

Lisbon Farm Sep 7th 1858

Mr. Andrew M. Jones

Dear Cousin

I take up my pen to write to you I know not for what reason without it is a sympathy, or want of it. I have spent several nights at Hanover. going to my Cranberry bog in the morning. my bound boy driving my team and taking wood home with him. and I either ride on the wood home or walk. my cranberry bog could be rented now for three hundred dollars per year. which would leave 400 a year for the rentor to live upon besides house rent & fire wood. and eight month in the year his time might be spent working elsewhere if he would find work. but the chance for improving the cranberries, is very great. my time is spent in observing there habits. and in draining &c to improve the bog &c and expect this fall or next spring to plant an acre or more. Benjamin has started one on the impulse of my success has got it fenced. and is building a house. rather Hanover is building it. but he does not give his mind to improve his bogs. by Richards' request I have visited his bog and took him to visit mine pointed out to him my plans, my fears & hopes without presuming to dictate. but I can see nothing that he has done. he has come home intoxicated several times. and associates with low company. but Mrs Cox says he is good natured willing to do anything. she asks him. and since Lydia has been there she takes him in to all her little plans for amusement. which keeps him from bad company. and is of great advantage to him. though she be weak this is one good she has done. God grant it may be of permanent advantage to the chap. I have heard that he has said that he had lost the respect of his friends and there was no use trying to get it again. I have tried to get him to visit our house but he will not. truly I have wished so to act as to be of service to him. but know not what to do. it ought not to be because he has not got so good a mind as his brother that he should be an outcast.

As for Sam he shows that he feels the necessity for exertion. and appears to be experimenting on himself he appears well but doubtful how much he can bare. (so it appears to me). There is a man at Hanover by the name of Diltz from Hunderdon County, near Ringgolds. who has been purchasing an hundred acre farm near the head of Pine mill Pond near the dagins(?) lot for his soninlaw Wilson, he is a man who has acquired some fortune at farming, droving &c. and has unbounded confidence in the use of lime, on this ground. from his own success at home by the use of this fertilizer. I have been very anxious to see him try, as his faith in lime exceeds that in this neighbourhood although that faith is markely on the increase here. young Wilson has one of the double houses at Hanover. had commenced getting timber. and digging a cellar for his house. but I understand has stopped operations. as they understand the property is so heavily mortgaged that he will go no further until he gets a clear title to the hundred acres. this appears a bad state of things for Sam as I understand he has given a written contract to secure them a clear title. and Deltz says that let him begin and he will bring plenty more to occupy other farms. now at present this land has no value for farming. among the people of this neighbourhood. the success of one man would add a new value to it. and would be the interest of all concerned in it to release(if there could be any end to it) if they ever expect to realize the money invested in it. (this my oppinion)

The same objection would follow in selling farms for Cranberries. they have had several offers since my success. I have advized not to sell. because the could not get more price as yet than I gave. but wait a year or two, and my increased success would double that value, or much more, for I am sure of success with a little time and money the last the cranberries will furnish almost a sure as that there will be grass on the farm from year to year. although I have a small crop this season the cause is very apparent has been remedied for the future. and the only fear now is droughts such as happen two or three times in a life time. the cedar logs buried on this branch ^{the} fear are not of much value. Sam has been leasing some of the cranberry bogs this year. and should the tenants succeed as I have but little doubt the rent will increase from year to year and in two or three years form a considerable source of revenue. The surveyors for the Air Line rail road have been running there tryal line through beyond Mt Misery. I can't comprehend how it is to built on money borrowed on bonds. (don't see where they would find fools to lend it). but if it is built there is a considerable portion of the track near the shore can be farmed and some talk of marls to be found there. but all these things will take some ten years at best to realize much from these new resorces. I cannot but feel anxious for Richard & Sam and in thinking I have thought I could do them some good. On my farm at home the crops look promising. and we have a large bulk of superiour hay in the mow in the spring in justice to the farm I should have purchased more cows but there excessive high price prevented me from doing. the reduction in price since them would amount to as much money as we could have made from the cows but they would furnished a Cash income and now the hay is dead money. from the abondent crop. every place.

I must have 7 more cows on the farm. and have applied to R & Sam to furnish me with money for this &c on a note I hold against R. & S. H. Jones. like ^{enough} Richard has had the money but I cannot get satisfaction out of either of them they wont say yes or no, now my pasture is waiting for something to eat it. what must I do. go out into the world and borrow. done know how I can do it, my want of success renders me so nervous. that I knock in the head all the credit I would be likely to have. yet when I look at the thing in reasonable way cannot see anything but success before me on the farm the very cows would pay for themselves in a twelve months. and with the customary (in this part of the country) use of lime of marl can make from 1400 to 2000 bushels of Corn per year. besides the other usual crops. and my farm in an improving condition at that.

Uncle John Saltar since he has lost his sight has been failing so fast that I cannot think he can last this winter the Dr thinks the spinal marrow is affected. Aunt Eliza Warner has an attack of bilious color. old and feble as she is they fear it may be her last.

Emma received a letter from Margaret today. she is well. she had made some prepiration to come on for a visit but was induced to give it up. and proposes that Cousin Ann Morris or I should write and say that she ought to come. she has a cripled brother of the Dr with her. dependent. also a gentleman boarder. and expects to move into a larger house. I immediately wrote to her telling that she would have to come on and sign the Power of Attorney before the French Consu. and be ready when I should write. and we should expect her to pay us a visit before her return. Trusting all these things will not occupy to much of your time disagreeably I conclude

Remaining as ever truly yours
James A Fenwick