Dry Dock

Dry Dock Office Gosport Oct. 7th 1828

Dear Sir

I did not expect when you left, that I should be obliged to trouble you with any correspondance, but conformably to your wishes, we have had an eye for everything on the works, & supposing that somethings which transpired here are unknown to you, I take the liberty of making you acquainted with it. Mr Singleton contrary to the wish I heard you express sir, is engaged in erecting the Magazine near the Hospital a building of 40 by 60 ft: I should think. How long he has been employed in it, whether he has the sole direction of it, or is guided by Mr. Wells in his operations, I am unable to say. I discovered it by mere chance, as I observed a wooden frames for plumb lines taken away from the Dock yard & in a cart, & Mr S. observed that it was to be used at the Magazine, & that he had to go there every day to superintend the building of it. The particulars of his engagement there, I did not feel myself authorised to ask him. There are several other things of minor importance which I dare swear would never have happened, had you been here sir. He and Mr Hope are laying out the wharves, & taking lines & distances which business belongs to us, & which we should be able & happy to do. but no, he seems delighted to take it out of our hands, as indeed everything else he can for reasons best known to himself. With regard to myself, he treats me sometimes with cold politeness, sometime with pretended confidence but I discoverd from the manner in which he spoke of Mr. Jennison to me, that he regards us with an eye of distrust & geolosy, & the most trivial & slightest causes awake it. he thinks that we wish to undermine his authority and importance here than which nothing can be further from our intention even if we had the power. I have good reason to beleive he consults that able counsellor & adviser the clerk, in everything he dose especially everything relating to us. The latter worthy functionary For some time past, has had two Negro labourers employed here & to day he has engaged two more, as the excavation is going on. They have

R. Cleveland Oct. 7. 1828

R.

L Baldwin Esq
Dry Dock Office
Charlestown
Navy Yard
Mass:

ORFK. VA. OCT 9 N

1822

a labourer's pay of 26 cts per day, & he allows them $9 per month to board themselves, & no doubt taking the surplus to himself, thus making a very handsome addition to his salary. I am unable to say from whom he hires his negroes, where they come from, or how many more he will get, but beleive he is even now engaging more! but I think it an imposition, & that if you did not know it, it was our duty to inform you of it. He evidently wishes it to be a secret here as I never heard any one speak of it, & I doubt weather he intended any one should except Mr Webb his brother-in-law. I hurd him myself making the agreement with the blacks, telling them the sum he should allow them, & when to come to work & then sent them to Mr Webb. He moreover employs them rainy weather, so they cannot lose any time. I can vouch for the truth of this statement, as Mr I ascertained it at the Pay-Office. He tried hard to get Sam to work in the Shop with Foster, that he might have one of his hurlings in the Office immediately subject to his command, & consequently not to wait upon us which is what he desires. In fact, he actually in a storm of passion, told Sam to go out of the Office that he had no further need of his services, & threatened to take his name from the pay roll, but Sam asserted it his business to stay in the Office & do the duty there as you directed him - in truth Sir. I for one, should be very sorry to part with him, as I consider him a very attentive faithfull black - In fine any one that styles himself a human being, civilised or not, must blush to think that humanity is disgraced by such a fellow as Young. his vile inhuman conduct to me when I was sick, before I was removed from the Office, I can never forget. There is no act however mean, low, or villanous, he would not commit if he could aggrandize himself & keep it secret. but I beg pardon I did not mean to complain. Thinking it was our duty to let you know these circumstances, & with the advice of Mr I began to write, but I grew warm in the subject & have been more prolix than I entended. As you are no doubt Sir from time to time duly informed of the state of the works by Mr Singleton it will be unnessary for me to add anything there to, but with kind remembrance to all in your office at Charlestown & in the sincere hope of seeing you here soon Dear Sir

I remain ever yours to Command

R. S. Cleveland, Junr

Dear Mother Boston Decr 9 1828

Recd your letter of 30 Utt in due season — George is willing & able I think to assist you he has seen Mr Derracott & they are making out the memo. you wanted — I have thought it best however to apprize you of George willingness to go with you to Pensacola, before ~~that~~ the cost &c of the railway is forwarded — We have got over the mountain of our labours I hope & altho it will shew but little on paper it has cost me many ~~close~~ days & months of close attention — & George & Mr Prentiss have been of great service to me — The reports I hope will be printed by the first of Jany but can not be published before the legislature meet — I will send you & Col. Long one & any other of your friends to whom you wish one sent — George wants to know what instruments &c — he must bring if he comes — he will not be much disappointed if after meeting you at Baltimore or Washington circumstances should render his services unnecessary for he would like to journey in some direction — Our meeting yesterday for the Choice of Mayor resulted in giving Mr Quincy 1880

Col. T. C. Amory 1337 - Otis & Dunlap about 600 so there is no choice

J. F. B. Dec. 9. 1828
Ans. Jan. 11. 1829.

Loammi Baldwin Esquire
Engineer of the Dry Dock
Norfolk
Virginia

BOSTON DEC 9 MS

1828

There were 4000 votes in all — George was over to your house Sunday Evening & found them well there except Catherine, who was getting better ~~from~~ of a bad illness

Mr Williams said he did not know but you had forgotten him —

George will write in a day or two about the rail way — Clarissa is here & her children are at Cardoon — We are all well — Cyrus I have not heard from lately — "quite moderate weather for the season" —

Your affectionate Mother

Jas F Baldwin

for yourself or for George

I would not make engagements to be at Pensacola in warm weather — I would let the Public works alone first — Any Navy or army officer or Engineer will satisfy you upon this point —

Dear Brother

Canal

Boston Dec: 19: 1828.

Your's of 10th was duly received.

I am glad to say with you, that ye Presd Election is over — better for worse. Politicks is a miserable topic — especially when we fear that the Canaille, not ye people, are to govern — when we know the latter Class is too inconsiderable for ye other for our quiet & happiness as a Rebublick.

In proportion to ye increased advantages of education I do not see that we become proportionably enlightened. From "infant schools" to high ones, I do not yet discover "the march of intellect"!

I wonder not you dread ye V^o to Pensacola. I wish ye Government would finish one Dock at least, and not project a thousand things & leave all incomplete.

Look at St Catherine's Dock in London — finished in 2 Years — 1250 tenements bought and removed — so that 11000 persons had to seek new homes — accommodation made for 150 or 160 ships, besides Craft — stores accordingly built to contain immense quantities of merchs — a Lock I think 190 feet long — 45 wide — 28 feet depth of water at spring tides — cost they say 8 mils Dollars! —

Now to our own homes: after 2 trials to make Quincy Mayor, we failed & he has declined. — Now mr Otis is Candidate, and I think will be chosen. —

Lyman's trial has ended after two days hearing — the Jury (10 for convicting — 2 opposed) could not agree & are dismissed. I hope this is ye End of it. —

Samuel G. ~~Pont~~ Perkins, you will regret to learn, has failed. It is said he owes his Brother the largest debt — mr Romsen $2000, & mr Wiggin. — He has been unfortunate in his trade — very lately lost much by ye stoppage & bad conduct of a House at St Thomas.

All our friends are well. Let me hear from you when you have a half hour not to be better disposed of.

Yrs ever TW

Dear Mrs Williams Dec. 19 1828

Ans. Jan. 11 1829

Dr

Doammi Baldwin Esqr,
Civil Engineer;
at Norfolk,
Virginia.

BOSTON DEC. 19

Boston Mass
Oct 11 1862

Mr Jonathan Phillips
Care of Phillips Sampson & Co
Cincinnati

Boston 24 Decr. 1828

Dr Brother

I wrote to you yesterday acknowledging the receipt of yours of 20 inst - but in my hurry forgot to say that we had got a mayor (Wm Otis) & anarchy & disorder are avoided The next time Genl Sullivan & Co draw a city charter I hope they will have it nearly right - It seems by your letter that you left Norfolk about 16 & that my letter of 9 was not probably recd - It states that George was able & willing to go with you to Pensacola &c - Geo. afterward, sent you an account of the Rail way - George is still willing & would like to go with you but not to remain there in warm weather he will in a few days now, do what I want done & then you can have him if you wish -

Mr Hart on Franklin Place wants the rent reduced; can you advise me what to say to him

Mr Arch Jay will sell the land late his fathers adjoining your Berry Brook lot - there is about 20 acres he asks 10 doll acre - it will settle the question of boundaries on that east line to buy it

J. F. Baldwin Dec. 24 1828

Loamme Baldwin Esq
Engineer
Navy Yard
New York

1828

1050 to Norwich Conn.

½ past 6 A M I am now waiting for the Sleigh
our family are not up yet but they are well

Yours &c Jas. F. Baldwin

George has made a very neat reduced plan of
my Rail roads surveys on same scale as your
Canal survey 2½ miles to Inch – & I have got
copious tables of heights & Distances over the Country