Portsmouth February 24th 1841

Dear Father

William Dennett came in last night and said to day he would start for Washington — There is nothing of importance to relate — trade is dull — money scarce — Banks stop being and it is useless to add hard times prevail. But among all these misfortunes it is a happy thing to think that this will not last long, we have now, or we soon will have Men at the head of the government that will be able in the course of a little time to set all things to right — to establish at least the financial concerns on a firm foundation which this Country very much needs at present. I would like to receive a full letter from you by Mr Powell — You never say anything about our Society — I know you approve of all such things, but I suppose it is owing to things of more importance occupying your attention. I will repeat a request I make ~~before~~ before i.e that you will send a Question for debate:

If you cannot come out to stay this spring — give us a visit as quick as possible you might come out with Mr Powell — I have told any person enquiring of you that you would be here in the early part of Spring — this is a beautifull place to live — in the summer — especially where we live — a fair sight of the river and of the beautifull hills along its banks together with our own habitation almost surrounded with trees when these are in bloom it can justly be termed a young paradise —

Washington with all its artificial trees and fountains is nothing to compare — as (what I mean by artificial trees are those that are transplanted) I have nothing more to say give my Respects to Mr Powell and my best love to Grandpa. Farewell Dear Pa Loveing Hetty

D. T. Shelton
Washington City
D.C.

Care of
Mr Powell

Crayon
Portsmouth
1841

Portsmouth Ohio March 26th 1841

My Dear Husband

This morning Opian gave me your letter The first received since Feby. I read it over carefuly and have pondered well before I sit down to answer it. I was determined not to write while the Tears was on my face and my fulings alive For fear I might say some thing hasty or ill adised now I am collected & have matured all I would say. I have communed with my own heart. The children will not see this, I shall send it by the gil to the office, They are both well, Both good kind Leonidas loved & admired by all the Good He is one of the most excelent sons a Mother was ever Blessed with he is my companion my friend my comfort. He goes with me to church, He is such a son as parents should be proud of who will be an honor to his relatives They all say so Jesse says so & says James Purcell dont deserve him That Long is now capable of managing a store for himself & that he Jesse intends to do something for him. Opian is a noble generous son but not so social & companionable as Long I love them both They both have their peculiar traits, They are all well at Matildas Mary Bean is here in town, Malvina is yet my favorite She treats me well, we all send our love to Father, John McLean told Jesse in Cincinnati last week that you was a smart man & would be and excelent Land Lawyer, Could you see us here could you be with us in this sweet Home where all is sweet calm & quiet Oh if you loved repose loved Home its purity its chastity you would never never wish to leave it How serene how beautiful every thing is here to me, To take me from it would break my heart. But you dont see things as I do you dont feel as I do what a difference

Write your resolves after reading this, & taking notes then upon back or good give it plainly & yours resolve to me know I must know what I may depend on you to stay in that house in your present manner or no writing or putting off now. what is done must be done quickly.

Mr Daniel F Keaton
Washington City
D. C.

Free

Portsmouth Ohio
1841

Now I will tell you in as few words as I can what I wish you to do now
Box up every thing in the house you are in but your clothes & send
them on here rent the house, If it cant be sold, It wont do to stay in
it. You must not do it, it is bad management besides it gives room
For Scandal The Laugh of scorn the Sneer that you are keeping
House there and us here live or die it must be done away with
immediately it is worse than madness. I did not give credit to Mr
Purcell when he said it to Long & in a way that stung us to the soul
I hope to have the Furniture here & you in a respectable Family
immediately This must be done & quickly & quietly without any noise
of it coming here to mortify and annoy us & blight our feelings. with
me my husband that you do it. I am in earnest I cant say all you
ought to know but I have said that it is worse than madness it is disgrace
& ruin. to you & us. If you dont stop it in time & quit housekeeping there
Now I will tell you something about my wish about your coming
home, this is home You said frequently last fall that when the
new administration was organized you could get Leave to hire a
Clerk or make arrangements to sell out, I am personaly acquainted
with Mr Ewing & believe him to be an excellent man. I have confidence
in my hope that you can get permission If you wish it to hire one
& come home & stay all summer, I know & feel that If you will it
it can be done although you now want to make me believe that
resigning is the only alternative, But I am not easy deceived. & know
you could & would leave there & get Business here If you wished it. I will
never give up even should I die braving the Storm should my heart
Break, and my spirits do flag & sink at times for I am swimming up
stream I hope to contend with your inclinations to combat many things
working against me but I am in the right & I feel it, Then you must
not stay constantly you may be there in winter untill Orphan & Long commence
business here, or untill my prospects & good fortune bring something about
For you here For it has to be done depend upon it now & ever
There is no escaping it. you must leave Washington. Think of this

I am very sorry for Hawking, has to say when he goes home that you are keeping house there & we here it almost takes my life. It is like old McCoy & Old McCoy Cottons, has helped it to be.

as to money I feel a full confidence that we will be none the worse
some door will be opened. who feeds the ravens I feel inspired even as
the seers of old to portell that all will be well yet If you leave
there as I desire hire a clerk or arrange to sell out. & before too late.
you must not write me word you cant like you did about the Land
Claims I know all about it. It can be done, now I will shew you
even If you have fallen asleep or forgot my former reasonings the
good that will accrue our sons will not be destroyed & contaminated by
the vices of that Babel that God on. they will be soon grown & be
good moral respectable men and in time be rich, here, Take them
there How soon will they be lost profligate dissipated creatures
And now there I can never never stay with comfort I am proud I cant yield
I must live a lonely hermits life If there I wont associate with any but
the first. And then high office is what entitles to precedence. I dislike the
noise the negroes the disagreable sights that offend the eye all all
now you see none of us desire to be there but you & even you would
not If you had no one to coax you to leave it for I am convinced
a spirit of contrariness is the greatest obstacle & then you indo
for there you have contracted that habit of apathy & listlessness so
peculiar to one leading a monotonous life no variety. here we have
all change something soul stirring exciting to our nerves refreshing to our
mind renvigorating our souls every day come come my poor dear
husband awake arouse look about be determined dont waver
push ahead the Battle was never fought without exertion bring into act
ion energy power work I dont know that cunning will do any good
Bulwer says cunning is the peculiar trait of an inferior mind so you
must discard that trait, I will now be done just saying that I will look
For a letter immediately from you saying all shall be done as I desire?
dont say wish I say hire a clerk & box up that furniture & send it here
If you have to stay till after the extra Session you must not go back till oct.
I fear you will get weak & sick there I leave all to you I trust to you I hope in you
Send some money, Let the newspapers come weekly, board with Mrs Tate For my sake

Me sweet Sally! you are not paying him. Have you paid the Taxes on the Land at Cincinnati? I fear you are carrying it out in that letter say the short hand. It will not do, Have you

South Bend May 28th 1841

Dear Sir

Today I am extremely unwell, but as I have just received a paper from you, as I requested, as a token of your presence being at Washington - I hasten to write you -

I wished to say to you that I am an applicant for the Post Office at this place - and would be much gratified to receive any assistance you might see proper to render me - A recommendation has been forwarded to the proper department - also a number of Letters have been written to our Members in Congress - Lane & White - I live in Lanes district, and I trust will have his favor -

The Morrell family in New York have taken an interest in this matter, and through Mr Morgan will render me what services they can - I have been informed also that Gov. Cowin will favor me -

The office is worth only about $400. a year - but that in connexion with the Justices office which I now hold would provide means for a comfortable support for myself & family - I came to this country in an early day, and have had to labor under many adverse difficulties, on account of my limited circumstances - and however small an addition, it would be

David H. Beaton Esqr
Washington City
D.C.

Franked
Thos. Morgan

Mar 1841

gratefully received -

The paper I sent you contained an obituary notice of the death of my Father, - his health had not been good for some two or three years - about three weeks before his death he had been to Hamilton attending Court, and on his return, he took cold which ended in death - the balance of the family are well - My Brother Daniel has commenced the study of the Law at Hamilton with Mr Campbell -

Your Brother Ebenezer visited me 3 or 4 weeks ago - and stayed over night - he lives in Elkhart County Ia - adjoining this on the East - he begins to look old though not much broken, - it was from him that I first learned that you had gone to Washington, but he could not tell me whether you were there yet or not -

Mr Lane can give you a full description of the country in which we live - and I think you will be pleased with an acquaintance with him -

Mr Defrees who worked at the Printing business with Dunlavy in Lebanon, a number of years ago - and has since studied Law, left here for Washington a few days since, I think you must have known him - you can find him by enquiring of Lane, he carried letters for me to Lane and others -

I should be pleased to hear from you when ever you can find it convenient -

I have written this letter, feeling very unwell but the mail leaves in the morning, and I am anxious that you should hear from me - as much as it is expected, that an appointment will be made at some early period during the extra session -

Mrs Heaton's respects to yourself and family and as ever Yours &

Chas. W. Heaton

old stock of blankets (it might almost be called a lot of perfect nuisances) for an advance on cost and it truly would have been considered a good sale at left than cost

The Philadelphian Society gave a May Evening Party to the Young Ladies You know I am a member of the same — and a pt more pleasant time I never had, or never before enjoyed myself so well in the company of young ladies — I have always been a favorite of the ladies you know — and especially here — for from what I can learn the ladies me in very high estimation. I am sorry that Spring Flute has turned out so contrary to his expectations if you would have seen how glad he was you hardly would begrudge him another of the same kind — — — —

Mr Pa
Care of J. Heaton
Washington City
D.C.

Portsmouth May 7 1841

Dear Pa

We received the things last Night from Mr Hawkins I did not get to see him. I saw him he had not time to come up as the Boat would not wait for him. I have got the blues so bad that I can hardly write. the flute you sent pleased me so well I would not have taken the weight of it in gold for it it was last night that I was taking it to bed to look at it and when I opened the first joint was split from one end to the other we looked at it more closely and found that it was an old crack been glued together so when it stained and varnished you could not preceive it and we looked in the inside of the first joint the one that was split and there was a flaw in the wood a band running lengthwise you never could have looked in the inside or you certainly would not have got it. it was the best toned flute I ever saw pa they have all parts of flutes to sell separately when you come out I wish that you would bring out the first joint of one fit as near the colour and size as you can pa you said you was going to give me the little Rocket Watch you are going to give it to Lou. John Dennis is going on soon and I will write a long letter by him I saw Mr Riggs yesterday he told me that Mr Patterson would be here and expect the rent for 6 Months I thought you had rented by the year Mr Riggs says that Mrs Ellison wants more than 150 a year and if Patterson can get a certificate of Deposite it will answer the same as the money you can send the certificate to Mr Riggs and

If I only had time I would delight in painting the beautiful & picturesque scenery with which our dwelling is surrounded if you could only imagin those beautiful chain of mountains embroidered as it were with green shrubbery & wild flowers — the shade it casts on the rolling at its base the sweet and unceasing song of the Birds the first to salute your ear in the morning and the last that lull, in arms of Somnus. all are all such delightful & pleasant scenes that we do hope after the Session you will be enabled come and stay with us, never more to leave, Adieu

Sarah Heaton

he will remit it to Patterson I have pd for my quarter
and Scott says that I must go another quarter he says
I improve faster than any three that is come here there
that has been 3 quarters and I can play as well as them
My settee grows fine he will make a great Hunter I have
went beyond bounds now I must Cease I am so distressed
you must Excuse my writing Farewell Dear pa there has been
several no looking at the House it seems that old Riggs wants
to get us out if possible you don't say anything about Poore Oshia Yours
health tell us about your health and every thing else in your
Dear Husband

We were glad to hear from you. Mr Hawkins was a few minutes in Martha's Store & told them the news that he had got an office worth four thousand per year in Iowa, He mentioned that you was keeping house, &c. I expected this, But I can only regret that most foolish undertaking, This is the reason you are not willing to send on the Furniture, people will say strange things about it, I mean your housekeeping, But I am sick thinking of it, & will try & forget it, I thank you for the stockings &c Mr Hawkins said you would be out at the end of the Extra Session of congress in July, I am sorry you did not Send the Bonnet on with him, I have none to wear, And when you come in July it will be late, If you get me a silk dress let it be dark stone or dove colour not co=ded silk & have it made by Miss Holliday. If you do get a bonnet I want a good one, as nice as a fashionable one, I want you to attend particularly to my words when I de=cribe any thing I want you to buy then there will be no mis=takes, I ask this as a favour, I would do as much for you I want a Linnen Cambric hemstitched pocket handkerchief for Ladies use, of the finest texture price one dollar fifty

The two you sent are for gentleman with corded borders useful and good but not the kind, I wished, Dont be troubled at my teasing you so much about these things & dont think hard I believe you had better not think of settling in Washington city For I dont think you will keep the office there will be great running out. and there are many will try for your place, If I was you I would do like Joseph Hawkins get something some where else I dreamed you had an office in Ohio salary 19 hundred, But this may have been caused by what Mr Pursell said to Lony about a vacant office in Chillicothe, I dont depend on any thing permanent there in Washington, I wish I could speak plain on paper, I will write again when John Dement goes We are yet without money I Hawkins used up what you sent Let us have funds in future without so often asking - you certainly have money - I cannot determine against Mr Pursell he has been a liar, but has good traits, & I must not form hasty conclu[illegible] may has wrote for Father to come out we will all be glad to see him an Love to him. Be Temperate & careful in every thing, I wish to hear the sixth street house is sold, & you out of it safe & sound I must leave room for Lony to say something Farewell Lucia Dear Father, You see that I am rather imposed on. the letter is brought a few minutes before the mail goes - and I must finish it by that time. I am glad to state that the salary business is satisfactorily settled - and upon the terms I wished i.e boarding & washing & twelve Dollars per month, we now have another young man with us, a fresh hand: as it was impossible for Mr Pursell & myself to attend to the business alone. Mr Pursell is now down the river and will not likely be back for several days and I shall use all my exertions to take on all the work that is due, he has very kindly offered to loan us funds whenever it was needed and we have been forced to take the advantage of his kindness, I hope that in future we will be supplied with plenty of funds. Business is tolerable dull - in Mr Pursell's absence one day I sold a rem[illegible] of an

finally finding by his conversation that his intentions were honorable and that the objections brought forward would justify me in demanding a Salary — we came to the following understanding.

I will continue here (i e with him) until October 1842 for Twelfe Dollars per Month & Boarding found. — —

The above is not satisfied — I made the offer and he was to say something about it to day — So you will see ~~that~~ that you will have no more trouble about this matter — this is certainly either — to Adieu Dear Pa

David F Weaton

Lemuel W Weaton

Mr David F Weaton
Washington City
DC

Portsmouth April 22 d 1841

Dear Pa

I have just been looking over the letter you wrote to Lou you dont say that Colo Hawkins is not a Coming out until after the Extra Session I was very much surprised when Mr Riggs & me made a settlement that only 8 dollars pr Month was allowed me you told me that 10 Dollars was the terms agreed upon it was very provoking indeed pa if it was 8 pr Mo. you ought to have told me I was very much disappointed indeed I thought that I had money Enough to take me to Eaton where I intended on going I want you to tell me all about in your next letter — We have not seen anything of the Colonel yet — I have spent Considerable in the way of Music now as long as you delayed so long in sending my flute you may also send me a flute preceptor a music book which will Cost 75 or 100 that is if Hawkins is not gone and if he is gone you may fetch it your self when you Come — Wm B Dennis said that you Could not find one in the City when he left — but pa you did not go to the right Places if you would have went to the Book & Stationary Stores you Could find plenty of them if Mr Hawkins is not gone and you Cant get one in the City let him get one in Baltimore if he goes that way if not he Can get one at Wheeling at the same time dont for get the Watch there is no Vacances in town at present I am improving more at Home than if I was in Business Reading I have got me a Geography that I look at now and then give my love to Grandpa adieu my Dear Father Ossian Weaton

My Dear Husband

Leonidas red yours I Believe yesterday And I red it today today. I am glad to hear you are well as usual, your letter of 5th April was red some ten days since I was much rejoced to learn you listened to my suggestions many thanks Dear Husband for this,, I had thought Mr Hawkins would have been here long ere now But fear he will not come this way or has paid without the promised funds Indeed you have righted us badly in not sending one cent since 4th May & then but fifty it places me in an awkward position indeed you have had chances by Pursle & Clement If you had wished to send funds to me, I mentioned some time Since that I wanted a summer Bonnett a decent one of fashionable shape & trimmings. Perhaps Mrs Dekraff would be prevailed on to look me out one at Wills She knows my Taste I did wish to have a Silk dress one that would do to wear in the Summer but not so light as even to need colouring over dresses made at Lisp & Hollidays in the most fashionable Style She also is aware of my Taste If Coat dresses are worn but I expect they are only worn for walking I want one I can wear of evenings to parties I want many little things, visiting Cards, nothing pretty comes amiss I was so pleased to hear you mentioned it as possible that you would come out soon but then fear you want an excuse to go back again sooner than we will allow you, We have a good garden coming on every thing doing well even to Opians Pup speaking of Opian he is a youth of the best habits Oh how proud & thankful I am of our Boys Leonidas & he are superior boys in good qualities Let Father see this, I wish he would come out The girls and our family here would be glad to see him I have good beds to sleep in & we are not very ill natured here, I see Matt often we are perfectly friendly I esteem him a gentleman

I suppose you was much concerned at the Death of the President It certainly was a loss to the party. But I did not feel it sensibly as you politicians do. Altho as a National bereavement, I regret it. The party feels it, Tell Father I did not hear till yesterday that Mothers was at Uncle Williams I wrote her some time since but receive no reply. I do want our Sofa & Tables & other things very badly indeed our parlours look bare without them why cant I have them, Oh I was delighted with the candlesticks & other things you sent. I have many many things to say but must leave room For Long Tell Father Heaven Bless him & you there all alone, I hope you are good very good for my sake you in my heart all will be well with you, are you hoarding away money for a rainy day. how much have you by you now out of all you have had since I left there as you have sent only Fifty here you must have a lazy sum keep it in bank Oh do please sell the sixth street house I must say I

Dear Father

Pscam is now standing by & says this must be mailed right off, and I have just told him that the answer you would give — I would note probably touch on any domestic affairs —

On tuesday night Mr Pursell & I had a long talk on the subject — I first showed your letter and said according to what it said I ought to have a salary — he said the only objection he had to give a salary was that sometimes my services would be more arduous and important than at others and that consequently I might take this advantage and demand as much on leave of many other which I have not ~~no~~ room to enumerate — I replied and said, that my designs were exactly contrary — that I wished to take no such advantage — that such a selfish motive never entered my mind — that I wished to live with him as long as it was possible so to do and that I wished nothing but what was right — &c &c

Portsmouth O. April 3rd 1841

My Dear Father.

Nothing would now induce me to write but business of importance. Having understood that Mr Pursell did not see you to talk about my receiving a salary hereafter, I took the first opportunity to talk to him on that subject — very little satisfaction was given me, saying at the same time that he thought he would have no occasion of thinking on the matter, as you had actually contracted to bind me to him; a second time — I told him you and ma was very anxious that I should have a ~~salary~~ salary and that it would be more pleasant to me and if he pleased to come to some understanding as to what I should receive. he said that if you would say that this was with the understanding he would be willing to give me a salary. Dear Pa although I cannot for a moment think that you did bind me. yet still the circumstances require your positive declaration that you did not bind me.

As I told you Mr Pursell would have me stay with him my lifetime for boarding & cloths: Also you will perceive that it lays within you to say whether I shall be the Bound Boy or the Independent Clerk. Delay not a moment in writing one answer — I will be discouraged if you take no notice of this. I am so anxious and in such a hurry to receive your answer — that I have no room for remarks of any kind — but will wait with an anxious desire to hear your answer. Adieu Leonidas Heaton

Ps If you give a favorable and positive answer this will be either with out any more trouble — but if not I will wait for it — as Mr Pursell wishes to speculate on me. L. H.

Mr. David H. Heaton
Washington City
D. C.

Paid 3

Mail

FOR PORTSMOUTH OHIO
APR 7

Leonidas Heaton
1841

Mr. Charles Sutton
Care of Mr. Charles Sutton
Chicago
Ill.

Knightstown Ga
Feb 15th 1841

Dear
Brother

Mr S McLain a Respectable merchant of our town is a going east for goods and his Lady is going with him as fur as Washington city to see her old friends as she was raised in that City and Mr S McLain will hand you this Letter Mr McLain wuld Like to become acquanted with as meney officers of our general government as posable an see the Differant offices you will plese take same paines to gratify his curiosity Mr McLain has been perssenaly acquanted with me for the Last ten years and a Close neiber and you can inquire of him about us

we are all well at presant — Asa Heaton

D F Heaton

Mr Heaton
Care of
D F Heaton
Washington City
D C

Asa Heaton
1841

Answered by S McLain

Portsmouth February 8th 1841

Dear Husband

I wrote you last week by mail, But Mr Purnell Starts Tomorrow And I with pleasure will say A few words, by him I think the Boys have already wrote their letters, I Believe I have nothing particular to say that you would care about, But I have some requests to make of you, will you please If you have time to hand the pattern I send to Miss Holliday, I cannot make a dress to fit no more than a mans coat, She will know it is my waist pattern, there is no sidecombs here will you send me Two long ones with fine close teeth, And a pair of French kid gloves from claggets of the Best quality. This will not give you much trouble or cost much, Will you please send me the Madisonian or intelligencer once in a while. Malvina is ill she cant sit up has been so a week I saw her today, She faints frequently, I hope she may recover, She looks so much like Eliza did it makes me melancholy, When you see Father give my love to him and say I would be happy to receive a letter from him by Mr Purnell please give my respects to Mrs DeKraft If you see her, The Sun shines to-day & every thing looks pleasant. This is a beautiful place even in winter, How happy I would be to live & die here I wish not to change from place to place like you But I think you have at length found a place you have no desire to leave, Will you please Ask Father to always remember me most kindly to Mother & Milton when he writes them She was my first friend & the heart Turns to her If others neglect

Mr Purnell

D. F. Tyler
Washington City

Free
Jas Pearson

I have just returned from Living Malvina I believe the Dr thinks it influenza, or something like it. He says this Town will be visited by an epidemic, In that case we may all expect to be liable to an attack, I have wrote this letter so far by fits & starts, I am cured of loving to write letters to any one the fear of ridiculle even from those who should not, has effected this change in me, I forgot to tell you that if you buy me gloves get dark you know the colour, maybe the combs will get Broke You dont say anything in your last letter about coming out, we dont know when to expect you, Matilda said something to me about asking Father to give her money, I am afraid I shall write too much, I wish to put all the items down here below to convince you how I spent the money I wish to do what is right & give satisfaction, I believe there is many things in this letter that I had in the other, I hope you are still in good health all well with you may God Bless you Tommie

M. J. H