

Dr. Brother,

Beaufort April 10th (1809)

I rec^d your fav^r of the 14th of Nov^r by Capt^m Duncan together with the other friendly Letters which were an acceptable relief to me in a time of trouble.

My Wife after lying about 4 months in the most deplorable condition expired on the 3rd of November and as I had reason to hope that she was prepared for that death which put an end to a tedious and painful disorder I felt intirely satisfied with the decree of Providence and submitted to my fate without a murmur. As Betsey Pugh's time of service with my Wife had been out more than 2 years at the time of my Wife's death I expected this change in the family might incline her to leave us in which case Sally would have been lonesom and of course dissatisfied which might have occasioned me to break up housekeeping, but as they seem firmly united and desirous to continue in their present station I can see no prospect of bettering myself by a change.

Government have had a Fort erected here, the work has been going on for 6 months past and has in a great measure compensated for the privations of the Embargo - the materials were all furnished and the labour all done by the Inhabitants of the place which has already put about \$10.000 in circulation among us and will I expect require 5.000 more to complete the work. The winter has been cold and stormy but tolerably healthy - provisions are plenty and cheap - and every housewife is busily employ'd in clothing her family in homespun - and altho' goods are scarce the prices are low and the sale
dull

My family and friends here are in reasonable health and nothing remarkable has happened among us since my Wifes death. For my own part I have enjoy'd as good health for 12 months past as I have experienced for many years back. I live retired, have but little to do and have the consolation to find myself able to do that little with comfort, how long this will be the case God only knows for as I am in my 73^d year I have reason to conclude that my time is short. You ask my advice with respect to George I can only recommend you to consult his turn and inclination and do what you think is best for him. if he is not calculated for a man of letters and dislikes mechanical business let him learn the art of husbandry and take his rank among that respectable class of men call'd Farmers. As it is troublesome to me to write many Letters I desire you^{to} remember me to George and tell him that I advise him to stay where he is until he learns to earn his living and not come here to learn the idle habits which prevail among the Boys and prevents their usefulness when they arrive at manhood. Samuel has spent much of his time in this idle way but has at length been taken notice of by a Dr. Poythress who commended the practice of physic here about 2 year ago, and is now studying with him and seems very attentive to his business in which I earnestly hope he may succeed as I have nothing more at heart than the welfare of all my children. As one Letter must serve I have to request you to give my most friendly respects to all my relations and friends and with every good wish for them and your self I remain
Your ever loving brother

Wm. Laffers

1809

Mr. John Lefferts

to the care of }
J. Van Nostrand }

Hempstead

Long Island

