

Princeton N. J. March 20. 1819.

Dear Hunter,

My Black man Joe has absconded from me on last Thursday night a week ago, & this evening I heard of his crossing the Bridge at Trenton on the next Friday morning on his way (as he told) to Philad^a. — He had been out in the town here at a negro frolic all night, rioting, & the Magistrates talked of having them all up and punished, which scared him off, & indeed I helped myself for I wanted to break him of those bad habits. — He was brought up in my family & though I could not have kicked him away, his father & mother is in the neighborhood, whom I get free, and they are respectable enough much disengaged about him — He had only four years from the 1st of next month to stay with me, when he is to be free, as he is Twenty one years of age about the 1st of April next. — I think you would know the Boy if you was to see him — He is pretty good looking — about 5 feet 8 inches high — not very black — too fond of strong drink — Took nothing with him but what he had on as he went away early in the evening, which was a pretty good home made great Coat of Bottle green, with a large Cape — Corduroy Pantaloons, Thos & Stockings — Shoes lately half polished — assortish kind of homespun dark brown body Coat, pretty well worn — but not decollated — an old fur or wool hat. — I think he is greatly tired of his absence by this time, & no doubt he is gone where in the City, now I want you to hire a Constable to have him looked up, and if found I am willing to give ten dollars which you will please pay for me, & then I was thinking you could find him done by the stage by some person that was coming on here, that is, if you thought by his complexion, or other

appearances, it would be safe, or attorney's have done confined
Send me word, at all events let me hear from you in a
few days of your peace. — We are all in pretty good health
Send a great deal of love to yourself & Mr. Patterson's family
with your own — perhaps you can relax from your law
studies all winter & pay us a visit, with Joe in your suit.

I am with much esteem & friendship

De Hunter, yes sincerely

G. Brattell



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