

Lisbon Farm Aug 20th, 1842

Dear Uncle

I am much obliged to you for the keg of lead that I have received and will try to make a proper use of it.

As to the lime I do not see how we can properly go without a portion of it. because in cultivating our peaty meadows that have not yet been properly reduced lime in the quick state is certainly the cheapest & best application that can be made to them. Meadows to that are not peatey. but have lain a long time in grass become filled with innumerable insects that are injurious to crops. and are destroyed by lime, applied in the quick state. Of this last reason I do not have so much confidence. but it is insisted upon by some of our best Agriculture writers. but the application of lime in the quick state I believe indispensable to the profitable cultivation of some of our peatey meadows. The application of the shell marl to our uplands generally I like very much. because it is cheaper and the increase of bulk that we should put it on is a benefit to the mechanical effects of the soil. but if I undertake to haul enough of it to dress the fields in rotation it will deduct considerably from the amount of marl that I should be ~~enabled~~ to haul. the hauling of lime has been much less account heretofor with me and your previous tenent. and if the hauling will lesson the quantity of improvement that I am able to put upon the place. and consequently a diminution in the quantity of grass ec. it is a loss to me to apply the shell marl.

There are also several other things that have taken from me benefits that I have heretofore enjoyed viz twenty dollars clear money for the rent of Franks house. reduction of the quantity of teams at the furnace. the fancy of Richard to cultivate waste from twenty to forty loads of manure for the old field. by Craig's house. for which has never received a two pence in return. even less than that for the labours bestowed up(sic) it has been four times as much as the produce of the ground, the waste of the manure has been certainly a loss to me.

This has been a fine season for pasture. and the young grass beyond the railroad has grown up very thick & luxuriant. the corn beyond R Road looks as if it would turn out forty bushels or more to the acre. but that in the other field will not turn out on average more than eight bushels per acre. I have now got all my cattle in from the woods with the exception of one. I have more than enough pasture for them. I have thought of purchasing some more but have not heard of any yet in the country. With respects I remain yours

James A Fenwick.