

Dec. 15. 1805

DS

Major Burr Powell

on the assembly

Richmond

Virginia



Midlebury Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 1805

Dear Sir,

It is with great pleasure I understand that moderation influences the councils of your Country. The party Zeal which was early encouraged took place among us greatly excited my fears for our safety, & I did venture to pronounce that no man can deserve better & more promote our true interest than <sup>in</sup> exciting all his powers to stop its progress, if it now ceases we have cause to rejoice that as yet it has done no material injury.

Altho I feel much pleased with the success of Major Helms in his appointment of Judge in the place of Judge Jones, I am I fear his aid in many instances will be much wanted in the house, and particularly with respect to the further support of your road. I feel the success, of such importance that I cannot but be anxious. At present the Carriage of our produce to market costs from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the amount <sup>when</sup> prices are low under  $\frac{1}{4}$ , if our road was complete the whole of this would be saved to the farmer as he could carry it himself with the Horses that made it at seasons of the year when they could not be otherwise employed. I am inclined to think the farms & plantations carry very little money into the treasury & from them if my information is correct we could collect as much in our ten Counties in the course of five years as would pay for at least 300 Shares. We have already collected from the mustings more money I believe than went into the Treasury for the last five years from all the ten Counties and it would be found the same as to the farms, and I think it may be said with truth that the State will receive more from the dividends than is now re<sup>ceiv</sup>ed from the whole and will save to the people within reach of the road about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of their crops.

I do not think you ought to venture on an Application except you find

them appropriated to some such purpose in some other part of the State and then  
it should be to authorize our Company to extend the road to Winchester. If this could  
be obtained it would eventually carry the road to Winchester & I think certainly to the  
river. It would ensure further subscriptions from many who now hold back  
under the opinion that the road will never be completed. I was in company the  
other day with Mr. Geo. Carter who has taken 90 Shares in the Baltimore road &  
would vest as much money in ours but for these fears, the Baltimore road for  
many seasons will not give as high dividends as ours, nor perhaps one in the  
Continent. But to effect this you will need the assistance of Mr. Holmes and  
without it I am afraid you cannot count on success. I am persuaded that Mr.  
Love would take up the thing warmly, exclusive of his wish to promote the  
growth of Alexandria it would serve for a precedent to get the same Act at a  
future day in carrying a road by Fairfax's Court House to Alexandria.  
I wish it was possible to get the Militia Law so altered as to prevent such a waste of money  
in the Article of Musick. I am persuaded that if the commanding Officers were  
allowed only to pay Musicians at their general Musters perhaps three or four  
dollars riding to each every purpose would be answered, by the Law as it stands  
they have a right to pay Musicians for teaching & also to pay those that are taught  
under this Liberty I am afraid frauds take place, because where less money  
has been expended in this way I do not understand they have better Musick than  
we have where no such expense has been incurred. That of putting the light infan-  
try companies into uniform is also a total loss to the public.  
As I expect that they will write you by this conveyance I shall say nothing as to  
your private affairs - I cannot get quite clear of my bad cold -

Yrs Affly  
Edw Powell

1802

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