Clotworthy Birnie, Esq.
Thorndale
near Taneytown
Carroll County, Md.

MARYLAND STATE
SEP 7 1
RECEIVED

Dear Pall,
Isaac Van Bibber
1838

To Clotworthy Birnie Esq.—

My dear Sir, No doubt you have supposed me exceedingly slow and negligent in answering your letter. The fact is, I have been prevented from writing by various causes, the principal of which is the desire I had of giving your proposition a full consideration, and of not promising in a hurry what I could not afterwards perform. It was sometime, too, before I could see Mr. Beaver — who, at last, called when I was not at home. These reasons, added to the fact that I have been actively engaged in electioneering upon the right side, must plead my apology.—

You are aware, sir, that we are young farmers &, of course, bad managers. It will not be in our power, therefore, to assist you either by hauling wood or stone, this fall. But Mr. Beaver, who lives in the neighbourhood, and keeps a team, appears to be anxious for the job. When he called the other day he told Thomas that he would undertake all the trouble and expense of a kiln of lime (viz: quarrying the stone, hauling it to the kiln, building the arch, hauling the wood, and burning — in fact everything) except cutting the wood, for $70.00.— As there are stones already quarried, he