I have from you, or rather of you, occasionally, and it always gives me sincere pleasure to know that Mrs Lee, as well as Miss Lee and generally, continue in good health. When I accompanied Mr Clay to Cape May in the summer of 1847, I had hoped to meet you. But our journey was so rapid that I could not propose a rendezvous. — Our friend is now with me. — Several weeks ago he met with a severe accident which might have proved fatal. He fell down stairs injuring his head and side which first reached the carpet, very seriously. He was confined to his couch for a fortnight, and to his chamber altogether about a month. Now he is about again as usual. But he has not recovered his strength a jot, and begins to show the effect of increasing years. His spirits are buoyant, and when excited as sparkling as ever. He frequently speaks of you, for whom he has always expressed a warm regard.

Mr Clay proposes to leave us in about a fortnight, to stop on route with some friends a few days, and to reach Lexington about the 1st April. You must not believe what you hear of his jealousy of General Taylor's success, or of his pledged support of the present administration. I hope every thing may harmonize, and am sure that Mr Clay desires it. No premium has been

I omitted to mention that I have lately received a cask of hams.

Lately I have met with some claret, which is considered very superior by connoisseurs, that I hope you will permit me to divide with you. It is in wood, as our finest wines are sometimes imported and is now about to be bottled. A moiety will comprise about twelve dozen, which I will cause to be packed and forwarded to Baltimore. It ought not to be used in less than six months, from which time till the end of three years, if it endures that long, it will continue to improve. The wine is called Lentenac.

The weather has become very warm — every body complains of it. For several nights past I have spread my windows. The river is also very higher, higher at this present than I have ever seen it before — five or six feet above my house in Canal Street, from which I now write to you. Great damage has already been incurred by the burst of Conley.

Next summer I hope to see you on my intention is to accompany my daughter on an excursion down to the South as far as Louisa.

Will you do me the honor to make my compliments to Mrs Lee and to Miss Lee? Believe me, my dear Sir,

Most faithfully yours.

H Clay

John Lee Esq.

MdHS 1974 [1552-1620]