

Robert Livingston, Jr. to Peter DeWitt

New York, New York, 29 July 1749.

Autograph letter signed, 3 pages + docket.

New York 29 July 1749

M^r Peter DeWitt,

Sir

Yours of the 20 Instant I have before me, but at this time am not at leisure to answer you particularly, Wadell, Lilly & Lawrence are all on sailing, and then I am not very well my Self at present I agree with you that it will be for my Interest to have as much ore Carted this Summer as possible, wherefore lett it be Done as Soon as you can and if possible kept asunder from my mother, which if cannot be done, then do you & I assume as you best can; I also approve of your notion to advertize the Cutting of the wood for Coaling, do it on Rec^t. of this while I imagine it begins to be time & gitt Connor to take the first Cutting he Certenly is a sharp fellow, and can manage more folks for us if he pleases, & I think he ought to serve us in this, & every[inserted: thing] else, I shall write for the hard Stones that yett wanting & gitt them in time its certenly much best to have them Carried up to the works in winter, you must agree with the wood Cutter best <text loss> can, wherewith I shall be Content; as to the N England [inserted: money] that <text loss> Indeed an article with Consideration & how to Determine [inserted: to yr best advantage] it I know not, you certenly take it for more then any other person if you allow, for 6, its not taken any where for less then 62 at which price I think you ought to have taken it all this Summer, but now your Engagements, Stand with your Carters, ore Digers, & wood Cutters, with Regard to this money falling & whether that may not be a Damage to the works [inserted: to lower it at this time] I cant Realy Say, wherefore must leave it to you, but would have you to continue the takeing of it at 6, no longer then to fulfill those Engagements, & leave no Room for those folks to Cast any Reflections upon us; you will do well to Receive no more of this money at 6 for one then what you'll want to pay to your Carters & [inserted: as] this is the only way I Se at present to gitt rid of it without aloss

I am much Concerned to find that the Brick maker is out of order could have wished he had Continued in helth and afinished the 60, 000 as I shall want them & more, if he goes better lett him finish that Quantity at least, if not we must do best we can with what is done and gitt the Rest best I can am now

Digging my foundation so that I have [2] I have more trouble on my hands, then I can well manage alone <text loss> and the not being able to Sell any of my flower is a <text loss> ning affair to me in the article of money, and as to give you <text loss> to Sell on wheat I cannot unless its so low, as that people will not care to Sell for & Since I am that I cannot afford to give more then 3/p Sak and that only for a short time I Expect that it will 3/p Bushel in the fall when new wheat comes to market, as Philad^a & Jersey have by much a larger crop then ever & I believe this Province too God be thanked for his mercy & Goodness,

We have thank God had the good fortune of haveing one of our Guinea Sloops come in, tho after along passage of 79 days in which time they buryed 37 Slaves & Since 3 more & 2 more likely to die which is an accident not to be helped, and which if had not happened we Should have made a Golden Voyage but as it is there will not be much left I fear, unless the other Sloop meets with better Luck we have now about 8 well Slaves. 44 ounces of Gold & goods of lephants teeth and Capt Lindsey had about one half of our Cargo Shiped from hence on board of him when Cap^t. James left him so that we Stand a Chance of making a Saveing Voyage Still, am now Sending you up light of them & the Boat which I bought from the Rest of the Concern'd <text loss> cheap as Slaves are Sold Should have sent you more but <text loss> the boys where to Small, these I send are of the biggest Sort, <text loss> I must first hear from you before I dare venture to Send any more Inclosed you have amemorandum of the costs of them, on which believe you may Venture to advance 5. 6. 7. & 8 pounds p head according as you find them Likely, of which you'll be the best judge when you come to se them, when Lindsey comes in Shall Send you more of them, but if the Size of these Boys will do can Send you more next Trip wherefore lett me know.

as to the Horses I have spooke to my mother about them & She Desired me to acquaint you that she approves of your Selling them as fast as you can which do when you have opportunity before it be too late in the year lett Volkert pick out those I am to have by my fathers will & then do you & he pick out as many more as you jude I shall necessarily want which Suppose cannot be less then 8 geldens more, the Black mare I would have for my Saddle horse, so that you Should buy 1 or 2 Breeding mares for me besides those 6 I am to have; if the Bridge at Sober cannot be made this fall it will be necessary that a long & thick Log be lade <text loss> [3] Laid over the Creek for the folks to walk over in the Spring when the water is high to Lift the gates, which if I mistake not are on the <text loss> Creek. Therefore I think very necessary, as to the wheat at ancrum if there be more then the folks want you may lett it be brought to the mill and there lett it be ground & bolted for my mother. I cannot take any of it to my use, we have just now Sold Less boys out of the Sloop, Then those I now Send you for £ 42. this for your Government, Inclosed you have Invoice of what I now Send you amounting £ 489..13..4. [Inserted: 2..16-] in Such goods as will be to your Likeing, and a I beleive you want in the store, I have a parcell of Barcilonia handcarchiefs by me, if you

want more of them lett me know. Rum I hope you'll have Enough untill the boat can Be back again when I Expect to have 6 more ready, as to money I am so Shatened that I cannot lett you have any more as I am obliged to Ship all my produce & for which I shall send money before next Spring; I also Send 112ls hemp for I am me to make a Takle fall for the mill & its very good & much better then what groes in this Country lett him Spin & lay it while its dry whether, and not much to do in the mill, the negro man I jude not to be above 20 years of age <text loss> worth [*inserted: £*] 56. however you are to do as you think best but under £54. you <text loss>hould not Sell him, The Goods I wrote for from London will Dou<text loss> be shipped me as I have made provision to pay for them Have no time <text loss> more to you now, have sent you 12 watermillons for you and M^r [*illegible*]

I am

S^r Your Most Humble Serv^t

Rob^t. Livingston [*illegible*]

I Send up an Ew Lamb of the Large Breed, from London, I had it for a present lett Care be taken of it—