

Cedar Grove Jan 7 29th / 61

Law: Washington Esq

My dear Sir

Excuse me for not acknowledging before this your fav^r of the 6th enclosing your check for \$36²⁵ which is in full for Jim's wages.

Should you want him in the Spring, as suggested in a former letter I will endeavour to spare him for a short time, he always likes to work in Westmoreland, to be near his wife, & I like to indulge him in that wish —

Notwithstanding the gloomy appearance of the political atmosphere, I am not without hope that something will be done

through the efforts of Virginia
& the border States, to obtain
such guarantees as will satisfy
the demands of the South, ^{& King Cotton himself} & settle
for ever the dangerous question
of Slavery - The Black Republi-
-cans must see the futility
of attempting Coercion & if
they really wish to preserve
the Union - (the inestimable
value of which was so beauti-
-fully & graphically described
by Edward in his late speech)
I hope they will meet I
in the 4th of Feb^y & demand
to give us all our rights un-
-der the Constitution & to insure
them forever -

We have had a dreadful winter
for work - & I may literally
say I have done nothing -
I intended to have gone down

last week, with the girls to
pay a visit to my Sister, but
the bad weather prevented &
the roads are so bad I do not know
now when we can go - & Mrs. Stuart
will have to go to N. York next month
to see our daughter - How much
happier I often think, were fam-
-ilies a half a Century ago when
their associations were limited
to a few miles & their intermar-
-riages confined to their neigh-
-bours - then the whole circle of
their acquaintance was known
& their connections certain - Now
our children grow up & we know
not when they may emigrate -
Local attachments - family ties
social associations, are all equally
transient & those peculiarities so
indispensable to form a people
are now only known in tradition,

& we have become part &
parcel of the "Universal
Yankee Nation" —

With kind regards to Mrs
Washington — I am

Very truly yours

J. D. Stuart