

Croton Jan^y 5. 1812 -

Dear Brother,

Your favors of Dec. 29. & 30 I have received and cannot express my feelings at the time of reading the account of that most dreadful calamity at Hickmond and indeed for a long time after I was distressed in great measure there must have been many more of my friends besides those you mentioned that have suffered - most unfortunate event - I wrote you last week in answer to your observations on the Post Office, that had best say over until next spring, I have told Mr. Chandler as much and he is satisfied -

I thank you for the Enquiry you made respecting the Letter of ~~Adm~~ Mr. Keen and shall inclose your Note of Enquiry & the Clerks answer to Mr. Howard who seems much engaged to have a Bridge built and is to come up and view the Deed Note when a Chainbridge can be built and he and myself are appointed to receive proposals for building and to report next spring to the board of Directors - We propose to let the Builders & Undertakers have the profits for a Number of Year say 20, 30. or more which will depend how much of the Road they include in their Contract I propose to go down a part of the Ript Hill and then up along the River thro. Mearns land who must be pleased as it keeps the Road near his Home - There is a Gentleman of my

acquaintance residing near Washington I
think in Georgetown & Mr. Penman the man
who builds Iron Bridges he built the one
which went away above G. Town. Owing
to the loss of sentiment which never can
be the case at the D. hole - Mr. W. Neil your
Landlord can inform you where Penman
lives and can speak to him to call on you
when you can represent to him the nature
of our intentions &c. and write me so
that if necessary I may inclose a letter
to your care for him - The Digest of our
State would amend our Charter in that case &
say instead of making the bridge near the
House say near the Mills of G. Town &c.

And if a war, this bridge must be very
important as much passing will of course
be multiplied and would be very productive
well worth the attention of men of war &c.
I thank you for ^{your} attention and to that you
expressed to the Secretary at War, it will
certainly be very gratifying to me to be
noticed by the Executive in giving me an
appointment as it will be strong evidence
that my former services are remembered
and approved of by them &c. &c.

We are all well here and send our
affectionate regards -

Yours respectfully
D. V. Cothran

Wm. Penman Esq. Secy. of War.

Genl P. C. 1846

on Richmond

Master Price

bridge one

Jan 1812 Cash

Free

Hon. W. C.
Pierre Van Cortlandt Junr
Member of Congress
City of Washington