

Lisbon Farm May 11th 1867

Dear Andrew

Yours of May 3d has been received. And I have to thank you for your kind offer of money to assist me in renewing my Notes due the latter part of June. and for your kind advice objecting to Mortgaging to obtain money. I did not write you to obtain this assistance but am thankfull for the offer. and to all appearance shall want it. As for being head over heels in debt after Mortgaging. it is no more than I was when I took the farm. and inexperienced inthusiast. and now what is to be done is defined, formed on my own experiance and that of others. then it was a floating vishion. if it was right then how much more now? All men that have been successfull have used means to obtain money to improve have obtained it. used the means and thus obtained success. The thing to be done was well defined. the success proved it was right. if this plan had not been carried out. they would have been as poor as ever. or if they had attempted wrong things they would have been ruined. Farming is a business. the same as any other. My plans on my meadows were carried out after a long time. but they were proved to be wrong. but under draining & manure makes it all right. I have perfect confidance in the means. know how to use them. it does not need heavy yearly outlays. and will pay as it goes. if you do enough, but a bad crop leaves you in want of money. and if you dont get it lingger along in hopeless suspence. And have I not experiances. this. and wasted years.

My first years success and observations at the Cranberry Bog, begat in me a new hope. that by assisting nature I would increase the quantity of vines and in proportion the berries. and I would be inabled to carry the Home Farm to a success. It has very nearly done it. but the action of frost on the natural bog. so differant from a cultivated one. was an unlooked for obstickel that no writer had or farmer could have foreseen, stood in my way. I am others capable of reasoning on such things thought it was mere chance as frost played such freaks. but after after years waiting the loss of a big crop. by a frost near the close of the season. made me hopeless and dispondent. (It was then that I pronounced Morris heartless and a fool. More as an enemy than as a friend. nore have I altered my oppinion much. It would have been more Christian like to say he was not capable of judging. and turned away from him only. perhaps. but his deriding me in my agony of mind. and smaller things that had happened before was to much for me.)

The two years following this big loss by frost my crop payed handsomly. but still was affected by frost so as to deminish the crop. but the crop gave a carrecter to my Bog and on this carrecter I hoped to sell it. and imployed agents with a large percentage for making a sale. but did not succeed. Then having repeatedly observed that the berries escaped the frost where they grew on a sandy surface. and having made a visit down to Manchester & Toms River where some Yankees had introduced Cape Cod plans and some of my neighbours having sanded mud bogs comeing into bearing. producing two hundred bushels per Acre. and the natural bogs near them being cut up by the frost the same as mine. And Mr. Perdie (a noted writer on fruit culture) having observed in Indiana the same differance in the effects of frosts on Strawberries as I have mentioned. I knew for certain my own observations were confirmed. that it was safe to expect crops. free from the effects of frosts by sanding. and was led to conclude that it was the only way to be safe. was to go ahead and do it. and money must be

had to do it with. I have had training (it began in earlyer years of my life than your brothers) this case is not mine. I have worked hard when my case appeared hopeless. What is to be done is better developed that ever before. I cannot stand manual labour as formerly. and consiquently must depend on that for a living. when a chance for doing anything appeared plain to me. It is evident to me that to do a thing that you know must be done. to bring success. is better than to let it drag on disponingly(sic) untill you are so in debt that your creditors force you to borrow, as has been my case. Would it not be seductive to have money that I could spend to spend it. as much by selling as by borrowing on mortgage. it appears to me so. Should I sell my farm now. I sell it under a stigma of not doing well by me. by furnishing me a support. where as should it be fixed up for the purpose of selling. it woulc make thousands differance in the price more than the costs. But through your advice I shall offer privately for sale the Meadow part of my Farm. But I shall have no faith in finding a purchaser. without it is purchased in connection with Halstead farm. This is very uncertain. and in the mean time I go on doing nothing to advance myself and at the years end matters will be worse than now. without I should have a large crop of Cranberries. this may be large as I never have had a full crop but the first year that I had the place. and it may turn me out several several thousand Dollars this year. but it never will be certain untill it is sanded.

I would take in some one in partners with me allowing so much for the bog and allowing me pay for superintendance furnish half the money. and sand it. Many others work in this way but I have never found one to unite with me as yet but perhaps may be able to find one before the season is out.

We have bad news from my son. business is dull and seven young men have been turned out of his store. and he has had warning to look for an other place, as they do no know howlong they may want him. He is discouraged. and so am I but the darkest day is before the dawn. and it may be so in this case. Can not you find me a partner in Cranberries. I cam promise him at the lowest fifty per cent for his money invested. And believe me thankfull for your friendly wishes towards me .

James A Fenwick.