Madison, Jan. 8th, 1805,

Dear Sir,

I received your letter of the 1st. I have not yet finished the business of the Senate, nor have your instructions been given to the Attorney General in the District Court at Baltimore. I will send them to him immediately.

It appears from your letter that all the land not within the State of Virginia, as the original government, must be purchased at the price of one dollar an acre. I am not satisfied with this, and I advise you to require a much higher price. I shall, however, do all in my power to effect it. I shall also take care that the land is sold at a reasonable price, and that no fraud is committed.

I am, with the highest esteem,
Your obedient servant,

James Madison.
or a part of it employed, and if we cannot get funds to carry our road to Winchester. I have no doubt but I will be able to proceed from there to the Cape at the expence of the revenue. This is a circumstance which makes it more desirable that you should receive because your success will correspond.

I have also what you say respecting the.ctressnace bank and I am very sorry to learn that Mr. Richetti has wrote in the manner he has done, it may have been his mistake but for me it is not always to say that he is guilty of the words in his statement. This is on the subject is in as good credit in any bank and has since a good deal of business. The truth is that we are at liberty to pay on this bank. Note as far back as Norfolk and on for North or Baltimore. These notes have been sent on to the different banks and the space bought on. The truth is that at the close of the book at the time of sending the volume several of the notes were not taken. I do not know the proposition but I believe they are sent to other places. These notes were taken by the merchants in Allen, and perhaps it is these few notes taken by them on which Mr. Richetti puts his charge. That it is founded on the property of the merchants here. The truth is I believe it is true that many of those items have been in the hands of the merchants in order to have them in the Baltimore paper. Some of these notes have been sent to this place by the merchants there, for these reasons the Baltimore paper at some time stated to the above. Mr. Richetti is equally mistaken in the talent and character of the merchants as far as my knowledge of them goes, they are unexquisetionate at any rate very competent to the business. By the last act from the city the resolution of the debt will not take place but in that as it is now, I have no doubt that the execution is to destroy it, this cannot be done without you give your laws to promote this operation and the Government will pass an act for this to be done.

Now is not the time the Assembly should take up the subject of the toxery on the letter of any individual before which it is taken and as certainly as the same is passed an act for this purpose can not be done.

If Mr. Richetti thinks that the bank will expire the same to be decided of at the next meeting of the Assembly. I am also hearing there will be another meeting of the Assembly and the Council at the next meeting of the Assembly and the Council at the next meeting of the Assembly.

The only news to give you from this place is that Mount is very much around them and has not been heard from the last three weeks. I do not see any of the same note these weeks more we shall not have a girl left within ten miles of us. There have been no messengers of a day with that distance. We attribute this to the great use we have made of New to Alvirne and there is a circumstance which confers this belief for it is observed that all the girls have been among the Alvirne females. They have been in the children some time.
The seventh days of that on which they were married. We expect soon to send out
Colonists, some of these must go towards Jamestown in order to Federalize the people
and their lands, some years ago I made acquaintance with many gentlemen of the South
when I highly esteemed it to feel very happy in doing them a service.

Tell Mr. Throgmorton if he has any thoughts of Matrimony he must bring his wife
with him so he will not be able to get in there. All Paget’s family are
very sick. The Winter has set in, it has been severe.

Mr. Agassiz

[Signature]

Some writing above. These look like more writing above. Need
to know more to bring in detail to announce the laws on the
subject of suits. There is no fault and any amendment on
explanation. By the laws of Virginia, where a man removes before
the court becomes due, the landlord may take his attachment in
a other county, but the expiration of the lease, where he removes
out of the county. I think it ought to be where he removes off of the
area that he remove.

The area or district in the same county, the remedy ought to be in
the court of the same county or district. The only remedy of the
area, but in the latter case as the law stands there is nothing that
the landlord can do before the suit is joined. He may serve his papers
in such a manner as will prevent the landlord getting any thing.
The law respecting suits is meant to give the landlord at some point
between the suit and attachment, this object ought to be pursued throughout the whole:
Said the case must through the court. Which it would appear to advance to this
remedy, and not the license. Believe the law is differently construed in
different states, some believe the attachment new where the tenant removes and
settles in the same county.
Middleburg, Janry. 8th, 1805.

Dear Burr.

I observe from your letter to Leaven by the last post that you have a prospect of succeeding in the appropriation of the Master fines. I wish your having taken in the arraigages may not endanger it. I gave you a hint on that subject before you left home & in my letter to Major Holmes in answer to the one rec'd. from him, I mentioned my fears on the same subject and reasons for having them. If however you can succeed it will be a favourable thing. You that are on the spot will be better able to judge of it than I can. If you should be fortunate enough to get the Bill through your House, it will require some management in the Senate, a very large majority of that body reside below the blue ridge and do not feel sufficiently for the interest of the upper Country and will probably very reluctantly give up for their convenience funds of which they claim a part, and may not consider as they ought, that it is the duty of Government to make the convenience of the people in every part as equal as it can be done, where an opportunity offers of adding thereto it should be embraced altho some part of the State might make a small sacrifice, this was the case with respect to the Dismal Swamp Canal, there is but a small part of the State benefitted by it, yet it was to produce a great good to those in its neighbourhood and I think the Government did right in encouraging it - But there is another circumstance which ought to govern the lower members - These are times big with revolutionary Ideas and there are people who wish a division of the State and ready to Catch at any circumstance which will promote their views, and if the gentlemen below shall refuse this aid to the promotion of the convenience of the people of the upper Country it will be caught at by the discontented and made use of as an argument in favor of their project, particularly when it is believed that it will bring more money into the Treasury than is got at present from that source, and particularly too' when it is remembered that the upper Country people have contributed without a murmur for the convenience of those below, as they did in the Dismal Swamp Canal. It seems to me that if these Ideas could be impressed on the minds of the lower gentlemen that they would, as they ought, have weight, but this ought to be judiciously done, rather in a private than a public manner. Should Major Holmes approve of these hints, he can improve on them and will know how to apply them.

When Congress passed the Law for the Sale of the Western lands a certain part of the Money by the same Law was to be appropriated to the opening & improving roads from Ohio to the Ports of the Atlantic States, and Mr. Jackson from the County of Harrison has got the subject up in Congress with a view of having the Money or a part of it employed, and if we can possibly get funds to carry our road to Winchester. I have no doubt but it will be extended from there to the Ohio at the expense of the Union. This is a circumstance which makes it more desirable that you should succeed, because success will promote his. I observe also what you say respecting the Potowmac bank and I am very sorry to learn that Mr. Ricketts has wrote in the manner he has done, what may have been his motives is not for me to say, but this much I can say, that he is greatly mistaken in his Statement. This bank I believe is in as good Credit as any bank, and has done a great deal of business, the stockholders were at liberty to pay in other bank Notes as far South as Norfolk and as far North as Baltimore, these Notes have been sent on to the different banks and the Specie brought in. It is true that at the Close of the books at the time of subscribing it was found that all the shares were not taken, I do not know the proportion but I believe it was small & these shares were taken by the Merchants in Alex° and perhaps it is these few shares taken by them on which Mr.
Ricketts founds his charge, that it is founded on the paper of the Merchants there. I am told & believe it is true that many of these shares have since been sold & perhaps all of them, for I have seen in the Baltimore ------------ where this Stock is in the talents and Characters of the directors; as far as my knowledge of them goes, they are unexceptionable, at any rate very Competent to the business. By the last account from the City the recession of the district will not take place but be this as it may, I see not how the legislature of Virginia is to destroy it, this cannot be done without you give your law retrospective operation, and I hope the Government will not pass an ex post facto Law. I do not think the Assembly should take up the Subject so warmly on the letter of any individual, before a step is taken which will certainly do great injury to a number of people, farmers as well as others, good & certain information ought to be had.

If Mr. Ricketts thinks that this bank will injure the branch bank which is meant to be established at the West end, he is there also mistaken, there will be business enough for three banks at that place with their limited Capitals. It will injure the banks at George Town and the U. S. branch at the City, where the Merchants of Alexandria have been obliged to go for accommodat. I believe all the farmers having intercourse with Alexandria will be benefitted by a large capital in that place, and I have been making arrangements with that & the Alexandria banks to advance money on our road, funds which will enable us to go on with ready money instead of depending on Collections which cannot always be regularly made, and if I feel a Warmth in favor of it, it must proceed from these causes, for I hold no stock in it.

The only News to give you from this place is, that Matrimony has been very brisk for the last three weeks, if it goes on at the same rate three weeks more we shall not have a girl left within ten miles of us. I have heard of six marriages of a day within that distance. We attribute this to the great use we have made of ------- ------- and there is a circumstance which confirms this belief, for it is observed where the girls lived among rich Cloverfields they have soon had children, some within six or seven days of that on which they were married. We expect soon to send out Colonies, some of these must go towards James River in order to Federalise the people and their lands, some years ago I was acquainted with many gentlemen of those parts whom I highly esteemed & shall feel very happy in doing them a service.

Tell Mr. Roszel if he has any thoughts of Matrimony he must bring his wife with him for I expect he will not be able to find one here. Colo. Peytons family are well. Since the winter has set in, it has been severe.

Yrs. Affectionately
Leven Powell

Since writing the above I have looked over your Journals & I find that leave has been given to bring in a bill to amend the law on the subject of rents. There is one part which requires an amendment or explanation. By the law as it stands, when a tenant removes before the rent becomes due, the landlord may Issue his attachment in order to secure it, but the expression of the law is where he removes out of the "County". I think it ought to stand where he removes off of the Tenement for it is the same thing to the landlord, as well as the tenant whether he removes out of the County or settles in the same County, the remedy ought to be the same, but in the latter case as the law stands the only remedy is by suit & before this gets to trial the man has an opply. of securing the property in such a manner as will prevent the landlords getting anything. The law respecting rents is meant to give the landlord a short
and certain remedy, & this object ought to be pursued throughout the whole. Should the Bill pass through the House I think it will be proper to attend to this Circumstance, and the rather because I believe the law is differently construed in different plans, some Issue the Attachment now where the tenant removes and settles in the same County.

\[ Signature \]

Majr. Burr Powell in the Genl. Assembly
Richmond, Virginia