

Palmyra Sept. 24th 1844

Dear Brother

Yours of the 14th was received last evening and the first thing that I done was to write an answer thereto, I did not write since your May letter, because I did not know what to write. It seemed as if my women would never be ready, and now I believe they would not budge an inch if I held them not in a cabin that ^{they} cannot live in comfortably all winter. It has been so intolerably hot since harvest & particularly in this month, that it would have been very disagreeable travelling. We have had a fine season here about Campbellstown, having had rain enough to keep vegetation in motion, but still not enough to wet the earth to ploughing depth but seldom. The wheat has much less show this season than the two last, and is fine in the grain, but was thin on the ground & may be a little over a half crop. Rye as it has been these many years rather poor, but there is not so much saved any more. The Oats crop was very fine, and the Corn is pretty fair, it has been rather dry for it latterly. I never saw Corn so ripe on the 1st of Sept. Five miles North of us there has been very little rain all summer & about 10 miles South & in all the lower counties it has been very dry & there is no Corn scarcely. I am told that in this County near Schaffers town the farmers have to feed their Cattle the pasture being totally burnt up. Western Cattle find but a poor market below us, Wheat is worth 85 cents the rest in proportion. Temperance has blowed out nearly all our distilleries & it appears to operate against all prices. Land itself is much cheaper than last year & there is a great deal in market. But I ^{am} wandering from the main point, this morning I have commenced writing the advertisements for to sell the few things we have, & my women are all in a bad humor & when I brought home your letter & read it, the wife & her mamma came out for staying where we were, that there was no other country like this. But we cant & wont stay where we are & of course now we must & the difference between a long and a short move, ^{is not so much} the wife's chief is to get started. I would have been with you before this but there is no moving them hardly and I never could say when I would or could come so I said

nothing. And now dont be too sure of me notwithstanding I will
sell out & pack up for the west for I have to call in Franklin
County to see William Clark & family & there will be another
great effort made to stop our Journey further west. I am
here now so long that I would like to visit for Markle for
Governor & will hardly leave here till the 9th October & then may
stay a week at Clarks and another week to land in
Michigan, so that the 25th if all an well may bring us
there. This is putting it off too long, but it is unavoidable
and may be for the best. The first time I went to Michigan
Clark & me we left home the day after the election and we
had fine weather the whole time we were going & coming
which was near Christmas. If any thing else pleases
another letter will follow this one close. When we start for
certain I will start a letter also to you & if we dont beat it
you may know that we are detained somewhere on the road.
I have attended more political meetings this campaign than
ever. The meetings of the Whigs have been more numerous than
in 1840 and larger & the locos the contrary. There dont appear
to be that party name or in the ranks & file of the locos that there
used to be, the leaders are as heretofore, but cant some powerful
men. When their Convention met to nominate Mr. Sumner they
leaders made a mighty effort, but it was a complete failure
there not being more than 600 at it, and on this day week
the Whigs had their meeting & it exceeded every thing I ever
saw in numbers in triumphal arches, banners, flags and
waggons with the different trades in full operation.
There was from 12 to 15 thousand men there. The locos were
thunder struck. If Pennsylvania aint Whig throughout
then there is no dependence in appearance whatsoever.
I gave a shilling that day to see a young man & woman
from Scotland & I suppose 2000 paid the same. He
was 7^{ft} 4^{3/4} in height & thick in proportion, weighing
over 400 lbs. & could lift 2500. The woman measured 5^{ft}
feet four. He was a real Giant & sat on a table instead of
a chair. It was as much as I could do to reach to the top
of his head. He is 28 years old & speaks good english as
well as his lady, and are friendly and sociable people.

There has been no moving all summer but this week past there has been a good many going west. If such people & their children can move & have two or three weeks & more of a Journey I cant see why we may not, especially when we take the most comfortable way of it. All are well

Mr. John Gades

Farewell

William Gades

25

Mr. John Gades

Ann Arbor

Michigan

1837

Palmyra Pa
Sept 24