

Shenwood Forest  
Ch: City County Va

Nov. 9. 1846

My S: Sir,

Have nothing to do with the mountain  
lands of Virginia without going upon them an see-  
-ing them for yourself. There are hundreds of thousands  
of acres of men barren rocks of no earthly value to  
man or beast. In no large a survey as Morris's  
there may doubtless be found many fertile valleys  
but they are most probably of limited extent  
and of no great value. If you will look to the  
map of this State you will find Frazarville county  
one of the counties of the South western tier, and  
extremely mountainous - there are doubtless some  
good lands but they lie few and far between - I  
have never been in that region but judging from  
that portion of the Mountain country with which  
I am acquainted, I advise no purchase ~~can~~  
"on sight, unseen," - rely upon it that if any thing  
could be realized upon them, even a profit of a cent  
per acre, they would long since have been bought  
up - And yet it might be well to send an agent  
there to ascertain the true condition of things -  
or visit it yourself.

Now turn <sup>me</sup> to another subject - Since  
I left New York, I have received full accounts



from my coal mines in Kentucky. A Mr. Wilson,  
an experienced miner from England, who has work  
in all the best mines of that country and this, has  
penetrated the mines by removing about 300  
bushells of coal - finds that its bulk greatly ex-  
ceeds and pronounces the quantity to be in-  
exhaustible. The larger stratum is of candle or  
Kannel coal lying on a stratum of bitu-  
menous. My agents wish me that one bushell  
is worth three of any other coal on the Ohio  
rivers and that it will readily command ten  
cents per bushell at the landing. The expense  
of digging is estimated by them at 2 cents  
per bushell. The certificates of two gentlemen  
in the neighborhood, one of whom is well  
known to me, avouch its great superiority  
over the coal of that country. The mine lies  
at some 3/4 of a mile from the river, and  
in order actually to operate, it would be indi-  
cious to lay down a rail road from the  
mine to the river. Captain Preffell late  
superintendent of the improvements on the  
Ohio and Mississippi, and who has a  
wider contour over the steam boat Captains  
than any other person, and who is very  
personal friend, advises me to work the

mines by all means, and promises his active  
aid in bringing them into notice. He speaks  
of the property as being valuable. Now  
my Dr. Sir I do not hesitate to express the opinion  
that a large fortune might be realized from  
this source. My agents Messrs. Velford &  
Samuel, propose that I make an outlay of  
some \$4 or 5000 under their direction for  
laying down a railway to and that they  
will superintend the working of the mines  
and sale of the coal for one half the net  
profits - and conclude by saying that the  
outlay will be returned in the first 12 m<sup>ths</sup>.

So stands the case - but I cannot move in  
it of myself - Others must be found who  
would be inclined to adventure and may have  
the ability to do so, or otherwise I must run  
the hazard of sacrifice by a sale in Kentucky  
for what they will bring. If a company could  
be organized for working them who would be  
willing to place the land, say at \$20,000 and whose  
proportion of outlay should be in proportion to their  
interest, I would be willing to retain an in-  
terest of one fourth myself and to contribute  
proportionably with others - The fees the



members of partners the better - If three more could  
be found or rise at the farthest the thing might  
be at once consummated - Nor should I require  
the payment of more than \$5000 in hand - altho'  
the larger the payment the better for my convenience  
The balance could be paid annually until it was  
all paid - I will not express to you my confi-  
dence in this matter least I should be imp-  
roved to exaggerate - In any arrangement  
which might be made it would be necessary  
to interest Jeffrey & Samuel, and through  
them Capt. Russell - I shall write to them  
to day ~~respecting the same~~ making similar  
suggestions with the above.

We are all well. The little D. G. Y. grows  
apace and is the best fellow in the world.  
With kindest regards to all

Yrs Truly

J. Tyler

A. Gardner Esq

P. S. Julia has turned in and made copies  
for you which I had not intended to do.



L. J. to C. H. G. Nov. 1826

Dr. Virginia lands

Miss Survey

& Kentucky lands.

under Gardner's Est<sup>ts</sup>

Chester U. S. Com<sup>rs</sup> C<sup>ts</sup>

New York