Louisville September 4, 1838

My dear Father

1437

I have reached this town on my return ~~from the Lower~~ home. My journey by the stage now commences & I hope by the middle of October to have the pleasure of seeing you at Needwood. I have crossed the Ohio at this place a month past & travelled on horse 280 miles thro' the State of Indiana & Illinois ~~on a horse~~ to St. Louis. Before I ~~have~~ arrived at St. Louis, I had sold land enough sufficient to defray my expenses. My success there was not so great as I had expected. The quality of the public land exposed to sale was inferior to that of the neighboring districts of country & therefore failed to attract purchasers to the sales, among whom I hoped to dispose of the lands I had in charge. I have to this time sold to the amount of $7000. upon which my commission is a little above ten per cent. At Lexington in this State I have the prospect of effecting a large sale. At St. Louis I had the pleasure to meet with Bishop Dubourg & Mr Connor formerly of Georgetown. Both enquired particularly after you & the family & desired the presented their kind remembrance. The Bishop has by subscription & other means obtained about $10,000. with which he is erecting a Cathedral of

credit – Flour at $7 – & I have visited their Tobacco Warehouse in which is inspected annually about 1000 hds. – Their best kind sells here at $6 to $7 the Cwt. ~~the about~~ the quality would rank it with the best – ness Tobacco of Maryland – They just grow bright tobacco. The Mania ~~in~~ of the rich in Kentucky – A Mr Ward of Somerset is counted the wealthiest man in the Commonwealth. Grant formerly of Georgetown is a practitioner here – at Lexington & Saw Brat. Rindall of family – He is in successful practice & entirely devoted to it – My route in returning will take me 140 miles thro Kentucky & ~~upwards~~ 250 miles thro' the State of Ohio to Wheeling in Va – thence by the National turnpike to Cumberland – Throughout this route there is a line of excellent stage & the accommodations tolerably good –

With sincere love –

Yr. most affectionate son

J. L.

MdHS 1974 [1273-1437]