benefit of the
for the insolvent law. The only assistance he would
offer would be to take my family home until I could
do better. A measure objectionable on many grounds
My family would be unhappy & badly treated under
those circumstances by him & a necessary stimulus
for me to exert myself would be removed from
operation on me. Mrs W is all she could be & would
do anything in her power but in relation to him
& the girls who take their clue from him it would
be a bad move. When a child of hers is married she
is as completely separated in interest & indeed I might
say feeling, as if he had sold a negro & nothing operates
on him unless it would be a fear of disclosure of
facts to the public. I sometimes think it would have
been better if this crisis had occurred sooner, how-
ever heavy it is & I must breast it & make the best
of it. It has come at a period of life to enable me
the better to meet it & still in time I hope to recover
from it. I have business on hand sufficient to meet
my demands but it is not ripe yet & in course
no fees from it. As regards Marshall he must do
as I & others have had to do when appointed trustee
of unsaleable property he accepted the trust & he
must only bear with its contingencies & tell when
he can & then be remunerated. I deeply regret the
situation of both the farm & yr state of finances
but to do anything here in raising money on it
for its improvement under existing circumstances
I should not know where to apply. In fact I am
so close run that I have not the necessary change for
examinations in the Clerks office, relative to
business. But surely this is a place of business & now
as I am short I hope it will have the effect to rouse
off that tremendous apprehension & irresolution of
character which so long has enthralled me & I hope
to stay & fight it out. I would rather burn up my
boys in a city & I ought to be in a bustle I want
all the stimulus I can possibly get. To remove to a cold
City would be to pass half my time in idleness & believe
I know myself I think I ought to remain here if
only on account of my children. I think with Patrick
Henry, there is more to be learned from the world than
from books as to any other occupation — there is a
change in general affairs — the money market is more
easy in course from more liberality in discounts, but
this is not that enlargement in business generally
to afford opportunities for commencing any business
without capital, men are rather getting rid of their
old debts & collecting, than extending their business
The interior merchants are not yet justified in enlarging
their purchases & general confidence is not restored
Neither will it be until the government ceases
to experiment & allow things to settle down in the
old way & if then found wrong, change gradually. The
merchants do not know what to calculate on in the
present strong political strife. The sub treasury bill is not
yet at rest & I believe its passage would again lock up the
currency of the country. So that I infer there is no course