

Campbellstown May 11th 1842

Dear Brother

No letter has arrived from you this spring for which I am unable to account, as from what I wrote to you in my two last letters of the prospect of getting money, I am sure you could not expect me in Michigan, for without money it would be useless. I received none at all to the middle of April and then only \$430. Three hundred of which was Lebanon paper and at the time 10 per cent under par and that I would not have taken if Mr. Johnson had not consented to take part and I owed R. J. Graydon \$130 - who also took it and so I got rid of it. Yesterday Joseph Nitmer who holds 104 acres of the land only paid the interest for two months. And he said he could not raise more than \$100 more of any kind of money, and that mostly from 8 to 10 per cent discount. And as the Pottsville Bank a few days before had closed I thought best to let him keep his money. One Bank fails under the other and the general impression here is that the worst has not arrived. The Harrisburg Bank lost \$7,000 by the Girard Bank and her paper is very much distrusted. Nearly all the money afloat is a kind of state money 1, 2 and 5 dollar bills, and these are 10 per cent under par. Not more than a third of those who had payments to make the 1st April were able to perform. The Banks have been badly managed these 8 or 10 years, and the Government much worse, and instead of supporting one another were at continual variance, a well regulated Tariff or the old one instead of the compromise act would have went far towards supporting the Banks as well as the Country and would have prevented most of the embarrassments the people are now in. But partly & the foolish South rule the land and we no doubt deserve all we suffer for allowing them to do so. I believe the South will shortly go with us for a Tariff and some currency regulator. Banks have so disgraced themselves that they completely put their friends out of Countenance.

All fear making themselves odious before the people to propose estab-
lishing a new-United States Bank, and yet many firmly believe
that matters will continue as they are without one. You are
the only hard party man of all fathers sons, and it made me
laugh when you came out anti-suspension anti Bank. I
always attend the poll and vote as I believe every good citizen
should, but still if bad men were taken up I dont go for them.
I attend few or no political meetings, I am for rotation in
office and have always supported the out instead of the ins.
My whole policy was to break the dominant party in our state
and we have nearly achieved it, the out number 140-000 strong
Anti-Masonry don't much towards it and I expect our new-Con-
stitution will do the rest. Our free schools will also assist, our
County has four out of 10 townships in favor of schools, there
was the of an increase this spring. The free schools in these townships
are driven in the right way. We dont try to carry them in Londonderry
then 2 years. In the state there is 1100 districts or townships and there
is but 15% that have no schools. There is a gain every year in
favor of the schools. The Newville folks are all well and Mr-
Parr one of the old doctors sons in law was a member of our
legislature last winter. — a real loco loco, from Cumberland.
William Seades the printer of Philadelphia sent his son and
only child by his first wife up to his uncle J. M. McCormick
of Hanover a week or so ago and he stopt and staid all
night with me. He is a very delicate boy and says he is
15 years old. He says his father ^{has} a son and two daughters
by his present wife. He does nothing but fancy and Job printing
now, and follows nothing else. I Judge this boy knows
what it is to have a stepmother. It dont look well for his father
to send him on his mothers relations every year for months
at a stretch as he does. I received letters in April from James
and Agrippa, and they were well and single, farming a little
for a living, but the products of their country nearly valueless.
The ask \$2. pr. acre for Thomas land, but I dont consider it more
worth than Government price, and I believe if I could get some
of my money I would buy it at that price.

It is a little hard that I cannot pay you your money, but still you are better off than I who has all mine lying in that third now and cant get it, - scarcely the interest. That land would make two farms of 220 acres each and I would pay the taxes yearly and let the people thicken around it and make it valuable, and after a lapse of time I could sell it to advantage or give it to my children as would best suit, We are to have a meeting at Berry Church next Saturday to determine on building a new substantial limestone wall around the grave-yard, We had no preaching all winter, but there will be during the summer every 3^d sabbath, James Clark still lives in Hummelstown, but is in but middling health, he is a real drone inaction is destroying him. Dr William Henderson was lately married the 2^d time, he still lives at his old place, He had a Miss Gold for a nurse to his first wife and then kept her for his maid and when his 1st wife died he made her his housekeeper and now after having her about him 13 or 14 years he makes her his wife, I think he has 3 children. The present wife must be 35 and he is 48, It is reported here that Robert Snodgrass intends moving back to this state and his sister the widow Sheares. It is also reported that David Mitchell is broke down in toto, Prices are Wheat \$1.25, Rye 50 Cents, Corn 50, Oats 35, Potatoes 50, Cows & Calves from \$10 to \$20, Beef 5 pr. lb, Eggs 6 pr. doz, Butter 12 pr. lb, Bacon 4 ct, Ham 6 ct, All other see, Hickory wood pr. Cord \$3.00 Oak \$2.00, Hogs pr. day from 40 to 50 cents, pr. Month from \$8 to \$10, We are all well except my son and wife have the measles, I now plaster, pick stones plant Corn and do any kind of work when my landlord wants a hand and attend to my office,

Farewell

Mr. John Geddes

William Geddes

John

25

Campbell's Tavern
May 10
1842

Mr. John Gades
Ann Arbor
Michigan

152