

Philadelphia. 5th Dec. 1779

Dear Sir,

I received your letters, the one enclosing Deeds for Mr. Shippen which I delivered to him also an affidavit respecting Rhine's Claim which is decreed to him—I enclose you a copy of the decree and also a [?] of the costs. The other letter respecting Sue I also received—I omitted advertising her as I did not know what price Mrs. Hand expected for her. I should wish to receive particular directions respecting that matter— But I much feared the night before last that there needed none, Mr. Apty the workhouse keeper came to me about 9 o'clock in the Evening & said that Sue was in Labour & in a dangerous Situation. The Midwife having declared that she could be of no further service to her—I went to Neddy Shippen who is an Apprentice to Dr. Bond & took him with me to the sick Lady—We soon found it necessary to procure the Assistance of an experienced Physician. We were so fortunate as to find Dr. Bond at home who had just returned to his House after a fatiguing Operation of the same Kind. He consented to attend [the] Case, found the Child was dead & after some time in which he very fully exerted himself in performing a caesarean operation on the Child, declared that the Case had baffled his art. However he was premature in his Opinion. It was about 10 o'clock when we left the workhouse. The Doctor then administered an Anodyne & about 3 in the morning the woman was safely delivered a dead child tho much weakened Her pains having continued near two days before I knew it & many other Causes which it does not become me to relate concerning [?] I concluded that the most advisable way now was to try to assist the wench & that Things proper for her Situation should be administered to that End. I should have mentioned that Mr. Simmons & I desired Mrs. Apty Sometime ago to buy some Baize for a short gown & petticoat for the Child [?] and some few other Necessities that the Child might not perish through Cold when it came into the world. Whether she has done it or not I cannot say ... That Things proper for Sue is ... way should be provided for her Indeed they are absolutely necessary to save her life. I cannot describe by letter the Situation she was in. Mr. Simmons will be more particular with you. I sent her a pound of Chocolate, bought her a pair of course woolen Stockings, & the Doctor directing she should have a little Wine to strengthen her. I have also directed that the Doctors, & Midwives charges as well as Mrs. Apty for other things provided I cannot yet ascertain. I paid 150 Dollars to Carlisle for Reward & Extra Expenses. I pd. 35 dollars for a pair of Stockings The Chocolate I can ascertain the price tomorrow as I took a pound of grandpapa which I shall replace tomorrow.

Betsy says there is some very good Tea to be sold at a Guinea a # [?] in Continental Money at the depreciated Rate if Wm Atlee can take it She will send

it by him. Mr. Simmons talked of buying a barrel of Sugar & dividing it with you which I fancy will be your best way. I have been extremely busied with Court? My whole Time & attention has been engaged with it. Mr. Simmons will leave me £200 to pay the Accounts for Sue's being taken up & Necessaries provided for her. Can at present form no Estimate of it but the Life of a Creature being at Stake, The Expense will be but trifling in Comparison of the loss of the Slave, Which there was every Reason to apprehend would be the Case.

Mr. Ingersol was employed in [the] Case of Irvins Record from Cumber[lan]d and it was agreed that the Record should be considered as well removed & that the [?] sho[ul]d be agreed but on consideration the objections were withdrawn and [the] Certiorari continues quashed.

Betsy joins me in Love to Sally yourself and [the] Children
Yours affectionately,
E Burd

Monday Morning

Mr. Apty came to me this Morning & informed me that the Wench was in [such] a Situation as to require the assistance of a Doctor who I have accordingly sent to her. If Wm Atlee will take Tea I shall send it by him. Betsy gave a Guinea for a pound. I expected Wm Simmons would have left £200 which I computed xxxxx the Expenditures for Sue would have [?] amounted to but he has forgot it. Please to send that Sum & I will procure accounts of the particulars and settle the balance - If you should think proper to join Mr. Simmons in a barrel of Sugar you can write to me & I will procure it. Mr. Simmons knows the price here for that article & you can regulate you Remittance accordingly.

You will please to receive the costs from Michael Rhine before his Decree is delivered to him - He is to receive them again from the State the costs are extremely low - intentionally at the old regulation of fees as low as it was possible for me to make them.

The Chief Justice is at my Elbow & desires his Compliments to you.