

STATE OF DEBTS DUE IN VINCENNES

Post Vincennes October 9th 1799

Sir On the Morning of the 9th of September last, I Was Honoured with your's dated Detroit the 7th of May 1799 and not until then. I felt and do yet feel a great dissatisfaction that your Letter was kept up so long from me, considering the urgent situation of your affairs in this Quarter, from the age of your Demands & from the falling situation of your Debtors.

I should approve very much of your Principles of Lenity, Provided the People of this Quarter, were Possessed of the Right Idea, of discharging their Debts when in a Situation to do so, But it can with justness be Observed, from the language of a Number of our Citizens, that they will not discharge their just Dues until Obligated, for say they severally, "I owe, and I can't Pay, for in attempting to Pay, I shall either Distress myself or my Family."

I send you, under Cover herewith, "An Answer" being my Candid & Real Opinion & that of the eldest Inhabitants of the place, to your "Memorandum of Debts Due &^{ce}"

There has but one Opportunity offered, from this Place to Detroit by Water, within my recollection for some time past, Which was a Maj^r Hunt,⁷⁶ & who departed the evening before I received your Letter. Otherwise I should with Pleasure have embraced them.

As to the Mortgages, you hold for Real Property in this place, You may either Make a private Sale, or Cause a public one to be made of the Property; If the first, that may be perfected, by a Transfer, or Assignment, legally acknowledged before the Proper Authority, to be admissible to record in this County. If the second, That may be perfected, by causing a suit to be Instituted in the Name of the Mortgagee or his Assignee to Foreclose the Equity of Redemption, in the Mortgagor, his heirs &^{ce} and the Title Made by the Sheriff. You can at present make your Choise.

If M^r Tousaint Dubois will give you in Prompt Payment, One hundred and fifty Pounds, N. C. for the House, Horse Mill &^e & Etienne S^tMary's Lot, I think you would do as

⁷⁶ Probably Colonel Thomas Hunt, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 561.