

Sherwood Forest

March 17. 1846

My Dear Sir,

Julia has informed me of her intention to enclose to you a ~~number~~ of a newspaper published in Portsmouth & called the "New Era," and I desire to say that the paper has been uniformly candid and just towards me, and now does not hesitate upon all occasions to defend me against the assaults of my enemies. It is a daily or triweekly, and is the adjunct to "The Old Dominion," a weekly paper published and edited by the same person. Its defence of me from the first is visible in all the region of its circulation, in the course of public opinion which is decidedly favorable. But still its circulation is limited and the Editor barely sustains himself. There is consequently no marked ability about its editorials or contributions of any great value, and yet its importance to ^{the cause of} truth and justice over a somewhat extensive region embraced in Virginia and N. Carolina cannot be well overestimated. The subscription to the

Old Dominion is two Dollars per annum
and to the New Era \$5— Now it has occurred
to me that if a subscription list of some
12, 15 or 20 subscribers even, to the Old Domi-
nion, could be obtained in New York, and a
letter was addressed to Mr. Cunningham the
Editor in company with it, expressive of
the appreciation of ~~his~~ his frank and fearless
course, it would not fail to be highly gratifying
to him while it would have the effect of giving
him greater confidence in himself and the
course he is pursuing. It is moreover of
the greatest importance to me that there should
be a paper in Virginia to retaliate assaults
made upon me. It is natural that I should
here desire to stand well, and my misfortune
from the first has been that I have had no
press in the State to speak out openly and
fairly. May not the Old Dominion or New
Era supply this great want? It has occurred
to me that if a handful of friends in the
principal Cities would become subscribers,
this desideratum might be attained. The tax
of the subscription viz. \$2. per annum for the
Old Dominion, or \$5 for the New Era is but
a small affair— would not Mr. Proderick

or some other of your friends in the City as-
sist in obtaining a small number of sub-
scribers. I have thought that I would make
these suggestions to you, to be acted upon
or not as you may think best. It is alto-
gether a suggestion of my own mind, nor
does the Editor dream of such a thing—

Julia's letters will convey full in-
telligence of all that we are about, and I
need not enlarge upon them.

With best regards to all of the family

I am truly Yrs

John Tyler

Alex. Gardner Esq

P. S. a subscription to the
New Era would be best. but if the price be
objectionable one to the Old Dominion would
answer.

Cha. City M. V S
18th March

J. H. H. H. H.
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