

Sherwood Forest

May 21. 1864

My dear Sir,

You have doubtless before this received my last letter in which I informed you that so soon as Judge Christian should get home from his circuit I would see him and arrange the title as to the 50 acres. On returning from his last court he called upon me most opportunely last evening, and left me again this morning on his way to Williamsburg. He expresses his readiness to take any course which I may esteem best - either to advertise and sell here, or to assign any one of Hendren's lands or the whole of Trust B. The amount purporting to be secured by the latter is now, interest and all included upwards of \$50,000 so that all that Sam. Carey said about inadequacy of consideration would be more than met by the assignment. Hendren was hopelessly insolvent, and whether I bought the land for one or another price, was of no moment, seeing that as one of Mr. Christian's Distributors my interest in the claims against Hendren exceeded or fully equalled the present value of the property. But at the time of purchase land in that neighborhood sold for 50. 75 <sup>etc etc</sup> and ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~price~~ <sup>price</sup> here. The coal explorations have imparted to it new value - I would advise that on your present trip you see for yourself into

every thing - Go to Morganfield and as-  
-ertain precisely the position of the title  
Sam Carey said that he had got a decree  
for the entire title except for 50 acres -  
Now Hendren left two children. John  
the son, has fully conveyed a moiety, and  
a decree against the female infant for  
all but the 50 acres, would fully verify  
his statement - He is strongly, and I  
thought strangely impressed with the necessity  
of a suit against the infant founded  
on some debt of her father's, to subject  
the land to its payment - You perceive  
from what I have said above, that there  
is no difficulty in the way if this course  
shall be preferred - If S. Carey has left  
for Washington see if you can come other  
lawyer practicing in the Morganfield court  
and take his advice, provided you have  
any doubt - Judge Christian's papers  
are in Williamsburg and requires ex-  
amination so order to find Hendren's  
papers, - she will be up here again in  
a short time when the matter in any  
form I may think best, will be ac-  
complished - Does this want of a  
title to the 50 acres prevent the institut-  
ion of a suit forthwith for the land  
in dispute? I suppose not. The reserva-  
tion was of 100 acres for a town and  
that town was located on the River. That  
suit ought to be instantly brought - I en-  
closed you Goldsborough's letter -

I can add nothing to my previous  
letter - Do let me hear from you

and take good care of yourself - Keep away  
from the Steam-boat boilers - and as much  
as possible out of the sun -

I have sought to reach you by this  
at Peasnoo - All well

Y<sup>r</sup> truly John Lyles

P. S. You will have to pay the supervisor to  
go with you on the line and to look  
for McKerridge's corner - It will be  
best to see him and offer to reward  
him liberally -

James River  
May 23

Price

J. Tyler

J. Tyler  
May 21, 1846  
Instructions for trip  
to Kentucky

Alexander Gardiner Esq.

at Barnum's Hotel

Baltimore

Maryland

to be retained at  
Barnum's until  
Mr. Gardiner's arrival

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper.]*