

Palmyra May 10<sup>th</sup> 1838

Dear Brother, Your last was rec<sup>d</sup>. on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. Times with you it appears are bad very bad and with us bad enough although nothing like as bad as with you. We have still nothing but shimplasters for to transact our daily business with and some of them very ragged having the appearance more of waste paper than money. A glorious experiment indeed of old "Hickory" to drive paper money out of circulation and put Gold and silver in its place. But Michigan is likely to be a proverb for its yet more a bonimable experiment of general Banking and its result the rascally wild Cat money. You have got as many Banks as we have with but a trifling population in comparison leaving riches, resources &c &c altogether out of view. Notwithstanding the disastrous result of Jackson's experiment: the general government is determined to continue experimenting in defiance of the popular will as expressed in all the recent elections and what is equally extraordinary there is still found those who can reconcile all with true democracy. Men who have no interest in making such erroneous measures but are so blinded by party that they would set Van Buren if he were to set himself up for a King. The day of judgment is at hand when I am persuaded our present rulers will be rewarded according to their deserts. Our political campaign has commenced and promises to be a very warm one as the Van Buren party are determined to die as hard here as they have lately in the city of New York when the whole patronage of the General Government was brought to bear on the election and thousands of illegal votes polled. David R. Porter is the Masonic candidate in opposition to Joseph Ritner. Mr Porter lives in Huntingdon county and is a member of our senate at present a lawyer by profession but now lives on a farm: being possessed of too weak abilities for to succeed at his profession. His name will satisfy you of his english descent which will operate not a little against him as well as his once being a bankrupt. I feel confident of Ritner's success by a handsome majority notwithstanding the common school system which he so strongly sustains will injure him in the german countries. We were defeated in our township by 142 of a majority on the adoption of the school system - upwards of two hundred votes were polled which was never known at a spring election before. Men who never voted before turned out and voted against the schools. The weather here is cold and wet. We had a heavy frost on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. but none since notwithstanding it feels cold enough for it. The cool wet weather is favorable to the wheat & Rye and they look well. As if in defiance of the cold some have planted corn on the last day of April. I am teaching school at present two miles

East of Campbelltown on the Horsehoe Turnpike at  $2^{\text{d}}$  per quarter with  $35$   
scholars. They subscribers having been disappointed in their teacher gave  
me no rest until I consented which I was loy to do as the wages  
were not as good as I have had, but as they find me in boarding I  
can still make a living at it. James Clark and sister live in  
Hummelstown idle and independant as well as single. John  
Rettering, John Swin<sup>sr</sup> and Jacob Kreme<sup>sr</sup> have left here lately  
for Illinois. Joseph Moody has sold out and intends moving in  
a few days to Ohio. Matthew Humes also is gone or about going west.  
Sawyer's family are going in a few days to Ohio all but Samuel  
and Ann, who are I suppose to stay here to law with me. They  
could not give security for the title and had to leave the Bonds  
in the hands of another person as security which prevents their sell-  
ing them as they had expected to do and which may be another  
reason for their not going west with the rest. The Newville folks  
are well at present but uncle has lost another of his children in January  
Mr Darr who died of a kind of consumption of Dr Ely's aff  
I am ignorant but of his old printer our cousin Mr. G. Geddes  
learned by our brother-in-law Mr. Johnson that he is bankrupt. Mr.  
had publishly him  $180^{\text{cents}}$  which William promised to pay him in specie  
when he would go west and accordingly Thomas sent his note  
with Mr Horstuck of our town but William kept out of his way  
& did not pay. So that when Thomas left Newville his mother  
advanced the money on the note and sent it to Philadelphia  
with Mr Johnson sister Ann's father-law who called on William re-  
peatedly who still put him off with one excuse after another  
until he at last said he would not pay it but that they  
might look to Thomas' executors for the money!! This conduct  
makes me believe that he is bankrupt and can't pay or he would  
not make such a mean come off. The prices of Wheat  $1.46^{\text{cents}}$  pr. bu.  
Rye  $70^{\text{cents}}$  Corn  $55^{\text{cents}}$ . Oats  $33^{\text{cents}}$ . Potatoes  $31^{\text{cents}}$ . Pork  $8$  to  $10$  per lb.  
William has no interest in your religious paper now and I wait  
further orders before I will pay the new editor any thing.  
I have not seen any of Grayson's family lately but I believe  
all are well. I have received no news from Illinois from brothers, nor  
had their mother. They are such indifferent writers that it goes hard  
with them to put as much on a sheet of paper to make it worth  $25$   
cents. That I suppose that that itself hinders them from writing.

They have nothing more to receive from me which also has an effect of making them thus careless in writing. If I don't forget I will send you a copy of our amended constitution. The convention sat so long and made so much expense that the new constitution is very unpopular at present and its quite likely will not carry; but I hope it may and I mean to give it my support. I have not rec'd a letter from Uncle James for years and never have from any of the rest of the name but of our own family. I can very little for correspondents at present as I have to pay specie for postage which I do with great reluctance as it is hardly to be had. I think it doubtful that I will move west before 1840 for that year Robert Grayson will be of age and I can settle with him and be done with settling with the heirs of father unless I shall be put to more trouble than I anticipate by the Lawyers. I spoke with Samuel about it and said I thought it would be a folly for us to continue at the law all our lives <sup>like</sup> our fathers, to the profit of none but the young. He said he could not compromise least the rest would not be <sup>judgment</sup> satisfied. I then told him I never intended to pay any thing <sup>to</sup> a compromise but was willing to drop the matter for ever and if he could not do that he should try to meet me and not put off a trial from time to time as his father did. He allowed he would do all he could to have it tried as soon as it could so that if he does not conclude to withdraw from the contest he will probably urge his lawyers to their duty and we will have a trial in the supreme Court. I have wrote this by snatches since the first inst. being so busily engaged in my school as not to be able to finish it once.

All well

Samuel

Wm John Geades

William Geades

Received  
May 10th

No. 5 John Geddes  
Ypsilanti

Michigan

1838

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Francis Geddes  
Michigan

John Geddes