

Dear Brother.

See Hall 13th May 1773

I did not expect that Capt. Page would

sail so soon, nor would he, if he had not determined to go short of his load by 40 tds. This however occasions me to write in a hurry and will prevent my being so particular as I could wish. Capt. Chayson arrived here (one day after Greig) on the ~~20~~ 28th of April, since which he has been delivering his goods, letters, and visiting the Gentlemen not far distant from the ship. All his Rappahanock goods have been sent round a week in a 60th Craft that we expect will come back full of Tobacco. Before the Craft was dispatched, my servant went up ^{to Fredericksburg} Rappahanock with the Gentlemen's letters and a desire from me that they would deliver their orders to the Depele Landing their goods. Capt. Chayson goes to Fredericks a few days up Rappahanock after his Craft, and down Potomac. By the inclosed list you will see that only about 160 tds are yet engaged, but we have not seen many Gentlemen and know not the quantity that others intend, so that my present information cannot be exact; but there is no reason at present to suppose the ship will not get away in good time. Especially if we agree that Col. Henry Lee shall, after the ship sails, draw for £250. Sterling on 50,000 weight of Tob: and his Crop generally sells high. Yesterday we had a sale of servants, but we have only got 12 of them off hand yet, and the great scarcity of money here has occasioned most of them to go for Tobacco, so that I fear we shall be puzzled to get Cash for the Ship's use.

You will receive inclosed a letter for Mr. Geo. Lee which contains the positive directions of his Guardians to come over in the first ship to Virginia or Maryland. The estate is indebted to Mr. Crupell £58. and only 14 shds are consigned to him in Page, the estate making only 20 in all and we were obliged to buy the Overseers shares and pay Lewis by other means in order to ship 14 shds to Mr. Crupell ~~14~~ to you. As far therefore as the estates money will go in your hands, you will please apply to the paying off Mr. Geo. Lees debts and equipping him for his return home. That is, if so much should be necessary, but I desire a prudent frugality in this business. Before your last letters we received Col. Loudon & myself had gone far in our agreement of Trade with Mr. Nash upon your former plan of having a Store. You know Mr. Nash, he has the reputation of much skill in the Store business, and he has a more than common knowledge of the Back People and those about Dumfries, and we are clear in opinion that Mr. Nash's scheme now sent you, will, if carried into execution, answer your purposes every way much better than the Agent you thought of. But since we have received your disinclination to this scheme we have made a conditional agreement with Mr. Nash that you may either agree and send the goods, or not, as you please, and Mr. Nash is at liberty if any good business offers in the meantime that he may undertake it, and only be compelled to join you in case he is out of business when your answer comes. You will therefore write by first opportunity Packet, or otherwise, and repeat your letter. Indeed I do not think there is much probability of his getting an offer of business quickly in these times.

Cary Wilkeson leaves your business at the close of this year and we have been treating with Thom Edwards about succeeding him. Edwards has been to view the estate but has not yet given us an answer. If he fails, we have a very good one in view whom we can get.

I expect now to send you Cary Wilkeson's last accounts drawn off I think as you desired. I really think the Spring Land is poor, but you know the lands were specifically divided, and if those who were then chosen to value the Lands (and they were much approved for knowledge & integrity) rated yours proportionably higher than Mr. Phipps's, I do not know, ^{it} nor perhaps is there an easy remedy now. The apparent reason for a considerable difference in your present profits arises from Wood, which you supply but little of and Mr. Paradise from its contiguity to Town, a great deal. The enquiries you desire shall be made, and the result you shall know. I am clear that more money may be made by diligent and proper care, but whilst the disease among the Cattle prevails and the Land without manure will not bring 70^s. you may be sure that such Crops as you mention cannot be made.

You will observe by the first part of this letter that I was taken by surprise with Pages sudden departure, and in consequence, have been obliged to send a Messenger up to Chantilly for my papers. By mistake, they have sent me the rough draught of Nash's agreement. However you may make it out, and a fair copy shall come by the next Ship. You will remember that it is quite optional in you to agree or not. If of you to loose no time in letting me know the fate of the bill sent you on Glasgow. If it is not paid, let it be returned immediately

under protest. I did not like taking it as paid, but
either that or no pay being the case, I submitted.
I was no way concerned in the ^{Assembly} business about addressing
the thing concerning the non importation of slaves. You
know in general I have always thought the Trade bad, but
since it will be carried on, I do not see how I could in
justice to my family refuse any advantage that might
arise from the selling them. I would just observe that
the low price of Tobacco & scarcity of cash does not seem
to encourage this business much at present.

Seal and deliver G. T. Lee's letter, after reading it.

I am well, I shall write you by every opportunity
how we go on with the Liberty.

Your affectionate

Richard Henry Lee

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Henry Lee

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Virginia

Richard

Dec. 26

Aug. 29

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