

Londonderry January the 16th 1826

Dear Brother I received yours of the 16th of October on the 29th of November and as considerable time has already elapsed since the receipt of your letter, and at least a month more must pass away, before this can arrive to you, and because I am going to the City this week, I thought it necessary, to write at the present time lest you might think that I had not received your last letter—perhaps you may think it late enough, if so. I think it will be better for us to enter into some kind of an arrangement to write at a particular time, or length of time after the receipt of a letter, say ~~ever~~ in two or three months. But if you think ^{that time} it too short or too long, that I have mentioned, you may alter it to suit yourself, as I shall endeavour to perform all that you shall require. The account you ^{give} of your country is not quite so flattering, as formerly, or as I expected, as to the soil or the healthiness of the climate. If there is such a great difference in the quality of the soil in so short a distance (a spot here and a ^{good} spot there) in such a comparatively level country I think it does not argue much in favour of the durability of the soil of Michigan. In Pennsylvania the land of the first quality, generally lies in stripes with but little difference in the strength of the soil, witness the great valley of Chester county, and several others. The difference in our soil (as you well know) is marked by the different kinds of stone found on it, the limestone being preferred to either, slate or freestone and them to gravel and clay lands. But there seems to be no such difference in the soil of Michigan, that I can learn of, by your own account there are few stones of any kind, and them not peculiar to any spot of ground, and that your land is almost literally covered with water ponds, a circumstance that I am not capable of judging of, with certainty. It is something peculiar to new countries, to possess more moisture than old ones, and it may happen that when the country becomes settled and cleared, that a great number of them ponds will be dried up by evaporation, as was the case with some ponds in this country, within my own observation, and if that should be the case it will certainly ^{make} render the country healthy enough, but not turn out much to the advantage of your dry and consequently elevated land. I was not much surprised at the unhealthiness of Michigan this season, nor shall I be if it were to be so for a few years to come, on account of the quantity of water on the surface of the ground, and that of none of the purest kind. The sickliness of the country at present would not intimidate me in the least, because I think it has been the case with all new countries, especially wet ones. There has been several traveling excursions performed by people of this neighbourhood in the past fall to Buffalo and Erie. Benjamin Hamilton and one of the Gloovers of Spring creek made a tour to Buffalo.

And from Buffalo along the New York canal homewards, but I know nothing
of their travels. T. M. Cornick and a Mr. Poor of Hanover was also in the state
New-York and I heard were well pleased with some part country they traveled
through, but I don't think they will have bravery enough to leave their
native country. James Todd the tanner and R. Maton went to Erie this fall
and fell into business, they are there still from the last account that I heard
You two are the only persons that have dared to enter the wilderness
of Michigan, except Mr. Horner who has gave a very unfavourable
account of it in one of our letters to his Brother, making it worse
than Hanover!!! this have I heard, it may be so and it may not. The
weather has been remarkably dry and moderate in this country as much
so as in yours if not more so. The frosts were light and late, for the time
of the year, which was very favourable for our potatoes as well as yours
and for our pumpkins, of the former we have a middling crop and of the
latter an extraordinary one, having 18 loads off ten acres.— we had but
3½ loads of corn off the same ground. The corn through the country was
very poor, this year, more so than ever I knew it to be, and that entirely
owing to the drought. The price of ^{corn} is at present 50 cents per Bushel
Oye 45 cents, and Flour from the last ^{news} is but \$4.56 per Bbl. Whiskey 23 cents
Beef and Pork from 3.50 to 4.00. bad markets for making money
There has nothing extraordinary occurred since my last letter, amongst
your acquaintances, unless it is the marriage of Mr. Bell, who was
married sometime in October or Nov. to a Miss Moore formerly of Myers
town, but at present of Palmyra. Her father is a storekeeper and keeps
store in S. Barnett's house, in Co. with some others. Hugh Sheller is his
clerk. He removed from his former place of residence on account of the canal
which is a money making business for the store and tavern keepers, as the
Irish spends their money as fast as they earn it, either in grog or clothing.
Owing to the favourableness of the summer and fall the canal contractors
have made great progress in the work, greater than I ever expected, for I really
think if next summer is favourable, it will nearly be completed if not altogether.
From the summit level to Reading it will be ready it is expected for boats
to pass next spring at least there has been meetings held in Harrisburg and
Middletown to devise plans for sending produce to Lebanon in waggons

and from thence down the Canal via Reading to Philadelphia
James Wilson Samuel and John McClure are all talking of traveling
some, in the spring ~~and~~ or fall and if I can leave home and make the
necessary arrangements, you may perhaps see some of us in Michigan
John McClure has gave up farming owing something to the running
away of his black girl. Isabel McClure lives with us again. Samuel
Wilson returned to college last fall and is studying Physick or preparing
to do it. William the printer stoped with us in the latter end of November
on his way to visit his subscribers and returned in about five weeks,
a considerable time for a man that had a hired horse. His new arrange-
ment has not turned-out so well as he expected—by his own account
he is making but little. Cousin James is teaching is teaching school and
has become a great Methodist. Andrew Huston and Robert McCallen was
in to see us, and father paid them off. The rest of our relations William
informed ~~with~~ me were well as far as he could learn. Of cousin John I have
heard nothing worth relating. There has been some sick in our neighbour-
hood and a few died. John Keenports wife and Jacob Kope of Londonderry
Moses Wilson of Hanover died of a kind of bilious pleurisy on the ninth
instant and Mr. Robeson of Middletown sometime before him. I have had
my health very well since I was ^{chic} have the rest of the family except
Samuel McClure and father, son ^{not} _{tit} in particular was dangerous by ill-
with the bilious cholick. We are all well at present. Uncle James has lost
his Laura and now has no child but George, an only son and an only child
Uncle has been really unfortunat and I think must have taken his last
loss very hard. William's sister is with him at present—this unwelcome news
you have heard perhaps before this. I made a trip to the cold spring in
^{on horse back} August, with two since to Philadelphia with the with the waggon and got
\$5 per Bbl and 75 cent on the load for the first and 6 cents less than 5 for the
last load. Plaster was 6.50 fish 5.75 salt 2.37½ per Bbl. The election were
ing campaign passed over very peaceably. J. Bell and C. Glenn were elected
without opposition There was 7 candidates for sheriff in our county and
Thomas Harper of Hanover was elected by about 90 of a majority over Henry
Doebler. There was no ticket set up in opposition to the Democrats in
Dauphin but Moses Maclean set himself up and was elected by 7 of a
majority. The convention bill was lost by 16,000 in the state and in our loc
there was nearly two to one against it, father and I were the only Federalists
that voted for it I think, I feel Wilpertzger was with us 7 months. If I have omitted
any thing you want to know please to inform me of it
To John Geddes
Farewell. Wm. Geddes



Amhersttown, Pa } 25
January 19th
Mr. John Geddes 1826

Washtenaw County
Michigan Territory
Ann arbour post Office

