

Palmyra May 15<sup>th</sup> 1840

Dear Brother

Yours of the 27<sup>th</sup> April was received about a week ago, and could not make it suit to answer it sooner. I don't know on what terms my land ought to be given on, and you have not said any thing about it either. I am willing that all that can be cultivated may be. But what will be the best plan to do it I cannot say without I were to see it, whether it will be better to clear a piece for to get rails or to cut down the large trees only to make them. I think it will be perhaps as well to clear a piece of the best thinning timber and to make every thing into rails upon<sup>it</sup> that will make on, no matter whether it is of a lasty nature or not. The wood that would be left, those that make the rails, might have if it would be worth any thing to them. But all these things I will leave to you as you must know best how to arrange matters so that there will be no damage done me and that I may have so much profit at least as will pay my taxes. I would like the persons farming to be well paid for their trouble by what it may produce. But I will not agree that they shall have any privileges on the premises other than to secure their grain and when that is off that they can claim nothing more, unto another bargain is made for another year. About selling I don't know what would be best. I am still of the opinion that lands are not near at their value in your neighborhood and that as soon as we have better times they will rise. For there is now a rail road convenient enough to convey the products of the country to market and lands 30 miles off will be as valuable as those 3 miles or less. But still perhaps I could do better with the money by other lands in Illinois or Iowa. There is a few from this place going on Monday to start for Iowa and if I thought that man ~~Tom~~ could make a bargain I would go with them for I could raise cash enough. Less than \$3000- wont buy those lands and if I were to take that I ought to have \$1000 in cash on the first of April next and the ballance in eight payments with seven per cent interest, with Bonds and Mortgage for security. If he will conclude to give that I will come forthwith and make title and give possession and when he gets that he must pay \$500 of the \$1000- that is to be paid cash and I will give him interest for it in case he pay the other 500- at the time appointed. This would be giving 9 years wanting this for to pay which is long payments. Perhaps when I consider more I might rue as I am not anxious about<sup>it</sup> but on the receipt of this you may call on him and see what he thinks and if he concludes to take me up or offers any thing near it in the way of payments for the whole sum cannot be less, you can let me know and I will be on the ground in 20 days after the date of your letter, God willing. Or let you know by another that I have changed my mind. When Carly, David Carnest and David Winton are the persons who are bound for Iowa I am not afraid



of any man in the way of selling, for I will take the land for security and if the purchaser should fail the land would not and any how the most advantage a man could take would be the destruction of the timber and if on considering every thing there was any danger of that there could be a remedy provided before the bargain was closed. Harrison will be president & on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March next and that itself will raise lands 10 per cent. because it will restore confidence between man & man which is wholly destroyed by the policy of the Loco, Foco. Our Lower house expelled a Van Buren member for misconduct and ordered a new election and I have just learnt that the Whig candidate is elected by upwards of 1500 majority where the other party used to have 3 or 400, if the rest of the state should change in proportion Harrison will carry Pennsylvania by a large majority. In Lebanon there is pretty much such a change, we calculate on 1000 majority. I differ with you entirely as to the moral duty of supporting the schools. Every man is bound in strict morality <sup>to support</sup> the best cause let his prospect of success be what it may. The bad are the majority in the world and yet we are required to strive against them (you mean to endeavor to reform them). You misapply those verses of Luke for they only are applicable to pecuniary concerns of mankind. They only are intended to make men stay within their means and manage temporal things to the most advantage. When our school law was first passed I supported it & I got only seven others to go with me and since that at every election rallied all the force I could and we at every conflict gain ground & I expect next spring to carry the schools. At the March election there was polled 268 votes a thing unprecedented and yet the schools were lost but by 30. We held meetings on both sides & nominated candidates for the different township Officers and we carried the whole school ticket except the school itself. John Logan and I were the candidates on the school ticket for Justices of the Peace and notwithstanding I was the leader of the school faction I received 159 votes and my opponent 90. 19 not voting. My majority was 69 whereas those on the same ticket with me had from 13 to 38 only over their opponents. The schools gaining from year to year make the Anti school men bitter indeed and their leaders come to charge like madmen. They rode the township for two weeks with printed handbills and abused me unmercifully but all would not do for though the people would not take the schools they still had more confidence in our men which was a dreadful mortification to their vindictive party leaders. We take matters coolly and abuse no body unless attacked and then we tell them their own and laugh at them. The vote throughout the County was heavy and close in every district so that we are not at present far in the minority. Schaffertown the schools carried by 16 votes in the Lebanon Borough by 17 and were lost in Myerstown by only 7 votes. East Hanover has had them in operation 34 years and every 3 there is an election to vote them off if there is a majority opposed to continuing them. In the last place they were voted off by 15 majority, upwards 400 votes polled. There is not the least doubt



but that they will be retaken next spring for when they try the old system  
for a year again they will find it is not as good as the new & when  
retaken will never again be voted down. Robert Snodgrass and wife are  
moved west. The wife's health is good at present. I think they have but  
two children. James Todd, Andrew Harrison and James Porter went  
with them and the Remnant of Rogers family is going shortly. Robert  
Snodgrass is well off - worth at least 6000. Walter Clark and family are  
well. He talks of running for Sheriff in our County this fall. David Cooker  
after him & Ferdinand Ningle disolved led a very intemperate life but is  
going better these 3 years. He is clerk at a new Furnace built by the Grubbs  
at Manady Gap, in Hanover. His brother Sam moved west a few years  
ago and was a disolute chap. Alexander teaches school in Palmyra  
Their mother is still living. Ferdinand Ningle is a bout Libanon &  
can not own anything in his own name. John Kimperts was finally  
outlawed of his place & now lives near Middletown. James &  
Charles Clark are well and still Bachelors. Dr. Henderson is still  
a willower and will ever remain one I think. Mr Sharon's health  
is poor this spring. I received a letter from Agrippa about a month  
back and he and James were well. They are both keeping Bache-  
lors hall and farming a little. Step Mother sent each \$100 this  
spring. William Johnson and Ann were in Middling heal th when  
he was here for Mother's money but the old woman had been e. then  
poorly last winter. The old Doctor is still bed fast but  
to idy heart sick. More from weaknes than thing else. Corn  
Wetsten was also in the same way, but crops of grain look very  
well and the weather is cool and wet enough so that they can  
sare fail. We planted our Corn on Tuesday and Potatoes on the  
day following but there has been planted two weeks ago. Wheat  
is 95 cents. Rye 45. Corn 3 1/2. Oats 25. Butter 10 cts Tallow 9 cts.  
Eggs 6 pr. doz. Beef 6 1/4 pr. lb. Philip Wolfesberger a brother of John  
in Campbellstown broke down and left John & Sam Carpenter a little  
in the lurch. Robert G. Graydon is at Dartmouth College. He was  
at home in the winter but did not call to see me. Alex. Graydon has  
quit storekeeping in Harrisburg, but I believe carries on a Foundry  
still. Lime sells here at the kiln by the quantity at 8 cts to 10 cts pr. Bu.  
Stone Coal is much used in this neighborhood a low price and costs  
\$4 per ton at the Canal Ironmill from here. The small Pox is very  
bad in Millerstown and Harrisburg and several other towns around us  
and several have been attacked in the country. Nearly all are get-  
ting themselves vaccinated over again but I have not nor shall  
I at this time. I had my son & daughter done and it made them  
very sick, & the wife got herself done and it took effect.  
2 members of Assembly died at Harrisburg with it & 6 or 6 others  
that I heard of but in general it not dangerous.



