

Philadelphia November 19, 1810

Dear John,

I have delayed waiting till this date, in hopes that something might occur to remove the gloom, that has for some time past clouded our prospects; but my hopes have moved unavailing. Our cause is assuredly desperate, owing in a great measure to a mistaken idea that if we called a general meeting, the rats would cooperate with us.--General meeting was called, and very numerously attended. A motion was offered, and carried, that committee should be appointed to revise our list of prices—The committee consisted of ??? J. H. Hauly, (M. Cary's foreman) Mr S. Norton, S. Adams, Jon Dow and Henry Stead, who retired and reported in a few minutes; there reductions were many, but in every instance strenuously opposed by the meeting. They reported in favor of the erasure of the article respecting ?????, Which the meeting agreed to. They thought proper to attach the following new and extraordinary item to the list of prices --“ that standing editions should be paid for at a rate of 36 cents pre token.”

The meeting was very much ??? at an attempt to introduce an article of this nature; and acquired no great degree penetration, to discover to whom this ??? belonged, particularly when Mr. Brown, that prince of Rats, arose and addressed the chair, commencing with “Mr. Chairman, I insist upon an allowance being made for standing in editions, etc”. This was too much--I., for the first time, addressed the meeting in a few words, ??????? , perhaps, too severely on the evil tendency such and exception would have; and in the meantime Mr. Brown and some other, finding so strong an opposition retired. The question was put and unanimously rejected.

Much discontent prevails, though very few have to work; but it is my opinion, that where so much evidence exists, the cause is hopeless. Another reason why I have formed the opinion is--we have too many poor gentleman, among us , who, though a mistaken delicacy refuse????? assistance.

I leave it discretionary with yourself, whether it would not be prudent to keep the above secret.

I am, for this week, I gentleman at large (Mr. Norton having my situation) and you may, perchance, here again from me before the expiration of the week.

Her family are all well, and also all friends, (Smith excepted, who had a relapse a few days since, and is, if possible, worse than ever.)

Remembered me to Park, Razor etc

I am Yours truly,

Nathaniel McLaughlin