

Washington 16th. Dec. 1836

My dear son

I received today your favor of the 7th inst. and now return enclosed the note you transmitted, with my signature. You are right in not placing yourself under obligations to others by getting them to endorse for you. I shall always perform that office for you, with pleasure, whilst I live. And I think you would be ~~rather~~ wise to decline endorsing for others generally. The refusal of the first favor of that kind will do you less prejudice than to have to stop, after you once begin. I have rec^d no letter from Oakland, since I left home; and therefore had not heard of the Shepherd Cow dropping a dead calf. I regret it, but hope it has not proceeded from any neglect. You do not tell me whether the Heelor calf has recovered from its lameness, altho' you speak of its improvement.

Yesterday the Great P. Office House was burnt. Suspicions are afloat as to the cause of it, but it is not ascertained whether they rest on any solid foundation.

I feel less inclined than ever in public affairs. Indeed I should be very happy if I were not restrained by a sense of duty from returning home. There alone, if any where, I must look for repose and tranquillity, during the residue of my life. Give my love to my dear daughter and to little Henry.

Mr. H. Clay Junr

P.S. I sent in a former letter the other note you forwarded.

Your aff^l father
H. Clay