

Washkewan January 31st 1831

Dear Brother, your letter of Jan. 4th and the Deed came to hand the 23rd. The postage 25 cents which is nothing more than if there had been no deed within. There is no doubt but that the Deed will answer, and when the first of June arrives I shall present it for acceptance if he does not call on it: and if he will not pay I will prosecute for the penalty of non compliance with the articles of the agreement. I did not impose the land upon him it was a bargain of his own seeking: for he called upon me again and a gain: until the writings were drawn. He offered me 50 dollars if he paid on his part, I then thought 25 plenty: considering it more a matter of form than anything else. because he was so anxious to bargain: I certainly thought he would never think of withdrawing from the contract: But if I should ever have any business of this kind to do again, either for myself or another I will accept all damages I can get. Parsons is able enough to pay, if he is so inclined. And I think will pay when the time comes. He has not been unfortunate. without you consider that man unfortunate who by the course of events has property placed in his hands; which he retains regardless of a just claim his brother may have for part. But I suppose you would consider that more a persons crime than misfortune when ^{their} apparent integrity is unable to resist temptation of this kind. Parsons has said nothing to me about the land since I wrote to you. I dont think that he has cut any timber and hauled it off the land: at least I never heard he had: on the North part of ~~it~~ there is but little timber: where he has ploughed a field of about ten acres and fenced it. I was told by the man that the land directly North that he thinks from the course of his line there is about four rods of that field on the aforesaid land that is four rods wide and forty long, and consequently the fence on one side. There wheat in wheat in this field last year I dont know whether there is this year or not. Their St Joseph tour prevented their sowing much grain.

The Washkewan cash prices for grain, is for wheat 62 $\frac{1}{2}$. Corn 50 Oats 37 $\frac{1}{2}$. In your last Flour was quoted 5.00 per Barrel whether it is the Philadelphia price or the home price you did not say. I expected that it was the home price. Here is the census of Michigan, as published in the Newspapers.

City of Detroit	2222	The three last mentioned Counties are on the west side of Lake Michigan leaving what may be the State of Michigan 28,010 inhabitants. It is supposed by some that the increase of inhabitants in Michigan will be 10,000 yearly for three years when we will apply for the privileges of a State. This estimate would entitle us to but a small share of the overplus revenue of the United States according to the proposed plan of distribution according to the representation. This plan may be the most harmonious that can be adopted. But if I am not mistaken it is giving to the older States quite an advantage ^{over} those that are just bursting into birth and which like every thing that is young requires some fostering care to develope its vigor and majesty in regular season. But many (probably) think that we ought to be content with the advantages we do and will receive from the millions that has and will be laid out in internal improvements that direct their course to the west.
County of Wayne	4565	
Monroe	3185	
Lenawee	1491	
Oakland	4910	
Macomb	2414	
St Clair	1114	
Washkewan	4042	
Cass	1249	
St Joseph	1313	
Michillimackinac	877	
Chippewa	626	
Brown	1409	
Crawford	692	
Iowa	1587	
total	31,697	

What does Jackson mean by coming out in such direct opposition to the United States Bank. which has given such general satisfaction. He appears to be of that stamp of speculators who are not content with doing well. He finds as he deserves to find a decided opposition to his plan in the House of Representatives. Great a reformer as Jackson is it appears by his own report that some of his officers have not collected the census in the time allowed by the act. and longer time is asked for to complete the same. His opposition to the Indians (the Cherokee) is more like Old Hickory, than the President of the United States. The appointment of John Randolph of Roanoke Minister to Russia if Newspaper report does not belie him (Randolph) very much is an insult to the dignity of our Country. I mention these things to remind you that it is Old Hickory that is the President. But still if Clay and Jackson are to be the next candidates I would vote for Jackson on Antimasonic principles. When Jackson's term of eight years will be disposed of. I am in hopes that an Antimasonic candidate may enter the lists with some prospect of success. There is but little prospect of an Anti. candidate succeeding at the next election for President, Because the spirit of Antimasonry is so hostile to the present order of things that no union can be expected to be made with it by the opponents of Jackson as many are merely political ^{opponents} of the one: but sworn enemies of the other. I was not any grieved at Wolfersberger and Hummel's defeat on the second Tuesday of Oct. last: and that such ~~men~~ men have been shook from political existence. But would much rather it had been done in some other way than at the expense of Antimasonry. They will now retire after being hissed ^{off} of stage, more chagrined than at the loss of the office than that they have been the cause of defeat to the party that has supported ^{the thing}. There is a vast deal of intrigue in politics. and to pursue an upright course is indirectly acknowledging that they have not entered the list according to it amounts to the same. I have an idea there is more underhand work practised in a new Country than an older one. I have seen plenty of it here. A few men think they can manage the political car without any assistance except at polls: in doing this independent men are not required, they are rather feared: a few tools is all that is required to blare forth the great merit of their patrons and approve of the course that is pursued. And if any person wishes to be noticed ^{by} these great ones expect he must fawn around them and say that as the do whether right, or wrong, this villainous course has divided the Antimasons in Washtenaw in some degree. And the Freemasons and Jacks are at this early day taking measures to bring into the field their candidates in opposition to us: a thing they had not confidence enough to do two years ago. But I think we shall defeat them. I shall support the leaders of Antimasonry notwithstanding I disapprove of their endeavoring to direct every movement. When our sworn enemies are beat down we will attend to them and let them know their place. I do not wish you conclude that our cause is desperate for I do not wish to convey that idea: neither do I think that is the case. No I am ^{and indignantly} sorry think that something like fair play cannot be practised in politics. There probably less principle in a new Country than ~~and~~ ⁱⁿ an older one and a greater ^{unfitness} for office as well as greater unfitness for the same. Last ^{fall} was universally allowed to be an excellent fall for business the weather was pleasant for the time ^{of the} year until the twentieth of Dec. The 21st of Dec the Thermometer was 2° below zero in the morning and 4 above the warmest part of the day 22-11 ^{and} ^{thermomet} zero in warmest part of the day 23- 3 & 4, 24th 26° in the morning it rained when the ^{thermomet} was that ~~which~~ six degrees below the freezing point. From the 4 of Jan. the weather has been cold up to the date of this letter. A regular spell of cold weather not too cold to work out

I kept the saw mill going until the 23rd of Jan. hoping the cold weather would take its departure that not being the case and the ice still increasing. I thought I would leave it until the weather would moderate. I attended in the daytime only; the days being short, and cold I did not do much. To prevent the mill from the wheel I mean freezing fast at night I blocked the saw gate and let the water on it. In so doing I often found on starting the wheel that fish by venturing too near the throat had been forced down on the wheel, and when the mill started were thrown off. I have caught three suckers and two Pickerel in a morning sometimes more. The Pickerel is something like a Pike in appearance, the largest we caught was 30½ inches long; and weighed before it was cleaned 5¼ lbs. Sunfish are caught in the same way ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{same} ^{way} ^{as} ^{the} ^{sun} ^{fish}. They are always dead when I see them. The sunfish will float off on the top of the water. The Pickerel and Suckers sink to the bottom. I sawed last year 430 logs which made 119,325 feet of lumber. The saw mill was more profitable last year; than the year before. It was worth something last year: It was not the year before. From the 2nd of January the sledding has been good to the present time: except that it was too slippery the first two ^{weeks} for cattle that were not shod: and a great number of logs is hauld in to the saw-mills. The blacksmiths have 3 dollars for shoeing a yoke of battle 2 dollars when the owner of the yoke finds the iron.

I have not had the ague since I last wrote to you but have been unwell two or three times, and find on trial that chopping and sawing, saw logs is too hard work for me: and strange as it may seem though I want rest. I keep to work Robert has no hired hand and hands appear ^{to be} scarce. is one reason why I have to keep doing. Maria is getting the better of the Ague slowly. The rest of the family have been in good health since I wrote. Before my letter of June I shall be 30 years of age a period of life which it is supposed that a Bachelor ought to pause and consider on his single or singular course of life and ask himself whether he intends to persevere in what the world's actions disapprove. But the actions of the world is no true criterion to regulate by: for its actions sustains corruptions that reason disallows and the worshippers of the Goddess Reason drenched France in blood. at the thoughts of which Humanity shudders. Such cynical speculations are more unprofitable than even Bachelors. As to myself I am perfectly unconcerned whether I am destined to be a Bachelor or not and for choice at this present ^{time} ^{would} choose a single life. Not being in good health this fall I stay pretty ^{often} ^{at} ^{home}, and go but seldom to meeting itself. I stay too much at home: I never was a great rambler and our Bachelor establishment strengthened my home habits. But these home habits are a benefit to the married man: and no injury to the morals of Bachelors. as virtue loses nothing by them and of course they can be no cause of complaint, as "Virtue alone brings Happiness below". I would read more than I do, but our Librarian is trifling. We take three Newspapers. The Philadelphian in Philadelphia it is of a Miscellaneous nature; and costs 1.50 per Annum its is too trifling for my use. The Emigrant has been more worth less yet. The Emigrant has had 600 subscribers. It has lost 150 which may in a great ^{measure} ^{be} ^{attributed} ^{to} ^{the} ^{indifference} ^{of} ^{the} ^{Editors}. who though Dexter and Allen issued an uninteresting paper. And if we had not been Anti, and it an Anti prop we should not have taken it. The reduction of the subscription list has opened their eyes and it better lately, and is to be closed next spring.

There was no thunder here the last day of December the weather was warm
for the time of year. The 22nd of Dec. was the coldest day we have had here in ^{the} winter
The Thermometer being zero in the middle of the day last year 5° above zero was
the coldest day. You dont tell me how Alexander and little Robert are doing.
My next letter will be dated between the first and tenth of June
to William Geddes
John Geddes

Received Feb. 19 1831

1831

due above
Feb. 2^o

1831

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Mr William Geddes
Campbellstown
Lebanon County
Pa.

