Portland January 22, 1837

Dear Sir,

I take the liberty of suggesting that you would please send me a catalogue of the most approved French and English works that you have in your valuable Library on subjects connected with Inland Navigation, and the 18th of Volume in each.

I am persuaded that I may procure some of them, by an offer of the books of most value seen in Europe, and any information upon many gains can or the subject will confer a particular favor.

You Most obedient Servant,

Robert Newsham,

Laure Baldwin Esq.
It is plain that this is dovetailing the pleasures of society, where we can succeed in it; as well as imitating high examples; to say nothing of the return it often produces. I am, dear sir, with sentiments of regard,

Yours sincerely,

Benj. Vaughan

Canal

Loammi Baldwin Esq.

Dear sir,

Hallowell, March 13, 1827.

Your favor of Feb. 15 is answered out of course from having been mislaid. As your sister still remains here, I send my opinion on canals which you asked of me, by post; since it may not be worth having, unless arriving without further detention. It is prefaced by a few words historically.

The great controversy in England respecting canals, as opposed to Rivers, occurred & was settled, while I was a youth; I have since attended but little to the question; farther than to know, that a profusion still exists in behalf of canals, even when rivers have been provided with towing paths and wharves; I had a course of books established in their favor. — Abstractly, the reasons for canals are many. Canals are free from currents, floods, & moving ice; as also from the influence of droughts. They are by the very essence of their construction, easily provided with towing paths, & perpetual clearance of wharves, on both their banks. The navigation upon them suffers little from storms, calms, or contrary winds; though
it can avoid itself of winds which are favorable. Canals are uniform as to depth; & yet one in general (those see-risels do not pre) fordable by men of moderate height. They are free from rocks, both seen & unseen; & no vessels ought to be aground in them. They may be used even by strangers, at night, as well as by day. They consequently require no expense or delay for piloting. They are in all respects totally independent as to hours; & therefore allow of great punctuality as to time. Their small width admits of an easy passage from one bank to another; & requires a meeting of papermen moving in contrary directions. Canals in general afford a more direct course than rivers. The shortness of their course, their deep, watery water, with their small depths, make them fit & safer for depths & short, in winter; & for a longer time; than rivers. The bars of canals can only give way from the pressure of water; & are in general easily & quickly repaired; whereas the dams of rivers may be disordered by the insatiation of floods, & may meet with many accidents, to delay these repairs or swell the cost. Damages to locks or to their gates, from a difficulty in both cases; though least in the case of canals. Canals exhibit few shipwrecks, & necessarily admit of much being saved from them; or rather, they allow of no damage, but from leaks or from fire. Whatever falls overboard is in general easily recovered. Accidents of a more serious nature, whether to vessels, goods, or persons, some
Samuel A. Farnum
March 28, 1827

Col. Baldwin

Sir, as Chairman of a committee chosen by a large number of citizens and the adjoining towns, I have to request that you would come down in the Marshfield stage on Monday the Ninth day of April next to Mr. Edward P. Bittles in Marshfield, for the purpose of taking a view of the beach. When it is proposed to open a channel, the committee are anxious that you should come on that day, but if your engagements should prevent, the work may be postponed and send one word by mail on returning next. I understand by careful inquiry of citizens that he has had a consultation with your Honors upon the subject, and whatever arrangement be made with you will be perfectly satisfactory to the committee with many others who accompany you from Mr. Bittles on Tuesday morning.

Your's, etc.

Samuel A. Farnum

[Handwritten note:]

March, Wednesday 1st Saturday to Salisbury
at 9 a.m.
Arrival at 3 p.m. from City Tavern
Philadelphia July 22, 1817

Toom Baldwin Esq.

Dear Sir,

I have great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. and in assuring you that the terms upon which young men are taken as pupils in the profession of Engineers. The young men I have under my charge engage with me as assistant to learn what they can pick up in surveying and levelling, and take whatever compensation is admitted by the state or corporation as assistant. Their wages is generally paid at a rate sufficient to enable them to clothe and feed themselves say 1.30 & 2.8 & day.

I have no instance as yet received a fee for such operations in the field, but where I take a young man in my office and teach him the principles of engineering or architecture, accompanied with drawing and study from books, then I charge a fee of 300 & minimum, and avoid myself of all the services he can render in drawing, superintendence &c on the bargain. The pupil finding himself in everything.

I have no idea of making Engineers as they do in Birmingham and where the theory and practice is taught regularly in an office & in the field the student ought to pay & find himself. Yours very truly and respectfully,

William Dickinson
Dear Brother,

I am now at Smith’s (late Wilson’s) farm - in sight of your house & in the shadow. It is now raining - we can do nothing out-doors - we have spun a new skein & have approached to the Shenandoah summit on the east side & that night we were able to get down to the west - we have beneath a good deal of snow & in quite away from the swamp, make shifty lines - Your letters in this section are of great service & I am glad for them - we should be getting to the Tidewater - and should have read & broadened ourselves - we had not done it - We find the people quite ready to show us the country - as we shall be aided much by their knowledge - We probably shall go to Albany & then will have seen the Niagara. 

Section about where shall get on the Connecticut with more speed - I have not heard from Sarah nor any of your house. Write Doctor but tell. I have letters at Northampton when I get there. Write over at Lewismore at Lewismore & put “I was with him for days” & both all for getting along a pretty stout mun - too.

Your affectionately,

[Signature]

To Leavitt Baldwin Esq.,

Dear Sir,

Our friend Mr. Sherwin is in this place, sick with a slow Bilious fever. He has been confined now, two weeks, and has had a severe time of it. He is a little more comfortable to say; and desires me to write to you informing you of the circumstances, as he apprehends that otherwise you might calculate upon his services in your business. He is very much reduced as you may suppose, and it will be a long time before he will be able to do any thing himself or even have the care of any considerable receipts. He is at present entirely discouraged, as to the profession, believing that his constitution is not sufficiently strong to support the fatigue to which an engineer is unavoidably exposed. He may perhaps alter his mind when he recovers his strength.

With great respect your much obliged and very humble servant,

James Weymouth.
Charleston Oct. 22, 1837

Mr. Common Baldwin Esq.

My dear Sir,

You mention, in your letter of the 11th instant, that you have sold some land to a Mr. Whitehead. I am glad to hear of your sale, and hope it will be a profitable one. I trust that you will take care to see that the terms of the sale are carried out, and that the money is paid in full.

I am anxious to know the details of the sale, and to learn whether the land is suitable for your purpose. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
mortgage & am ready for anything he — by the drift of the last time I received that day letter
is done once a number not leave off when he
has done, the probability is, that he will not have
done when he leaves off — I think he leaves off as
I began as I shall be when I am done could
truly your friend
Abner Pratt Jr.
(Sallam) Baldwin Esq.
(Charlestown) Massachusetts

I have received a packet from France by the last steamer from France. In said packet was a parcel from Mr. Michel Chaucier—

Pay the bill. If you wish me to deliver the contents of the parcel to your address containing Books, please inform me how you wish me to proceed. As to whether we are to deliver it to you or whether we are to deliver it to some lady here.

Respectfully yours of Sept 23rd,
F. W. Barcham Esq.
Charlestown Nov. 42 1837

Gentlemen,

I had the pleasure yesterday of seeing your handletter of the 9th inst., informing me that you had a parcel from Mrs. Michael Chafeeir for me containing books.

You inclosed above by delivering it to the Waverly House who said they can't accept

It is not safe for me to accept

They are to be delivered to the Waverly House

Perfectly,

Your obedient servant,

[Signature]

[Red seal stamp]
Washington, Dec. 14th, 1857

Dear Father,

You will observe by the date of this letter that we areegra to the plan for our move. As per your request, I anticipated when last I wrote that this move could not be accomplished with our arrival in Baltimore, which place we left on Sunday evening last, but have taken lodgings at Godley's and enjoy the season. I think you had been the house is not completed and are quite comfortable here, as we have a promise to move in as soon as we can. Yesterday, we went over to Georgetown and saw Mr. Kinney. She is very well and the family also excepting her who is suffering from a very serious illness. She has called to day and requested me to drop in and see her, which I do. Since your recent letter I have thought of going to the west on Sunday next as the cold weather is advancing and am going to reach there on Sunday evening. The only other letter I have received from you is your letter of September 18th, 1857, which I have not yet had a chance to read. I trust this letter finds you all well and that you are enjoying the winter season.

Yours affectionately,

[Signature]
in expecting me, let him know when we might be in
Baltimore that his family ought be in preparation
as I promised. On the last, a short call, I saw some of my
Georgetown friends but on Saturday when I arrived you
must write & perhaps see some of them and as those first
requests on giving me a party & shall see them all perhaps when
on return from Harford. our play tickets will be included
by the servant in my letter to let me know which and
your part of yours open. It may be on Tuesday evening
looking for lodging you can see them at Baltimore but
again have so grand some reports which he
his purchases, and other personal advantages which
please him very much he seems better than when he left
Boston and really he can combine advantage with
no further trouble, I think this plan with what he has
is much as any at present. They are quite out while
we are in Philadelphia. Mr. Black just arrived from
a pleasant evening in Washington & was there and with
his mother's family some of the others, I wish you and
Lawton would write to me at Harford as I have not heard
from him yet it seems very long indeed till one hour
Mr. Baldwin is ripe I put my or two to him from him
give me love to him and tell him to be careful what
he says I think of him at any time and many times a day as you all. I hope all are doing well shall be
back soon when she give my love to all friends here &
our warmest wishes to all.