

2-9-1857

Letter from Thomas G. Clemson to Elias Baker, 1857 February 9

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The Home Feb. 9th /57.

My dear Sir

I have just received your favour of the 4th inst - & I hasten to say to you that I have written to day a letter, one to my friend in Antwerp & the other to the sculptor in Brussels, and both about your business -

I have requested them both to write me if all the pieces of furniture are ready to be shipped & how much money I have to pay - I also stated that I had been anxiously expecting that information for some time - & write again that no time should be lost as I wished the furniture to be sent out next spring & I wished to settle and send the balance to be payed -

I now state again what I have repeated over & over again & what Mr. Van der Berghe wrote me & which

letter you read - The furniture
would long since have come had
the funds been sent as I promised
and expected - I have written now
to know precisely how much remains
to be paid, when the furniture can
be sent &c -

I have done in all this matter all
that I write do & there remains to be
squared up the duties on the whole
which will have to be ready when
the next comes - I shall not be
able to work (that which comes) through
the Custom House at any other than
the fixed rates - You have the ap-
pearance in your last as well as in your
other letters of not understanding that
this delay in the furniture has been owing
to the delay in sending the funds -
as Mr. Vandenberghe said in his letter
the maker is an honest but poor man

and can not work without money
and when you do not send funds
he has to work for those who will
pay, which he is compelled to do to
pay his workmen & your work is
consequently laid aside & this is the
cause of the delay

I wish you to understand positively that
I shall not be able to advance any money
if I have need of all my funds, my expenses
being heavy & I do not know when to look
for money to meet my own engagements -
I say this humbly for in that respect
I should be delighted to aid you further
if it were in my power

The one well. It snowed last night
but that has since been dissipated -
and I hope we are on the eve of
having warm or at least decently
comfortable temperatures

Yours sincerely

Thos. G. Benson

P. Baker Esq -