to be the principal loser, if I am to depend on
our Orphans Courts for an allowance for my last time
trouble and expense. For when I asked a compensation
for fathers services they always put me off with about
as much as would have paid his grocery bill. I have
now under Consideration what I ought to do and
what the conclusion will be I cannot ~~not~~ now say
but think I will leave my native land the spring of
A.D. 1842 But to what part of the West I may go is
hard to say, I do not like Michigan, it is too wooded a
land for me. But still I may come and I will try to
pay it a visit next fall. If I could make a living
in any way to my liking I would not leave here but
I know how to do so satisfactorily and so must leave
here shortly. Write to me the next time what it would
cost to put up a House 30 feet square the building
to find every thing but the logs. I have been 4 Collose
in a year and I have one more to write and know
nothing more to write and will close this one. Send me
the amount of my taxes by your next if you know
them, All as usual

Wm Sealey

Farewell

William Sealey

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Mr John Geddes
Ann Arbor
Michigan

