Marys Delight Hall 23rd January 1830

John Tilghman Esqr

Dear Sir I am extremely sorry to inform you that I was called on your Island the night before last to attend a truly unfortunate case of your Servent man Harry

In the act of drawing the shot from his gun he raised the breach of it to receive the shot in his hand and in consequence of its striking the ceiling fired the whole load through his hand and thigh & foot which intirely destroyed the hand up to the joint — His thigh has only received a flesh wound and each of his legs likewise — but his foot is most distressingly injured and the bones shattered all to peices

I wrote to Dr Barnet to see the case with me in consultation He did not attend and as the case would not admit of delay I was under the necessity of amputating the lower portion of the left arm yesterday without any consulting Physician

I apprehend no danger of life from the arm or the flesh wounds in the thigh and legs - but I am very fearful that the wound received in the foot has so much injured the plexus of the plantar nerves It will produce tetanus or locked jaw which if should take place there is no other alternative but to amputate the leg or death

I hope the case will result more favourable - but should tetanus take place in consequence of the wound in the foot I wish you would inform me as early as possable whether I shall amputate the leg or not

I shall give all necessary attention to the case that it may require and truly lament that such an accidence has taken place

I have the honour to remain Very Respectfully

Your O. S.

Absalom Thompson

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