

Dear Burr,

Washington Jan^y 12th 1801

I did not receive your letter of the 3^d Inst^o in time to answer it by the last Post and ^{now} I feel a difficulty in deciding what to do in the proposition you make with respect to Billy. It appears to me in vain to place and with any prospect of success to keep him in a state of independence, he will outdo any thing that is within my power to do for him and perhaps it might be better to leave him to his fate at once — Next summer another demand will come on him by Mayor McWherry which with cost & Int^{er} I suppose will be little short of £700 — a person who after being kept up in the manner he has, is yet allowed to go on at this rate I can have but little hopes of — It is true I have only alford out present to provide for this I am doing with as little hopes as I have long had ~~with~~ the other, self consequence I believe will be equally fatal to both. I have no pleasure left equal to that which I should feel in seeing my children prosper & I have not had much of this to comfort me.

I suppose however you must settle Billys debt to Nath^l Jenn^{rs} Ho. in the manner you mention — it will not be long before he will be left to his own means —

I had rather you would not have distress made on my tenants, they have reason to believe that I would not do this until the first of April & would do nothing that would give them the least cause to grumble, — nor would I set up with such brought for my private debt — altho I should be glad the debtors were paid for payment —

To Burr Powell Jan 1801
from Leven Powell

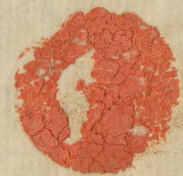
I would also recommend to your consideration whether instead of bringing suits indiscriminately on the bonds of Rich. & Co. it would not be better to retain as many of them in your hands as will indemnify you & give up the others to him - if suits are to be brought I think it will be more prudent for him to do it, otherwise it will very likely be said that you have taken that step in order to serve Mr. Shelton you will no doubt be able to keep such as may be collected as soon without a suit as with one, or if after some time you will be obliged to bring suits on them, it will at least show your unwillingness to run them to earth.

With respect to the two men who stand before us for the Presidency, from the best information that I am able to get, in point of Character & Moral Principles, ^{they} are pretty equal, in point of talents with a mind fearless of the boldest undertakings; Burr has especially the superiority of them in abundance the most dangerous - As I shall feel a repugnance in voting for a man who in my confidence I believe unfit for the office he wishes to fill I may probably give no vote - if I should you will readily see on which side - Burr stopped here by Mr. Walden who came into my room but returned from Phila. He states Burr's private Character especially less objectionable than it had been before mentioned to me which makes him ~~less~~ more respectable, but both fall far short of what they ought to be for that important office - altho my vote will count nothing either way I could wish to give such a one as I would do if it were to decide between them, but not being able to make up my mind on that head would be the best I shall write to my friends & be governed by their opinions -

The enclosed letter is from Mr. Williams a member of Congress from N.C. Carolina - it is to let him know that the Executors of Mr. Little or Little had put aboard into his hands for Collection & which you are requested to continue

to him & get his answer - This Mr. Little Landon lived in the man who several years ago moved from one County near the ridge & in the man of whom credit stands on our books, I believe on the books of Little. I wish you would draw off the card & send to me, perhaps I may be able to get it - Remember me to all & particularly Mr. Mother & Mrs.

Wm. Coffey
Acorn Grove



Free Seven Cents

Jan 12 1801

FREE

Major Burr Lovell

Meridithburg

London County

Virginia.

POST OFFICE
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