Philad.a 22 Septem. 1837

Dear Sir

I last evening rec.d your return for of the 16th Inst. and feel very sensibly for the difficulties you experience, my own situation for a considerable time before I arrived in this Country and all the time I lived in Newyork has been of a similar character which enables me fully to know you must suffer who has been so long in pecuniary embarrassment. Latterly my prospects have much improved (for which I am thankfull to Providence) as it enables me to offer you some assistance in this time of need but what though small I trust will enable you to get through your difficulties

On the 14th Inst $300.00 became due to me from the Beaver Meadow R Road Rail Co which I can remit you shortly if you can spare it at your command If I had any security to offer I might probably be able to borrow $200.00 more, I want none for myself

Tomorrow I intend going to Newyork & shall do if anything can be done there

let me hear from you as soon as convenient

— turn over —

Philadelphia
22 Octr 1837
Wm Masson Esq

Oliver Birnie Esqr
Mount Oak
Taney Town
Frederick Co
Maryland

Paid

Near Baltimore. Sept 26. 1837.

Respected and dear Sir.

I am greatly grieved by the contents of your letter of the 22d, which I got yesterday; and only the more so, that it is entirely out of my power to do, what it would give me so much pleasure to do, — if I could render you the assistance you propose, in the midst of embarrassments which I trust may be only temporary. I know that the idea has got abroad amongst my friends in this region, that I possess large means; but it is totally fallacious. So much so, that it has required since my residence in Baltimore, not only all the income of my property in the West to support my family here — but I have been twice obliged to sell property, within five years last past — to get out of debt, or pecuniary objects rendered absolutely necessary by my position or the health of my family.

Nothing but the pain of parting from our little Mary, prevents us at once from begging Miss Birnie to reserve a place in her school for her. — Or does she mean, as you mention her coming to our city, to locate amongst us? — Mrs B. says she is almost ready to ask Miss Margaret to take Mary; but the thing is so sudden — that she must take a little time to try if our hearts can bear it — after a separation already so long protracted. Miss Margaret will of course make our house her home, if she can put up with so poor a place, which is also a little out of the way — being a mile or so in the country. She may rely on my cordial desire to promote her views: which indeed I shall consider a favour done not to her, but to those I might be the means of putting under the care of herself or her sister.

With many kind salutations to Mrs Birnie, the young Ladies, & your Son (I suppose young Mrs Birnie, is not at Thorndale) — I am my dear Sir, with best wishes, & true regard, your friend

Rob.t Mac Kenzie.

Oliver Birnie Esqr
Taney-Town
Carroll-County
Maryland

Baltimore 26 Sept. 1837
R. J. Mackenzie Esqr