

Lenox, Feb. 14th 1852.

Dear Brother & Sister,

It is a long time since I have written to you, but a much longer time ^{since} I have received from you a letter. Indeed a fortnight ago we had not heard a word from you for 7 or 8 months. (The paper you sent excepted) The last letter ^{any of us} I had seen was the one you wrote to James giving an account of your almost fatal sickness a year ago. I took a copy of that, as I do of ^{nearly} all your letters I can get hold of. About a fortnight ago I received your two letters to Lauren & Charlotte dated Oct 22nd & Nov. 7th, which I assure you gave me not a little relief. I know you do not forget your thwarted & I believe I may say afflicted brother or his family. I know it would ^{afford} you high pleasure to write to us once a month, if your health & more than multiplied labors would allow. But I cannot doubt some of your letters during the last six months have been lost. I am sure you must have answered my last if you have received it, but even that may have been lost. We are not particular to which of us you write, but when there is so long an interval our anxiety becomes painful.

anxiety, I mean about you + your loved family.
We felt worse this time because your last letter
spoke of you as having just come up from the
side of the grave. But over the miscarriage of letters
we can have no controll; this we must leave to
our kind Heavenly Father as well as health + life.
May I just add before I leave my introduction
that if in your next you will tell us all about
dear sister Mary, + that little creeper, Sarah, it
will greatly gratify us.

I have a great deal to write, + I fear that
time will not allow me to write all I wish or all
that would interest you. And first let me say
that a week ago yesterday ^{dated 2 days before} we took a letter from
the office saying that Sister Rhoda was just
alive. (she had been declining a year, still the news was
very sudden) Four hours after we were all on our
way to Vermont. We arrived in 14 hours at
Middlebury, + Alworo who was at the Depot,
told us that she had died about two days
before. The next day (Sabbath) she was bur-
ied. I remained till Wednesday morning,
took the cars at Middlebury at 8 A.M. Spent
the night at East Hampton + Thursday came
to Seneca. So now I am here alone + my
dear Mary + the children are in Cornwall
to remain 2 or 3 weeks longer. Rhoda we can-
not doubt sleeps in Jesus, still the family are
deeply afflicted in her loss. Sylvia yet

lives but is gradually wearing away with her unparalleled sufferings; she cannot long survive. In spirit she is an angel now, what will she be in heaven?

^{usual} The friends at East Hampton are all in health. Mother was dangerously sick in Sept. last, but is now able to be about the house, & in pleasant weather, to ride out. Addison we have not heard from for many weeks; he was well the last we heard.

Let me just say while I think of it that there is in town a young man, a former pupil of mine, a pious, very promising young man by the name of Mack, who some months ago intimated to me that he might go to Oregon as a farmer, but with the main purpose of doing good. He asked me a number of questions, & my opinion of the expediency of going. I spoke very favorably of the plan, but referred him to you for further particulars, & said I would write to you about the case. Whether he has sent you a letter or not I do not know. He would be a most valuable addition to your church, John W. Mack is his address.

You want to know of course about my telescope. It proves to be a very superior instrument, fully equal so far as I am able to see by the closest tests to the best Refractors.

Its real value is twice as much as I anticipated. I meant it should be worth a thousand dollars, but I suppose it is worth in reality \$2000. It has been thoroughly tested & ~~the~~ details of its construction & performance have appeared in the "American Journal of Science," short extracts, in many of the city & country papers. My name as a telescope maker is beginning to be favorably known ~~as~~ among the scientific, in different parts of the country; though I have yet received no substantial order for this or another instrument but Dr. Luther says, "don't be discouraged, you must succeed in the end."

We are evidently more & more respected in Seneca. This winter the people took it into their hearts to make us a donation. It came like a thunder clap in a clear sky. though with a very different effect. It consisted of beef, pork fresh & salt, cheese, flour (a whole barrel from one lady) tea, coffee, sugar, a load of wood, &c. &c. &c. to the amount of more than \$40, in value. I have earned in the last 3 or 4 months \$50 in surveying, \$15 preaching, \$3. for giving a temperance ~~and~~ address at Lee, & have been invited to spend 2 hours a day hearing recitations at the Academy at \$50 per term. Thus you see, that through the good providence of God things are wearing a brighter aspect.

But there is one more thing that I must not omit. About a fortnight since Mary received a letter from Luther containing a certificate of good canal stock in Indiana to the amount of \$1000!!! as a present to her!!! All these things my dear brother & sister I must believe had an intimate connection with even our poor prayers. & what shall we render to the Lord for all his benefits towards us?