Litchfield Ct Sepr 2d, 1823\_

Joseph Burrows Esquire

Sir, William Grimes, who lived several

years in this place called on me yesterday

and stated, the interview he had with you

in N Haven, which drew forth the circumstances

of his leaving Sa.h) and the manner in which

he passed in which from Virginia &c, which was before

unknown, I believe in this place, At his request,

I write you and State, what he professes to be

willing to do, and what, I believe he can, that

is, to (surrender) everything in his power for

his freedom. He has property in this place

which I think may be worth 4 or 400 fifty

dollars, heowes for it about $160, the

balance I think could be had in reasonable

time. He requests you to write to me your

views on the subject, as early as may be

and he will send to me by a friend to know

the result. I made a very ^particular enquiry of him

of your character, and his feeling on the subject

of the return &c. He is married to a good woman

and family of color. He has three children, and

was affectionate to them when I knew him

and industrious while here in a nominal degree.

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The separation from his family must be

painful. I have given him this advice

& in nearly, as I can recollect, in these words,

“William, it may be your misfortune to be

born a Slave\_ but so you was by the laws

which we are bound to support\_ If you do

not wish to return, you ought in all

good conscience to remunerate for your time

all in your power.” He said he would, but

could not think of returning\_ In this view

of the situation it would be improper for

me to say anything, on the subject of

humanity, interest and all the et ceteras,

the common topics on such occasions.

I will conclude, by stating I think if

you can be disposed a sum of between 2 & 300

dollars, say 230 or 40, may be had\_or it is

in his power to control\_ and if you will

[?] name, your agent, or fix on a place

I think he will come to the extent of his

power.

I am with respect &c

Abel Catlin

New York 11 Sept 1823

Abel Catlin Esq

Litchfield

D Sir,

Your letter of the 2 Inst

and it contents notice, when I was at new haven.

Grimes, the property of Mr T. H Welman called on me

+ proposed to pay me $500 for his freedom, for this I

did offer to put him in possession of a discharge –

all I can now say is If he will pay to Mr Wm H

Thompson, who I think is now in Litchfield $300

+ secure to be paid in 12 months the other $200 I will

see he receives a free discharge if this can be done you

will ~~xxx~~ please see Mr Thompson who will probably

leave your place in a very few days, show him this

letter (as I did not wright him) + his rect  [receipt] which a

satisfactory voucher – your letter I have sent Mr.

Welman the owner of Grimes. Now in Alexd DC with

a copy of this my reply – I shall leave this for Geo [Georgia]

in about 8 days if agreeable should be pleased to hear

from you before my departure

Yours

BB