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July 20. 1834

Dear Brother

I was pleased to open your letter of the 17th inst. but pained at some of its contents. The loss of a whole family of interesting children must produce feelings, which require the full extent of human fortitude and philosophy, to control. I speak of course, without being able fully to judge, but from the impressions I have drawn from the effect of association. As to innate nature's affections, I doubt its extent: but the influence of habit, constant association; the cultivation of all our hopes, our fears, I ever design as particular objects, create ties as strong as pain to sever, as those usually attributed to nature's affections. Men's feelings must be peculiarly strong in matters, who have larger opportunities to cultivate their growth; consequently, their affections under such be-
reavement must be particular; severe -

From your silence as to your own health I infer that it is sad, but am much pleased

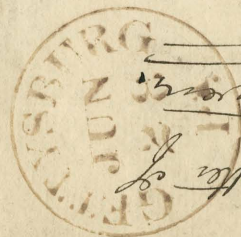
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Wm. L. Stevens

To John W. Stevens

Wm. L. Stevens



Wm. L. Stevens
Thos. W. Stevens

to learn of your professional success. You speak
of my political career - I have gained some
applause, here, among all parties, for what they
mistake for talents & independence. O judging
from the resolutions adopted at public meet-
ings in almost all the counties of the State,
you would suppose I was the special favorite
of the Antislavery party. I have received
numerous letters inviting me to become a can-
didate for governor at the next election - This
I have uniformly declined, not from modesty
but because I could not succeed. Our gov-
ernment must be a permanence - If Antislavery
have been seen in the ascendant, I presume
I should be called to choose my station - I
shall probably be a candidate again for
the legislature, having declined to run for
Congress.

The forge which was burning
over is again in operation - The business
about \$17 thousand dollars - The iron
business has become bad - What will
be the result of my investment (about
\$75,000) is surely but a cloud - I think
we shall adopt your suggestions, & keep a

watch. I rec'd a letter from one
of Joshua's sons stating that his father
would pass this on his way to Vermont
next summer - I shall probably see you
next summer also. Mother & Father are
both well - I hope they are happy
in both temporal & spiritual things - the
trades too much, I fear.

Respectfully I remain
Dear Lady, O believe me your
honest friend
C. W. Stevens

W. Stevens

W. Stevens