

Litchfield C^t Sep^r 2^d 1823

Joseph Burrows Esquire

Sir, William Grimes who lived several years in this place called on me yesterday and stated, the interview he had with you in N Haven, which drew for the circumstance of his leaving Sa^h and the [manner] in which he passed from Virginia &c, which was before unknown, I believe in this place, At his request I write you, and state, that he professes to be willing to do, and what I believe he can, that is, to surrender every thing in his power for his freedom_ He has property in this place which I think may be worth 4 or 400 fifty dollars, he owes for it about \$160, the balance I think could be had in reasonable time_ he requests you to write to me your views on the subject, as early as may be and he will send to me by a friend to know the result. I made a very ^{^particular} enquiry of him of your character, and his feeling on that subject of the return &c. He is married to a good woman and family of [couler?] he has three children, and was affectionate to them when I knew him and industrious while here in a nominal degree
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The separation from his family must be painfull_ I have given him this advice & in nearly, as I can recollect, in these words,

“William, it may be your misfortune to be born a Slave_ but so you was by the laws which we are bound to support_ If you do not wish to return, you ought in all good conscience to remunerate for your time all in your power.” He said he would, but could not think of returning_ In this view of the situation it would be improper for me to say anything, on the subject of humanity, interest, and all the et ceteras, the common topics on such occasions) I will conclude, by stating, I think if you are disposed) a price of between 2& 300 dollars, say 230 or 40, may be had_ or it is in his power to control_ and if you will [head?] name, your agent, or fix on a place I think he will come to the extent of his power_ I am with respect &c

Abel Catlin

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