

Copy

Gov. Residence July 15th 1837

Mr James Gamble

Dear Sir

Your of the 18th ultimo was received yesterday and read with interest, and to day I prepared myself as well as I could to answer your letter as satisfactorily as I could. I went over to see what news I could take up at your place, and all I could gether is as follows

Your people are all ~~welcome~~ ~~your crop looks~~ very well indeed, but needs rain very much, and should there be no rain in a short time you will not make any corn worth mentioning, owing in part to its being planted too close, for the season

I have often heard it remarked that a farmers life was the most independent, as well as the clearest of trouble of any other life, but I have found by my experience that farmers have their troubles as well as all other men, and such a season as this gives him his trouble. There never was a better prospect for crops generally than there were about ten days ago, and even now if there would come a good rain the country would abound in corn this fall, but ^{those} who are depending upon tilling the earth for support are now strung out in anxious and painful suspense about success

~~I wish you to see~~ ~~William Brown~~ Post Master Genl, and become acquainted with him, and if you find him as he used to be (gentlemanly) I have no doubt but you will be pleased with him, and in the course of your interview with him you must remember me to him, he will recollect me the more readily by my father Majr Guy as my father and ~~him~~ were warm friends, of the same school in politics, I would be glad to visit the Capitol while he is there, as I was always a great admirer of his talents, but I reckon I shall never have that pleasure, ~~except~~ Messick should resign his

his appointment and you with Hon Jacob Thompson assistance should have me appointed then perhaps I should have an excuse to visit that beautiful metropolis. If I should have had those fast kind of friends I would have had that appointment instead of the one that got it, but in the election of some few of my friends I have been very unfortunate they done well enough while I was at there back but whenever out of sight I was out of their opinion, but I suppose it is all right ^{with} them and their conscience.

I did not finish telling about your concerns in the far off west, It seems your house is in ~~good~~ progress the logs about all hewn, and let me here suggest to you the propriety of having a good manager in your business, you have considerable property in the shape of negroes, and a man employed to take care of them, as I look upon it you will have quite a bill of expense to foot up this fall, when you should have some profit upon the investment, In stead of hiring some man to hew out and build you a house your own force should do it, and if they should not do that much they now should be engaged in clearing land building stables &c &c but the arrangement, ^{is} altogether new. perhaps when you get them a little more broke in ~~the hands~~ they will profit you more, It requires a great deal of wisdom and practice to govern precisely right, and I may apparently see a great many errors in the administration of the affairs of my neighbors, and ^{be} see equally as many in my management, so all we should do for one another is mildly to suggest. Your stock seems to be attended to from the number of calves I see in your pens and to judge from appearances the prospects are favourable for a nice chance of leather being put up for fall & winter use, if they have the convenience

of storing it away for there seems to be a great many such cases. The Gov has prorogued the Chickasaw legislature, to meet in the forepart of August, I suppose to travel over the same ground they have gone over once before, so much for drunkenness, You may suppose on account of my being a white man that I do not as much identify as I pretend to feel at some times, but I assure you there is no one of the Nation feels a deeper mortification, at the mishaps and blunders committed already in the establishing and nurturing their new government than I do, and why, because I was always a friend to the separation, and have often heard it predicted, by those I took to be opposed to a separation, that the noble hearted Chickasaws were incapacitated for self government, that the Choctaws could govern the Chickasaws better than they could govern themselves which is a gross absurdity if the Chickasaws will only rightly estimate themselves, and set a due estimate upon themselves, but ^{it} seems in spite of all my anxiety upon ^{the subject} the predictions of our opponents will work out as by their prediction (God forbid) And the increase in drunkenness and desperation and murder are the favorite consequences of those prognosticators, I fear even ~~that if they should soon be no change for the better, than~~ men have not predicted the worst yet, and why should the Chickasaws not be the happiest people on earth, because the executive department of their government is inefficient, the sheriffs the Judges, the district attorneys are all too indifferent about the discharge of their several duties, or one stands back for fear of hurting some ones feelings, another is afraid to walk right up to the discharge of his duty, no one takes the lead so all get along as easy as they can to get the pay It needs a new impetus some how or other

I have already drawn out my letter to considerable length, yet no great deal sense in, but it is from home and containing a few items of news, which will give it a little interest enough perhaps to lead you on to read it all. I shall close by giving you the report of general good health through out the county and by asking leave to subscribe my name

your esteemed friend

Wm R Gray

The mail came in today but the agents report has not come to hand as yet Cal's little Lucinda is very bad off this morning she has had her fits since 2 this morning the balance of us are well I recd a paper from you which I thank you for it is the evening Star this is the third or fourth time I have written I was compelled to get in to your box of papers to get the Constitution if I had failed in getting that we would have in bad for not time to write any more

your friend
C Harris