

236.
East Baton Rouge. Lou. ^{at} 14th June 1827

Sir,

Peculiar circumstances of absence and business have hitherto withdrawn my attention from your communication of the 30th April. — I was much surprised and concerned to learn that I had probably been most unconsciously and ignorantly instrumental in depriving a husband being of his dearest and most sacred rights and sincerely sympathize with your indignation against the infamous kidnapper who it is stated has so audaciously & so cruelly torn them from their liberty and their friends to reduce them to distant bondage. —

I did for some time in the year 1825 purchase from "Emilia Pickard Wife of Patrick Pickard of Brook County Virginia" a yellow boy named Jim, & has since been called on the plantation by the name of James Bailey. — This boy does not exactly answer the description given in your letter of James Daily — he neither corresponds in colour or age — the first suggestion I ever heard of this boy's probably being free was contained in your letter — upon satisfactory proof being adduced that this Boy is entitled to his freedom no obstacle shall be opposed me to his restoration to liberty — the other boy bought by me from Emilia Pickard wife of Patrick Pickard, does not answer either

in name or description to those described in your letter. —

More I am convinced that all the Individuals who have communicated information to you on this subject were as enlightened upright and disinterested as I deem you to be, I would require no further proof than that contained in your letter of the goodness of Dailly — for from the circumstances stated in your letter I am inclined to believe he is the Boy alluded to. — But be it when it is recollected that James Dailly has never alluded to his freedom since I purchased him, taken in connexion with a fact which I have lately heard — to wit that some persons who lately stopped near my Plantation in a Steam Boat had promised him to obtain his freedom and no doubt made an arrangement with him to that effect — When it is considered too that these Individuals on board the Steam Boat may have been of that description of free Negroes who have infected our State and inveigled away our Slaves — When I say all these circumstances are considered, can I be reproached with insensibility in supposing that all the facts which have been stated to you may possibly be a

a tissue of falsehoods - the fabrications of perjured Deponents,
these doubts and suggested probabilities may seem to emanate
from one too sensible to the pecuniary loss he will sustain
by the abstraction of these Negro's, but I beg you to
be assured that they are caused by no such motives - for
if the Negroes be intitled to their freedom I will most
cheerfully enlarge them. - But Sir it is not surprising
that the Planters of the South should distrust the motives &
acts of their northern & Eastern brethren in relation
to Negroes - The experience of a number of years has
convinced them that the non Slave holding States which
are contiguous to the Slave States abound with swarms of
Self styled philanthropists - who actuated either
by motives of ostentation or interest or the love of
mischief or operated upon by a fanatical zeal -
think themselves justified in the use of every possible
means by which they can rob a Southern Master
of a Slave for the purpose of emancipating him.
These sworn foes of the Slave holders consider strata-
-gemy, fraud - Violence - & perjury - as so many virtues

When resorted to, to cheat a slave holder out of his property -
and how many good but weak men do they find
who are deceived by - and countenance their illegal
undignified and disgraceful proceedings - Under
these circumstances I not only owe it to myself - but
to my Southern brethren to require satisfactory
proof of the freedom of any negro on my
Plantations before I can consent to enlarge him,
as regards James Bailey - if he be free - the facts will
admit of easy and satisfactory proof - I do not mean
proof in a court of justice - I mean proof of Identity
afforded by the depositions of witnesses of known
probity - who depose to facts of their own know-
ledge and who tell a consistent tale. —

I am

Sir

with great Respect

Your Obedt Servt

Philip Hickey

Joseph Watson Esq
Mayor of
Philadelphia

Philip Wickley 1827.
East Baton Rouge Louisiana.

Rec^d. Aug 5 - 6th "
~~Rec^d. Sept 10 - 11th "~~
Rec^d. copy Oct 27th "



~~Philip Wickley Esq~~
~~To~~ ~~Philip Wickley Esq~~
~~without delay~~
~~Rec^d.~~

7/21-2
57
2-1276
001

Joseph Watson Esq
Mayor of Philadelphia
Pennsylvania

57
2-1276