

Mr. John Wright's Prince George County [Maryland]

Dear Sir

... I should have returned to Georgia with your negroes directly, if I had not in compliance with your advice been detained by the want of an offer for my own property. No one could purchase because there was no one to convey. It then became necessary to obtain an authority from the legislature for this purpose. This called for a length of time while I could not reconcile it to my feelings to pass in indolence under the direction of Mr. W. P. Hunt I prosecuted to the study which commenced in Georgia. During y residency with him & before the passing of the act in my favor, I came to a determination to remain in the state of Maryland & to send out Juda & her children by the first opportunity. The situation of the federal city had not affected the price of land in such a manner as to procure me an advantageous offer for yours. And knowing that you were not in want of either the negroes or the money arising from the sale of your land I was the [Ap splicitous] about both. Especially as I apprehended no danger to the negroes. However when an opportunity of sending out the negroes offered, I went down to take them into my possession. But Juda's advanced state of pregnancy rendered that step extremely imprudent & I was consequently compelled to defer the business til Juda's delivery, & the next conveyance. Till now none has offered. Mr. Elihu Hall is about to move to the neighborhood of Cambridge & by him I shall send the negroes. I cannot procure an offer for your land which common sense could direct me to accept of. ...

... I shrewdly suspect the honorable point of view in which so punctual a man, and so expeditious a negotiator as Mr. Carnes considers my conduct in this affair – to my justification with you nothing I am persuaded is necessary but a knowledge of every principle by which my heart has been actuated. You shall never suffer by me. And all that I ask in return is that you will not exact more from me than you ought to expect from a man. I know the degree of perfection which your impetuous genius represents as possible. Your own astonishing accomplishments no doubt confirm the doctrine with you. But not withstanding all your splendid success can you say you have never erred? ...

I am Dear Sir, with the deepest respect, Your humble servant

[signed] William Wirt

Nov 1, 1792