Chermood Town
Ches. City County r.v.
Nov. 9, 1846

Aug 15th. 1846

Have nothing to do with the mountain
lands of Virginia without going upon them or see-
ing them for yourself. There are hundreds of thousands
of acres of land barren rocks if no earthly value to
man or beast. So large a survey as Momp’s
then 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 Ferguson county
one of the country of the South western tier, and
extremely mountainous. These doubtless some
good land 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 person but would
"conceive, uneasiness" rely upon it that if any thing
would 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 me to another subject. Since
I left New York, I have received full accounts
from any coal mines in Kentucky. Mr. Wilson, an experienced miner from England, who has worked in all the best mines of that country, and who has penetrated the mines by sending about 300 bushels of coal, finds that the bulk greatly increases and pronounces the quantity to be inexhaustible. The largest section is of Candle or HEX coal lying on a stratum of limestone. One agent who couldn't be heard is with the mine of any other coal on the Ohio rivers and that it will readily command ten cents per bushel. The certificates of two gentlemen in the neighborhood, one of whom is well known to me, speak the great superiority of the coal of that country. The mine lies at about 3/4 of a mile from the river, and is ready to operate, if it would be unbiased to lay down a road from the mine to the river. Captain Becknell, late superintendent of the improvements on the Ohio and Mississippi, and who has a number of contracts with the steam boat companies, is ready to move him and who is my personal friend, advisable me to write the

mines by his means and promises his active aid in bringing them into notice. He expects of the property will be valuable. Now, in 1823, I do not hesitate to express the opinion that a large fortune might be realized from this source. My agent slept last night, and

formed the opinion that I made an outlay of some $400 or $500 under these directions for laying down a road, he did not think they were superintended the working of the mines and value of the coal for one half the next quarter, and concludes by saying that the

outlay will be returned in the first 12 months. So stands the case, but I cannot more in it of myself. Others are bound who were engaged in adventure and may have

the ability to do so, or otherwise I must run the hazard of sacrificing 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 the present price of money being in proportion to their interest, I would be willing to retain an in

stead of one fourth myself and to contribute proportionately with others. It seems the
member of partners the letter. If three more could be found or rise at the part of the thing might be at once consummated. Nor should I require the payment of more than $5,000 in hand—albeit 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 confidence in this matter least I should be compelled to exaggerate. In any arrangement which might be made it would be necessary to intimate to Mr. Samuel and through them Capt. Norcross. I shall write to them to say supporting the same making similar suggestions with the above.

We are all well. The little B. U. Y. grows stronger and in the best fellows in the world.

With kindest regards to all

R. F. Tyler

A. G. Dutton Esq.

P.S. I have heard in and made entries for you which I had not endeavors to do.
7th Dec. 1836

Dr. Virginia C.C.

Alexander Hamilton Esq.


Please fold