1786 Feb. 8 John Blackwell to

immediately told me it was his wish and desire that Tom-my should continue at Tulip Hill that he had been told there was a great change in Tommy for the better which he was very happy to hear and thought his present situation was a most fortunate and happy one; I then told Mr Hemsley you was willing that Tommy should remain at Tulip Hill and that you would take the care & direction of him — Mr Hemsley immediately said it would be proper for the Guardians to have a meeting and to write you a letter on the subject & another to Tommy to the same purport — On my return home I wrote Mr Earle who's sentiments coincided with Mr Hemsleys: the Gentlemen was to have had a meeting on the matter at this Town but have been prevented by the badness of the roads & weather — Mr Earle has now wrote Mr Hemsley and I expect to have an answer every day as soon as it comes it shall be forwarded to you which will satisfy the young Gentleman that his conduct will not be countenanced by his friends as he will be put entirely under your direction — I find from your Letter that Tommy expected when I came over the day that I should interfere in the matter and have prevented his going on with his ~~Lett~~ Latin, he is very much mistaken in that opinion as I should certainly have had nothing to say in the matter as you have the wholey sole direction of him —

Tommys conduct in this matter is most extraordinary, for when I conversed with him respect to learning Latin, he said the worst and most difficult part was over and that he now would wish to go on and not loose what he had already learnt & I am sure from what I said to him on the subject he had not the least right a pretence to say it was my orders for him to leave off learning Latin, and if I had have done so it would have been treating you & Mr Pruitt very ill — I am sorry to say that I am afraid it is Tommys disposition to be always dissatisfied with his present situation and love to keep himself and friends in hot water and I am convinced he is not satisfied with Tulip Hill from the tenor of all his Letters to his mother and that this Latin affair is a mere pretence to bred up a quarrell which he thinks will at last end in his coming to Potter Town but as long as I live he shall not carry that point until he is of age — In every letter to his mother he is begging ~~like~~ to come to this Town in March and in one days ~~calculating~~ in 10 Months he hopes to have compleated his education and come and be an assistant to me — he may give up all views of that sort for it shall never be the case

If Tommy has any shame he would certainly blush at his present behaviour when he reflects that twelve months ago, he had not a hole to put his head in, no man would permit him to live in his house