

Washington Oct.* 24th 1814

Dear Sir,

I have been for some time here anxious to hear about Mr. Howell *
Should have sent a letter to him only that I thot it would most likely
pass

by him on the fioad* – Be pi eased, Sir, to send me a line and let me
know how & where he is•

The news from this place, is sent you in the Papers duly * Altho it
was often talked of, we never took up the business of Ways & Means
(for which we –were called) until very lately* Last

Friday was the first time we entered upon said business in Comi* of
the Whole

Tis very uncertain how these taxes Will yet be shaped and new
modelled* ihe addit tax on whiskey has been put at 15 Cents on the
Gall instead of 2 5 dents as proposed by Mr. Dallas. V/here iu Cents
taken from the Gall P, according to their estimate takes *2,400,000
from the tax proposed to be raised, arid Mr* Eppes proposes to take Up
the Boots Saddles &c to make up the deficit. There • seems to be
considerable difference in opinion amongs the Feds here, whether we
shall vote for these taxes or against them. This is a difference about
formalities only, for the taxes will be raised whether we vote for
th.ru or not; and tha only thing to guide us is the consideration how
our conduct v ill be understood by the people who exercise the Supreme
power in our land. If wshall convey the idea to the p ople that we
have eonfiflenc \$ in Madison &co by voting for the taxes, m do what we
do not mean to do for we never^so low an opinion of Madison and all
his Cabinet, as we now have.

Col\$ Timothy Pickering who lives where I do, is of the opinion that
kissing is not an Indian custom; that if the Indians kis. there women
or children it is in imitation of the manners of White people. This I
am inclined to doubt, believing that it is instinctive and practised
by all nations from the most civilised to the most savage, and in all
ages. The most trifling thim in the history of the.creature man,
interests us all•' You will confer a favor on us by setting us right,
in this matter. Please to write soon, arid much oblige

Tour very Hum^1 serv r

J. A. Geddes

Capt. Jasper Parrish

James Geddes letter

Oct, 24, 1814