

In the Darlington Memorial Library

now convinced that every man, who will not carefully attend his own business, (I might say, in every thing else, as well as planting) will lose by it. Few people keep regular accounts & therefore don't know what their crops stand them in, & they often imagine them clear gains, after the overseer's share deducted, when if everything else, that ought as properly to be deducted, was so, they wou'd find, they did not amount to the interest, of their money. Every negroes cloaths, bedding, corn, tools, levies & taxes will stand yearly at least in £5. You ought to charge the interest of the amount of the value of the land & slaves, the overseers, I cant judge how much they will stand you in, but it will be a heavy article, & a reasonable allowance shou'd be made for the risque of the slaves lives. I have found it a very heavy article. All the slaves I now have, accounting those you and your brother had upon the division, do not make up the number I bought, tho I have had 98 born. Your sister Selden attributes it to the unhealthiness of Patomack Neck, which there may be something in, if, as she says, you & your brother have 26 children of 3 of your negro women living. I thank God, however that my own family has been generally as healthy, as other people's, & I am very glad that you and your brother have had so much better luck with your negroes, than I have had with mine; but upon the whole, you will find, that, under so heavy an expence, there can be no great profit by our ordinary crops of corn & tobacco: indeed Colo Lewis thinks that land will answer extremely well for hemp & yield a large profit, & wanted to buy the part adjoining to him, & was treating for the purchase of it with your brother, if I woud have consented that he shoud have had it, for his share, but I convinced him by the plat that it could not be done, without cutting my part into pieces, for a straight course from the corner of the back land to the river, would not have given me a moiety, which could not have been done, but by shaping a course that woud have taken a good part of the low grounds; the best of those, that scoundrel Snickers has been pillaging these several years, under pretence of paying 1000 lb tob^o yearly rent which however, he has never yet paid, but by crediting it on a piece of paper. He has on the contrary rec'd every penny of the rents ever since you left the countrey, & insisted he had your authority for it. In my distress last year, I sent my clerk to him for the ballance of his account which he had that spring sent me by your brother amounting to about £100 & 10,000 lb of crop tob^o he did not send me a farthing but wrote me word that you owed him as much for money advanced for your quarters, that if I woud not take payment in your hands, he woud be down the tenth of August & pay me, but he neither came, wrote or sent me a farthing to this time.