

Palmyra May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1844

Dear Brother

I am still here notwithstanding we had the best of weather in April and especially in the first weeks of it, since it is cool and we had frost on the 29 + 30 of April. We have not had so early a spring these 10 years. There was some Corn planted the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April and nearly all the rest before May came in. Those farmers only who are always behind have yet to plant. The Rye has been in heads a week ago and grain and grass is all very forward and promises to be good. Mother-in-law is unwell and was quite so the latter end of March and beginning of April, and is too much subject to be able to move on so long a Journey. The weather too now is unfavorable and we fear may continue that way some time as the weather has been too fine nearly two months back and may now pay for it in bad. I now cannot tell when I may get started, but I am determined if our healths will permit it to move this summer spring or fall some time. I still expect to be able to start about the 1<sup>st</sup> of June or so, as mother-in-law is evidently recruiting, as all consent that she will or go altogether down while the leaves on the trees are coming out, and the woodlands are fast getting green. If I dont get started before the farmers commence mowing I will have to assist my landlord and then wont be out in Michigan till after harvest. If we had been all well I am persuaded we would now have been all in your state, and I would have saved my vote for H. Clay. I feel confident that he will carry Pennsylvania and the Union, but I Judge Michigan is lost at any rate. Our Assembly adjourned on the 29<sup>th</sup> April, they passed a bill submitting the sale of the public works, the main line at least, to a vote of the people at the next general election, and ordering a tax of 3 mills on the dollar for state purposes to commence in A. D. 1845, the present year two only. There is no doubt but the people will say sell them, by a great majority. The Sheriff of Lebanon County has more business at present than there ever was since it was a County. The People are breaking down in all directions. There is no farmer makes more than 4 per cent on their lands and very few that, and have mostly to pay 6 per cent for money. Benj. Hoekes bought John Wolgersbergers old place in Campbelltown, and it will take 3 years income to pay for the repairs necessary. He wont realize any way more

than two per cent on the investment, and borrowed all the hard  
money at 6 pr. ct. He keeps store now in the brick house, where  
John Wolfersberger first kept 35 years ago or more, the 1<sup>st</sup> roof is  
on that house yet and it might do 5 more with a little patching  
but the new holder means to pull it off & put a new one on this  
summer. I never had more business in my office, but it is a disagreeable  
business, and I would much rather this minute be in Michigan.  
Wheat is \$1.00 - Rye 50 Corn 45 - Oats 31 Potatoes 50. Beef  
#5 pr. cwt, Ham #6 Bacon #5 Lard #5 Butter 10 cts pr. lb Eggs 8  
pr. doz. Cows & Calves from #8 to #15. Hogs the most salable ar-  
ticle of all. I clerk<sup>d</sup> an assignee sale when an old sow  
brought #9.50 and the cow only #8.50. In April, The  
farmers here are promising themselves wheat crops clear of smut  
because the weather has been so favorable, and the harvest likely  
to be very early. They calculate that the smut will be grown  
out of countenance. Last year in many places there was more  
smut than wheat, and in some few fields it was nearly all smut.  
There are many more moving west this spring than last. Old Philip  
Horn the Watter of Millerstown told me yesterday that he spoke  
with some Berks County Dutchmen that were moving to  
Monroe County Michigan. One of them had bought 4. Rights  
at #20. 4 & #6 pr. acre. He had fine fat horses in his wagon.  
If we can get off sooner I will write two weeks or so before we  
start. I got a letter from Agrippa in the latter end of March  
and he says the times are very hard there. Mr. Irwin a son of old John  
Irwin<sup>d</sup> starts tomorrow for Chicago. We had expected to go  
together to Detroit. His brother John keeps store in Chicago.  
There was a strong turnout to the Baltimore Convention of our  
County. Passengers were taken from Harrisburg to Baltimore for  
one dollar and for the same back. You may let the house you intend  
for me empty as it may have a good effect on any vermin  
that may be in it, and I will pay the rent willingly. My  
women don't leave Pennsylvania very willingly, but they will come  
as I have moved into a log cabin here, not expecting to be here  
more than a month or 6 weeks after the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and they  
don't like it, so they will now move the more so to get out  
of it. I might have staid where I was in Campbellstown  
by paying #35. rent for the year, which I did not like.

I now live in John Whitmore's tenant house at the rocky hill  
he had no tenant and I thought we could shift for 5 or 6  
weeks there until the weather would be settled and we  
could get right ready. The house is comfortable enough but  
it is so far for water and in so out of the way a place, and  
looks so like your wilderness houses. We will not stay any  
longer here than we can possibly help it. The reason Mr. Whitmore's  
house was left empty was because so many of his tenants paid  
him nothing like your Michigan ones, and he was determined  
this time to have a good one or none, and good ones can always  
suit themselves better, and then of course he got none. Besides  
he is so very particular in every thing. I have discontinued all  
my newspapers for 5 months back and take no part in Politics  
except in our township affairs, when all turns in the spring on school  
or no school. We carried the directors by a vote of 112 to 110. Last  
spring we carried the schools but the election was controlled in Court  
and is still there. The school system is put in operation in every  
township Dauphin Co. this year. The system is nearly gone  
over the state. I have sent my boy 3 quarters in all and  
spell with nearly the best in the school and reads well, and is  
very apt at adding, and answering questions in Oral Arithmetic. He  
can all the questions in the first Part of Emerson's Arithmetic,  
and I now have him at writing. Our Teacher is Thomas Warner one  
of the town's Warners of Palmyra. He says my boy is the aptest  
boy that he ever had. The teacher is a crab old Bachelor & the boy  
very mischievous so he gets whipt nearly every day. Warner's  
brother lives in Illinois and is a Justice of the Peace there. The  
old man still lives in Palmyra & is working away at Cabinet work.  
The Geo<sup>s</sup> are much dissatisfied with their candidate for Governor,  
as well as Martin Van Buren for Post, Thurston and F. L. T. mean.  
I think Tyler would do as well for their candidate, as Martin.  
I don't like to send blank paper but I don't know how I am  
to fill this sheet. All is well except mother in law.

Mr. John Seddes

Farewell

William Seddes

Direct your letters to Palmyra

25

Palmyra Pa  
May 6th

1844

25

Mr. John Seades  
Ypsilanti  
Michigan