

Washington 1st Dec. 1833.

My dear son

I arrived last evening and found here your favor of the 18th ulto and I need not say that it afforded me inexpressible satisfaction to learn from yourself that you, who are surrounded with so many circumstances to render you happy, are fully sensible of them and are enjoying them as becomes you. I am very glad to hear that Julia is well, and that my dear little grandson is stout and hearty. I wrote to both her and you from some of the points of my journey (though I forget where) and hope my letters were safely received. My journey has been full of excitement and has been every where attended with the most gratifying exhibition of respect and attachment. They have besides loaded me with presents to an extent and of a value that I felt sometimes ashamed to accept them.

Your Sheep project is a good one, provided you will have a secure pound to put them in at night. Otherwise the dogs would destroy them. I have looked very much to the Sheep business to the north, and have some of my ideas changed about it. I am now satisfied that the best thing for us in the West would be to raise 1/2 blooded sheep, that is to say the native ones crossed by a Saxony ram or a Merino. Half blooded wool commands, and I think for a long time will command, a higher proportional price than wool of the finest qualities. It now sells from 50 to 60 cents, when Saxony will not average more 80. The half blooded sheep yields more and is more healthy than the full blooded. You can buy ewes of the common breed of the Country for about one dollar or a dollar & a quarter price. My Saxony sheep, that have, I hope, reached home by this time will have cost me upwards of thirty! If you determine to buy the Common ewes, let them not be more than two or three years old & well selected. I will give you a Saxony ram, and you will thus be able at once to get the half blooded.

And