Dorchester 7th 1864

Your dear parents were received and read with pleasure; and now I will try to write to you dear Sister tho I would be glad to assign to a more skillful hand the sad task of communicating what will fill your heart with mourning and grief.

One of our "Seven" has passed from this world of sorrow to his home above; yes dear Brother Edward is no longer subject to the ills of this life but has entered the rest of Eternal life. You will I fear think it was mistaken kindness on my part, that I have not written to you of his sickness, which has been long and severe; but it has been very peculiar, and difficult to understand, and the changes have been so frequent we could never judge one day how he would be next, and I have felt that if I wrote you how he was at any time, before you received the letter, there would be so many changes that you would not have any idea how he was. I asked Sister Sarah while I was there two or three weeks ago what she thought I better do. She said she thought it would be a mercy to you not to know it till it was decided.

We have heard often from Mr. Dodge, you know they are at Springfield, Mo. I have so little time, I do not write home this spring. It is doubtful if I can make a journey at Christmas, & keep it I shall hear from you soon. I am very glad to get the letters and photographs of your home. I think it must seem very dear to you as you have seen the first spot. Yours was before me in it's dress in as sad health now as when I left home. Mary has been sick but is now well. Write much to us. We love to get dear letters from your children and your dear Husband. Give my love to your children and your dear self. I hope you will write to Sarah when you can.

Good night.

Sarah

You know Dr Edward has been extremely nervous for many years, especially the winter before he went from this place. Since he has been at Middlebury he has at times been very much depressed, has felt inclined to depress him by the failure in his crops, and other disappointments which had the effect to make him work much harder than he ought to have done, thus increasing the weakness, and irritability of his nervous system, till finally the death of his dear child almost for a while crushed him, but doubtless did much towards preparing him for his own departure. I had not seen him look and appear as well for years as when he made his last visit here in Oct. tho he then complained of suffering much from headache, he had several times during the summer had strange turns with his head, being for a few moments lost to real things and seeming to see unreal ones. About the middle of Oct. he was knocked down in the street, while talking with a neighbor by a horse, which a reckless boy was riding or swiftly he had not time to get out of the way, there was a harness on the horse which struck him on the left eyebrow he fell on the back of his head was faint and could not see for a few minutes, was helped into the nearest building, which was a store, he soon revived and in about an hour was able to walk home, tho had he known how much he was hurt he would not have done it; he would not admit for some time that he

had received a severe concussion of the brain, and that his sudden illness was owing to the injury received at the time of the accident. You know Dr Edward has been extremely nervous for many years, especially the winter before he went from this place. Since he has been at Middlebury he has at times been very much depressed, has felt inclined to depress him by the failure in his crops, and other disappointments which had the effect to make him work much harder than he ought to have done, thus increasing the weakness, and irritability of his nervous system, till finally the death of his dear child almost for a while crushed him, but doubtless did much towards preparing him for his own departure. I had not seen him look and appear as well for years as when he made his last visit here in Oct. tho he then complained of suffering much from headache, he had several times during the summer had strange turns with his head, being for a few moments lost to real things and seeming to see unreal ones. About the middle of Oct. he was knocked down in the street, while talking with a neighbor by a horse, which a reckless boy was riding or swiftly he had not time to get out of the way, there was a harness on the horse which struck him on the left eyebrow he fell on the back of his head was faint and could not see for a few minutes, was helped into the nearest building, which was a store, he soon revived and in about an hour was able to walk home, tho had he known how much he was hurt he would not have done it; he would not admit for some time that he ought to have a doctor or give up work and he did not till near the middle of Dec. tho he had suffered excruciating pain in his head and was fast losing his mental as well as physical ability. His Physicians found his case a very difficult one, to form any opinion of, as they could not ascertain what the injury was, how much was due to his nervous constitution; he did not grow better tho some days he suffered less - was able to sit up some, and walk out a little, was taken out to ride two or three times. The day after Christmas he grew worse had a dreadful night in the morning had a nervous Paralysis and was unconscious nearly thirty hours. They then telegraphed to us that he could live but a short time I started in less than two hours after receiving the despatch, and found him just coming to consciousness, and for a few days he seemed so much better that I came home, as I had left too hastily to stay long; I remained at home three weeks hearing every few days that he was worse, then that he was a little better. I then went to them again and staid four weeks, - and O how much he suffered: several times we thought he was almost gone, then he would rally and we would hope he might be better. I came home thinking he might live sometime, tho I had but little hope of his recovery after I left he was more comfortable so that his Physician said he felt encouraged, but the next day he was worse, and

after suffering dreadfully for two or three days he was released from pain and sorrow. A great part of the time he was unable to talk; his brain was affected in some way so that he could not think of the words to express his ideas, he seemed to know what he wished to say, and it was very painful to see him so weak so suffering yet himself unsuccessfully, in trying to make us understand what he wished to say. He was very patient and calm for one who suffered so much; was much of the time hopeful of life as we were, but when he thought he should not live was very calm and said at one time he was "going home, and was happy; he said he would like to live for the sake of his family, and to help support the Government; but he seemed willing his Saviour should do with him as he saw best. He died the morning of the 29th Feb. a week ago this morning. His funeral was on Wednesday William G. Libbie and myself went there, the day before the funeral and my husband went and returned the day of the mournful ceremony; as he could not leave home longer I left Libbie to stay awhile with them. William and myself returned on Thursday. I should have written to you sooner but have had too much to do about home; I have been gone so much; we do not keep any girl this winter, and now that Libbie is gone I have only Sarah to assist me; we hire our washings. I had a letter from our dear Sister Fanny last week giving the sad intelligence of the death of her dear Charlie; he died of fever at Camp Burnside. She will probably write you the particulars. I think I have not written to you since the death of William Perkins wife; our lovely and beloved Martha. We had but one visit from her, but she endeared herself to us by her goodness of heart and sweet disposition. She died very suddenly in her confinement. She left no living child - tho she had been twice married. Poor Will feels her loss very deeply. He had lived several years without a home was very happy in his home, had just the one to suit him -- but is now broken up and broken hearted: so the cup of sorrow passes around.