

Beckman's Mills - Jan^y, 13. 1812

Dear Brother,

Yesterday I left a letter for you at the Post-office, and came on to this place where I found them all well, and this morning took Sister in my Gigg to see Mr. Jonathan Odell who I was told last evening was at the point of Death when we came there we found him much recovered as in the course of last Night Dr^r Smith had rapidly relieved his complaint by ^{removing} ~~lifting~~ to its place the rupture which was the principal of his danger but he is still very weak and low. Owing to the severe cold which he took &c. the old man was so glad to see me that ^{for} some time could not speak and on parting thanked me for coming and shed many tears. I think he is not out of danger but have some hopes of his recovery. I left them all well at ^{parting} yesterday. The River is full of Ice some fast and some large cakes moving but no snow only when the last drifted along the shores. The Tiding is fine for Carriages.

I peruse the Army Bill for 25,000 was passed both Houses - but I also see that the President is only in the first instance to Commission Six Regiments until ^{they are} near terminated and the term of service left to the discretion of the President and no General or Staff to be called until wanted also at his ~~option~~ or discretion. This is not actual war but has a squinting towards Accommodation which I hope may be realized - it appears to me that some

of the manners hinted at in your last letter have
been played off with success. I see some Republicans
voted against the bill - however I am not surprised
because I have been so long in that body that I know
I am well acquainted with the manner of transacting
~~Difficulties~~ and surmounting difficulties -

One thing I highly approve of it is the proposed
appropriation for completing the Fortifications
that is laying out money to advantage but the
Sum is not sufficient but perhaps enough for
the present year - Fortifications well made
will be seen a long time after Summs expended
on armies &c. will be squandered away -

however the raising of six additional Regiments
or at least as many as will be wanted next
Summer I presume will be wanted as long
the wars continue in Europe for we are not
safe nor can be certain how soon we may
be obliged to become parties in actual war
but if we are determined on it immediately
25,000. is not more than necessary and in my
opinion not sufficient - for militia is a
poor dependance if we attempt the reduction
of Canada & as they are exact to repel invasion
and will answer for 10. or 12. days but for a
campaign or siege there is no dependance
to place on them - please to remember me kindly
to the Vice President & remain your truly
Ch. Van Cortlandt