

Campbellstown Oct. 30th 1843

Dear Brother

Yours of the 23^d inst. was rec^d. at noon on the 28th. The shortest trip yet. I had been expecting it about two weeks before. I have come to the conclusion to leave this country, and was anxious to hear from you before I would write. I want you to rent a house for us in Upsilanti or Ann Arbor if one can be had at a fair price in a dry and open place. Or in the Country if you can get one you think would suit us better. I want to have the whole house to ourselves if possible. It ought to be a comfortable one so as to give us a fair chance at the first in your climate. I would prefer Upsilanti, as being more convenient to my land. I have no notion of selling my land for any such price as that man offers. And my head now if everything goes right I will be on the ground and see to it personally. You have done well in leading your mill. And now you ought to have that Plaster Mill. So as to turn your water power to whatever would offer the most profit. Prices are 90. for Wheat, 140. for Corn, 25. for Potatoes 50. The Corn was middling good but the Potatoes are poor. Doing we think too much wet weather. We have a fine fall. Frosts came late. Ramsay is elected by a two majority and the Whigs have 13 out of the 24 Members. A result quite unexpected to all parties. Ramsay run 500 ahead of the Whig ticket in Dauphin and had 273 Majority in Lebanon. Dauphin & Lebanon gave him 1000 Majority. The vote in Londonderry was Ramsay 198. Unbergen 80. The whole Whig ticket except Reinhard (the Treasurer) was elected in Lebanon Co. We never had a hotter election except when a Governor or President runs than this was. Old lawyer Mestman's son wanted to run for Congress and Ramsay won the nomination from him in his own County which so vexed him that he & his father went over to the Locals, and rode the County declaring that they would ride over the party rough shod and break it down. We had also a split on the Sheriff and the whole loc. force except in Londonderry supported a neg. ad. Whig one. Checks for it against our man Bowman. And they were confident of success until the votes were counted. Bowman is a schoolman and that was

made to bear on him throughout the county, and especially
in Londonderry where we were about putting them in operation
for the first time. Old Mr. Farby and all the Killbuckys left
our party and made a mighty exertion to turn off Londonderry
Petting is a penal offense for voters, but so confident were some
of them that they sent their daughters with \$50 bills to bet.
Horses were posted through the whole county for to bring the re-
sult to Lebanon the night of the Election. The result was there
at 12 o'clock from all the townships, but Londonderry and
Downman had but 15 majority, which made them so sure that
they had all things ready waiting for Londonderry to parade
the streets with drums & all kinds of music. But the re-
gades were sent sneaking back to their lodgings when Good
Old Londonderry reported 206 for Downman & 169 for
Shute, a result that neither friend or foe expected. They
would not believe me when I said we would make 1500
^{or} more. I was 13 mistaken, but the whole party said we done nobly. They
boasted that they had our township stuck like a deck of old cards.

Orth was not satisfied with the sale of his farm and succeeded in having
the sale set aside by the Court and a new one ordered and it then
only brought \$65 and some cents per acre. Wages per month are
from \$6 to \$10 and when a man hires for a whole year \$7 or \$8 are
considered good wages. Girls wages are but \$2.1/2 & .75 per week.
And harvest wages are from 50 to 75 pr. day. 3 1/2 pr. day for
common work is thought enough by the farmers now. A Bushel
of Corn is all that is offered for husking this fall, but some
refused to take it and then got 45 in a way of a compromise.
I am in favor of the Poor man, and have always thrown it in
the farmers teeth that they did not pay the poor labor
as they ought. And they will sooner compromise than trust
being sued before me. But a short time ago hauled up one of those
rich Packman^s and made him fork over \$20 more than he was
willing to pay a poor laborer. He had ballanced his account
so as to throw the poor fellow 2 or 3 in debt to him. He was
so mortified that he wanted to sue the man^s father an old
man of 70 and very poor for fifty cents he owed him. I asked
him if he was really in earnest & when he said he was. I told
him he ought to be ashamed and that he could not sue him
before me.

He then went and done so in Millertown. My landlord asked me
to husk Corn for a Bushel of Corn pr. day but I declined, and at
the same time asked 50 cts for Potatoes and 1.00 for a sucking
pig that I wanted to buy. Corn is worth but 33 pr. Bushel
of the field. I asked him if he did not think it too hard
for me to work 3 days for such a Pig. We have to pay always
for any thing we buy Philadelphia price and often more.
Farmers will sooner sell their Wheat by the quantity for 90
or 95 than sell it by the bag full for 1.00. All our labors
are in debt. Poor men are little better than Slaves to the farmers
here and live very poor. They stick together and wont sell wood
under 3 pr. Cord for Hickory & 2 and 1.50 for Oak, and
then there is always at least a half quarter less than a Cord
I rank mine all when it is brought and dock them if it dont
out, but very few do so. And they are nearly all men who lead
and drink both and that late and early. In this way they
are able to pay such prices for land. Hard work a
grinding down the laborer by low wages & high charges
& high rents, is the whole reason in a few words. Romney
was a Mechanick of some kind, but is now a lawyer in
Harrisburg. He is still poor and these rich nabobs like the
Breidman²⁰ hate to see a poor man preferred to them. After
the untimely death of his father it fell to him to support his
mother and the rest of the family and he done so by dint
of hard work, & by some means got an education and went
to the Bar lately. He is a Single man, and speaks German.
He reads the 3 Counties and talked dutch to the old
farmers and made stump speeches in both languages
which helped him probably to his whole majority. I
talked with him since his election and he appears to be a
fine man. Albert does well in paying well. I believe that
robbing the laborer of his hire is one of the greatest sins in the world.
He will escape the curse pronounced in the last chapter of James.
And will be paid back manifold by God. It is always better
to pay a little more rather than too little to any man for
any kind of labor, because they work cheerfully then and do
more and better, and actually over pay the man that does
in good will & extra exertion. & vice versa.

Berry Spring this morning at 9 o'clock 50
degrees. The mayor of the City said it was stated
to be heard on the 21st inst. when I have not taken
notice. Yesterday I saw on that Jack frost had
recently laid low. The leaves have changed color
but few are fallen. Don smoking pretty well through

Polkville Ga.
Oct 30th 1843

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Mr. John Geddes
Ypsilanti
Michigan

My wife brought me a daughter on the 29th Sept. and both are doing well. We have
all been in good health since I wrote. I think I wrote that old Mr. Longmire, Geo
of Palmyra died when I was last. James Kelly died of Consumption in
August. He left a small child in that he had by his wife. I will take
all his personal property to pay his debts. Martin Clark's wife died lately.
I received no news from Winona since I wrote, nor from any other of my
relations. I write in a hurry & bad but you can read it. I am well
Mr. John Geddes
William Geddes

Mr. I have any harmonica of 8 or 10
it is made at New York. It is made at
The mill and was made in 1817
The I bought 3 for 1/2. I bought 1 for
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