

Peter Carnes, Esq
Honored by Mr. Johnston} Near Augusta, Georgia [p2]

Bladensburgh October 21, 1789

Dear Sir

I don't recollect that I was ever more at [astand] how to conduct myself than I am at present. What advantage would accrue either to you or me by taking my property out of my Uncle's hands I can not for my part conceive. You agree that you cannot be injured. I cannot receive any damage by continuing him guardian because his security, P. M. Johnston, has property enough in this part of the world to replace whatever Uncle Wirt could make way with. Why then should I change him? If my property is taken out of his hands it must be put into the hand of some other person. Now, no man that knows the circumstances of the estate would ever undertake to maintain me out of the income. And whoever would even take it must do it with a design to emolumize himself. Or else it must be some good natured ignorant man who would probably ruin himself by it. My uncle is pleased with his office. Now judge with yourself whether it is not more eligible to continue him my guardian. If he is your enemy and you would wish to make me the instrument of revenge let him injure himself by [p3] acting as my guardian. If he should ruin himself by it I shall not think myself blameable because it is his own choice and I should I am certain, highly offend him should I endeavor to prevent his ruin by depriving him of his office. However if after reading this and considering the matter coolly you shall continue of your old opinion and shall assign reasons of sufficient weight. I shall not hesitate to comply with your request with the greatest satisfaction.

It is with the greatest remorse that I reflect on an inconsiderate letter I wrote to you some time ago. I hope you will pardon [?] which I am sure you would do did you know the situation of my mind at the time I wrote it.

I live on Lonica about 8 miles above Montgomery Court house where I teach a Latin school. I am much pleased with my situation. The people are friendly. The country healthy and upon the whole I live happier perhaps than I ever did. I hope I shall not be a disgrace to my relations. I have not seen my unhappy brother Uriah these 10 months. Mr. Johnston can tell you more about him than I can.

My love to my sister. Tell her I received her affectionate letter of December '88 for which I thank her. I hope she will continue to write by every opportunity. Tell her I am well and do not expect to see her under six or seven years. I propose to read law as soon as I can get books. Tho at present I see but little prospect of accomplishing my [?] under 3 or 4 years.

As to the little property that I possess here, I must not depend on it. I would renounce any right to it could I act so [p4] as to please both you and my uncle's family. If I should do wrong, I hope you will only impute it to my ignorance and not to any unfriendly design. I am conscious my intention is laudable

however ineffectual the execution of it may be. Upon this principle I sue for your friendship, and hope that my conduct may not gain your displeasure. Sir I can with a safe conscience call myself

Your devoted Friend and Humble Servant
[signed] William Wirt