

Dear Andrew

Lisbon Farm Jan 31st, 1857

I arrived here from Florance last night. and as usual when I have anything to do with Richard lately his mind is so compleatly full he had no time to talk to me. Soon after we arrived at his house a committee from the city of Brooklin with there enginere & Mr John IRick from Lumberton. they counted the pipes he had on hand. and appeared to talk favourably to Richard. but they cut off all chances for me to say a word as to my business. except just at parting. I asked him for a definabe plan as to how I was to enter into the cultivation of Cranberries he says just as you please. that he would sell me the land for five dollars the acre or any way Just as I pleased. I told him that I had thought over the matter since the first of January was confidant of the success in there cultivation that it would not do to expect to much as I was afraid he did. that I realized the advantage that I could do to myself that the field was a wide one to me for entering into the business in the pines. that the partial success of the Scattered few who had tried it had scarezly effected the price of such land as yet. although these successes and my own observations made it plane to expect more profits in there cultivation (to my mind) many fold over common farming. but that the cultivation of Cranberries over the Savannah of the pines would ultimately reduce the price of the fruit three fourths perhaps. it was proper to consider this in entering into it. that the plan of entering into it largely had been considered by me. when I spoke to him the first of the month onley for his benifit but since he made the offers of a Deed for half the land &c I had considered the matter on my own account and was desirous to entering into it. but wished to do so in such a manner as to benifit myself & children after me but in friendship to him wished in doing so to do all the good possible to him. but I wanted a written binding bargain to know on what ground I stood for it was a serious work to me to enter into any work that would take me from my farm att all. but the days as you please. this I consider to indefinate for me so that I know nothing more what I am to do than I did before I saw him. except that he says I will sell you the land for five dollars per acre. wich is double what it is worth without it was for this perous. but this offer had it not come from Richard I should excepted at once if he had cleared it from incombrance (so that my feelings were at war with my interest conceiving that the offer was made partly in friendship)

but then again if I am successfull it will increase the value of there other lands of the same kind. and I also hold a note against against R. & S. H. Jones for \$3283.46. a large portion of which is my sister Emmas money which I had intended to invest on her account as the Balance off interest on what she holds against my Farm. and have not liked to ask him for it as I have know his tightness for money. Some of this money I must have this Spring to pay some debts. but Emma money might be secured on the Cranberry Farm. should I be justified in investing in any thing so new.

One hundred acres of land at five dollars per acre would be \$500 eight thousand rails would be required which would cost \$400. also one house & shed for a horse \$250 and \$50 for putting up fence &c and you would have \$1200 for the cost of a farm which would (by spending yearly for labour \$300.) pay nearly if not quite the wages the first three years. and after that yeald without doubt \$600 clear of all expences and if we could count on 25 bu per Acre on fifty acres at \$4 per bushel would make that five thousand dollars. I have heard on good athority that in

Massachussets they frequently produce more than one hundred bushels per acre but we cannot expect that here as the system adopted in there cultivation would not be so thorough at first. I have been studying the cultivation of this plant in some measure for five years. and have been certain that it would answer in measure for R. & S. H. to enter into it. and have tryed to induce them to go into it. but it was to small a matter for them.

Anthony had the Mortgage discharged from Record on his way up. how I shall be able to repay in this matter I know not. it showed an interest in me that I thought no one ever had which to me who never had any success in money matters. not heavy losses but a constant wasting away of my means had quite discouraged & depresed. and as a natural consiquence I thought it but right that I should not enter into this new business withoug consulting one that I knew was my friend. and I trust that I shall be able to merriit your esteem.

You would oblige me by giving me your oppinion in regard to using Emmas money in the way I have mentioned. and any suggestion you may make about these things will be received with pleasure.

Thaney was very much pleased with his skated they are plenty large. he thinks all the more of them as your gift and coming direct from the city. Minie liked her book very much. She will have plenty of time to read it as none of them can go to school on account of the bad roads. we have a case of Scarlet Fever down in the house by Anthony's mill and we expect to have it as Minie was there when the little boy was sickning.

I shall send the Cranberries down to Pemberton as soon as the roads will let us get there. and send them down by Thomas Budd to your office. Mary sends her best regards to Caroline. and says she would be pleased to receive that letter even if I should have called in to see you

I remain your much obliged friend

James A Fenwick