

Campbellstown May 15th 1834

Dear Brother

I received yours of the 24th April on the 8th inst. and conclude from the postage of it 18^{cts} instead of 25^{cts} that you must have got a new Postmaster at Appolanti who has made that mistake in my favor. I hope he may be an honorable man. I may be in error but I firmly believe that some of your letters were opened somewhere they were not at any time in as good order as those received from Annapolis. I have not indeed wrote to Uncle James since my return for I had not until lately any good news to send him he knew my situation the difficulties that I had to contend with and the prospect that there was of getting through them judging by the past. I have made two successful moves onward but am again stopped short by the time the law allows for an appeal to the Supreme Court which is One Whole Year they may put off appealing to the last day of the year and then appeal which will be a loss of our day & then by other means delay a trial for two or three more, and from all appearances they are determined to do so for as yet there is no appeal, nor will they settle - the reason why is they have all received more than was coming to them since there has been so much loss by the blunders of the Courts except Samuel whose Jewish soul is so much vexed by those losses that he will not either. He is a true shyllock and has become very unpopular by his niggardliness. Every time we meet he harangues me on these heavy losses and negligence of the Administrators, he will scarcely allow me time to say a word and for the future I shall not humor him so much as to listen to him but bid him act and not bethink. Do his worst. The last time he bothered me I asked him if his Guardian Philip Hotzberger pen was not convicted of forgery by attesting the amount of a Bond he had against his own son Peter - was I asked him a man who was willian enough to attempt to cheat his own offspring a safe depository of the money of an orphan stranger - to this he only said "the man had got odd" if father had collected that money and paid it into such hands would there not then have been just cause of complaint if it had been lost which was a likely went. It would not have been me that would have appeared in Court to defend such conduct but I would have paid the amount of the loss if his heirs would have left me and if not resigned my post as executor and paid my share of such loss. The trouble he had in getting what Philip did receive is in this eyes no argument in fathers favor for withholding the remainder which amounts at present to about 2100 dollars nor is the heavy charge he made for its safe keeping: which Adam Haa K says was 1600 - this I think is above the mark but it may not be for Sam lived with him you know some time. I say I did not write to Uncle because I had no good news to send him and bad are an increasing of evil by making more feel them, but I sent him a newspaper containing an account of the business done on our Canals which he perhaps did not receive and as he is going to visit you shortly it will not be necessary for some time to come. I believe that you never received any particular account from me of the business done on our Canals last year I will now then give you an account of the Union Canal which is the only one of any real benefit to our section of Country. - The account of the Pennsylvania I have lost.

The traders on the canal charged in former years 50 cents per barrel for carrying to market the whole amount of tinnage which pass the Union Canal from 1st Nov. 1832 to 1st Nov. 1833, was 85876 Tons 6 bu. 2 qrs. 29 lbs. 5.3

Flour	70595 barrels (weighing)	6723.5.3
Wheat and Rye	324266 bushels	8106.10
Whiskey	12408 barrels	1551.2
Iron, bar, pig and castings		7295.2
Iron Ore		2306.10
Coal bituminous Vanthracite		3488.3
Lumber	14677750 feet	14677.15.2
Shingles	5991000	2995.16.1
Staves		188.8.3
Gypsum		12558.13
Fish	14370 barrels	1916.5
Salt	124200 bushels	3164.19.0
Merchandise		9154.7.1
Dundries consisting of Corn, Hay, Potatoes, hemp, clover seed, lard, butter, limestone, marble, brick, leather, pork &c. &c.		9809.8.3

85876 "6" 2
Amount received in Cash for tolls 103462.45

fore the New York Canal could be opened the railway from Philadelphia to Columbia where it joins the Canal will be shortly finished when it will take 2 if not 3 days less to go to Pittsburg. Landed property has been rising though slowly yet steadily since our former hard times and I feel confident our improvements shall have done for this country what the shall overle. I feel confident there will be not only in our own state but in almost all others a general sweep of the present men in power - with us there are none to defend his conduct respecting the bank ever Sauger and Sack now condemn him - in fact there never was a more unprincipled attack made upon any institution in this country as this upon the bank.

If her conduct had not been such as it ought to be she could not have stood the storm
 against a man whose popularity at the close of the last session of Congress was un-
 bounded; backed by the prejudice which a great many have against foreigners es-
 pecially foreign Capitalists which Jackson endeavoured to draw in every shape
 and form against her; which was the meanest but the most powerful weapon
 he wielded against her and yet she has stood it all and will finally triumph
 over all her enemies yet she will the American people are not yet so blinded
 by prejudice and party spirit as to be thus duped. Mankind grow wiser by ex-
 perience it is said but it must be their own not that of their forefathers it is in vain
 that the generation before us show the scar that is left upon the body politic and
 tell of the pain and distress the wound occasioned by a former trial to do wit-
 hout such an institution, but we must answer them that they did not manage
 as we will, we understand business better such is the language of Jackson. But
 I disbelieve the old saying, man is too vain and heady to profit by experience he
 attempts to do to day what he failed to do yesterday and rushes headlong re-
 peating what experience might have taught him to be beyond his powers, in
 defiance of past and present pain. I have been always a strong friend of the bank
 and no sooner had Jackson clearly declared himself against her than I forsook
 him and have been ever since showing the absolute necessity of such an institution
 and the benefit she has been to this country. I have went so far as to contend that
 it was owing to her that we have been able to pay the immense debt of the nation
 without feeling it; without draining all the specie out of our country may has
 even made us prosper beyond example in the history of nations under such
 adverse circumstances. Banking institutions as well as all other corporate bodies
 are the necessary consequence of our Republican institutions. The division of prop-
 erty equally amongst children leaves none of them rich though their fathers were
 so which is much in favor of the preservation of liberty because it every generation equal-
 izes almost the whole population and prevents many from becoming too rich &
 consequently there are few that are able ^{to} themselves to carry on great underta-
 -kings but it is necessary to carry on ^{sums} such that there is a joint stock or
 fund raised by as many persons ^{as is} necessary to raise a fund sufficient &
 this is and was the cause of the creation of banks and corporations in this
 free country and it will ever remain so. I understand since the pressure on the
 money market commenced they rich have been taking 2 percent per month
 or 24 per cent per annum in Philadelphia that is as a match for Mr. Botsford
 at taking the advantage of the necessities of ones neighbours - does he call
 himself a Christian if he does he must labour under some delusion; must hold
 some one wrong tenet - Why do you not preach the true doctrine to him to
 let a sheep have his hide and be satisfied with the wool. That is a new way of
 comforting the distressed; that is ^{like} calling to see a friend on a sick bed and fitting
 him in a bad state to knock him on the head and dispatch him at once.
 Does not such unfeeling exactions of the necessitous, prove the utility of such a
 bank and the absolute necessity of it to prevent the rich from oppressing the poor
 or men in middling circumstances: Does it want another argument to show
 what monied men would do if there was no check on them? There is and
 will ever be rich and poor in all communities and if the ^{rich} cannot be
 prevented they will at all times exact so much as to leave the ^{poor} but a
 bare living and thereby keep them always poor while they will be increasing
 in wealth beyond measure. Principally the business men or trading part of our country
 are borrowers men of talent and enterprise but not of Capital and they deal entirely with the
 banks who dare not take more than 6 percent which enables them to make a good profit
 and become tolerably independant when a majority of them quit business and others
 of the same stamp take their places. If we had no Banks there would be but a third
 of the dealers that there is and they would have matters so much in their own hands
 that they would give and take what they please. The rich would increase in riches &
 the poor in poverty and there would be and there would be no chance of a man rising
 in the world were his capacity for business never so great. Banks are very unpopular
 and that principally owing to the ingratitude of mankind who generally no sooner than
 they are obliged to a man or Bank hide their faces from them at least if they do not be-
 come their open enemy. I said their profits are too great but it is necessary they should
 be tolerably so in order to enable to risk their money in the hands of new beginners who
 are qualified but want the means to start in business and who have nothing but their good
 name to give for security. Banks trust such 1000 dollars where individuals trust one. If the
 doctrine will prevail that it is as fair and honorable to make as much of your money
 as you could on a horse or a cow or in other words to take the advantage of the need of
 your neighbour at every opportunity then must the borrowers throughout the whole
 nation stand by each other and by the few hearts of the bank such as will baffle
 and establish a bank with capital sufficient ^{on} able it to have branches in all

The States to loan out money at 5 or 6 per cent which would effectually knock
 down all your 20 per cent men all your Cow and Horse dealers in money. Money
 is property as well ~~well~~ as a Horse or a Cow and it appears reasonable that
 we should have a just right to make as much of it as we can and sell it for as
 much as it will bring as we do with other kinds of property. Such is the language
 of those that hold this doctrine and they will dare you to show reason to the con-
 trary. I will here risk a few arguments against the above doctrine though have con-
 sidered but little upon it: it always having been considered by me too damnable a
 doctrine to be worthy of consideration by any feeling heart. Money is property but
 the representative of property and not so itself but by certain circumstances it has
 become more valuable than what it represents or rather powerful like Jackson
 who is at present more so than his Constituents the whole people of these United States
 he can like money act instantaneously and consequently do at any time and in what
 manner what he pleased, whereas property must have a buyer and a seller be
 bought and sold and by fixed rules and restrictions ^{which take time} and the people of these States
 cannot act for a certain time which gives money and present action an
 undue influence over the persons and fortunes of all men and makes men who
 are so circumstanced rich or powerful instantly at the expense of the rest of the
 community: and to prevent this all wise Lawgivers have by positive laws atten-
 ted to restrain the grievous exactions of the one and the abuse of a trust of the
 other. It is asked what right legislators have to regulate the price of money and not other
 kinds of property; The reason is clear to me that Custom has and does successively regu-
 late the prices of other kinds: and Custom is Law. Suppose for example a man was to
 give 4 times the customary prices of Cows or Horses or any kind of property would
 not that person be considered out of his head and his property taken out of his hands
 and why not rest the ill gotten Gold from the other the one through insanity
 which is no Crime robs himself but the other without even the plea of necessity
 with an unclouded brain (most men think) robs his brother in distress which in the
 list of Crimes rank next in place to Murder. It is then not true that money is the
 only kind of property the price of which is regulated by law the only difference
 is that the one is governed by Custom or common Law and the other by the positive
 enactments of legislators which is called the Statute Law. In England I believe
 all kinds of produce have fixed prices at the least there is I am told some kind of a
 Law to that effect. It is the case with which money can be used to injure others
 and the difficulty that has been found to prevent the holders of it from so using it
 that has caused lawmakers to be so particular in regard to it. The post in which there is
 the most danger must be the best managed. In all bargains which are just both par-
 ties ought to be equally benefited, then because it is only in times of deep distress
 that such high rates of interest are given it is self evident that there can be no
 mutual benefits in such contracts but the reverse. I believe I now can fill the remainder
 of this sheet with other matter of more interest to than reasoning or attempting to on a
 self evident thing. In order to enable you to calculate the real benefit of the Union
 Canal to us I will give a full account of the reductions on other things than
 wheat flour. Plaster is now brought to Cambridge town ready ground for ten dollars
 per ton which cost heretofore \$15 and salt is also for \$2.50 p. bushel instead of \$3.50 former
 The price of Corn with us varies from 40 to 50 seldom below the one or above the other
 whereas it used to vary from 25 to 50. and Rice likewise at present Corn is 45 and
 Rye 50 and 17 higher at Philadelphia. Clover seed \$3.00 & \$3.50 at Philadelphia
 in Potatoes there is no alteration they are worth now 30 cents. The seed has raised being
 to cheap transportation 50 it is these several years \$1.50 p. bu. The Oil is 80 p. Gal.
 We pay \$8.25 cents state tax yearly for the payment of the interest on Canal loans
 but this has no right to be charged to the Union Canal for that cost us nothing
 the state having only given \$5000 towards its construction. The only benefit the
 the Canal and Railway from Middletown to Philadelphia which course our
 produce will shortly take. If the whole profit to the people of the Canals were to
 be paid in to the state treasury it would very soon discharge the debt and still
 there is great complaints about this trifling state tax. This morning was a frosty
 morning and it is pretty cold as it has been since this month came in the
 have had frost the half of the mornings of this month with small snow showers
 and grain is very far back but winter was warm but our spring is very very
 cold and I have to sit in a cold room to write when I ought to be out
 occasionally I am freezing now but will finish this for tomorrow mail. Rain
 looks middling ours is good except the lower part of the upper meadow which
 was too wet when it was sowed. We had but 49 bushels of wheat off 60 acres and
 230 of Rye off 12 and ours were among the best in this country but 512 bush 20 loads.

I intend to visit Samuel Carper in Bedford County next week and will take
 Newville Fannettsburg and some other Places in Cumberland, Franklin & Bedford
 counties in my way and in my next I will give you an account of my journey I
 thought it would be too long to put off this. Brother James is talking of traveling to this
 and thinks he will start next week perhaps he might call to see you but he has not said
 that he will nor do I think it for I think he will too soon tire. Thomas has left Alex-
 ander a few days ago and talks of going to Philadelphia for a place. Agrippa is with
 his mother who has need of at least one man person about her to keep Isabel
 alive in order. Bell is as usual and is rather inclined to wander about the fields
 and sometimes goes away. If I thought you could manage Agrippa I would
 give him some money and send him out to you to learn Saw Milling for
 I cannot persuade him to learn a trade with a stranger here but I am afraid you
 could not he is rather more passionate than yourself, and is rather sullen than
 talkative. I could work with him and keep him to his place but I fear you could
 not but if you will risk him I can easily persuade him to go. The old woman ought
 to send Isabel away for the boy ought not to lose his time on her account. They
 are all indifferent scholars and not fit for business that requires much head work
 but James and Agrippa are willing workers. Thomas is rather inclined to be
 a gentleman. James Wilson lives in Hanisburg and shaves Bonds Ge. lives idle
 The Doctor I have not heard from lately. Hugh Wilson married one of Sam Rutherfords
 daughters in March last. John Wolfersberger our speculator has got the 99 plaques of an
 empty purse on him and is partly out his head and talks of selling all and
 take the world easy. Times are tough and money very scarce but I do not feel them.
 I have all our wheat, corn and oats on hand yet and about 120 bushels of rye but
 will sell soon flour is \$3.25 - \$3.37 1/2. Oats 25. Corn is in demand and 45 is offered willingly
 and I believe 50 will be given shortly when I will sell. I made 12 1/2 cents per bushel
 last year by keeping out wheat and will make a little more this it was sold in March
 at 85 & 90 cents. I heard with John M. Harman in Campbelltown and pay 5 dollars cash per
 bushel but will get about a good deal for my wheat. Yours Farewell
 To John Geddes.

I have in the two
 articles of agreement and blanked them
 and send to all that demand them at first of January 1834.

William Geddes

I had closed this and opened it again

to Dr.
 and wt
 of ce
 17.

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Mr. John Geddes
 Upsilon
 Michigan Territory

Campbelltown
 May 15th

re am
 of your
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