

Cusketon May 6th 1868.

My dear Sister Mary

Have you concluded that you are never to have another letter from me? I did not think when Lucy received your and Sarah's letter I should wait so long; but my sickness last fall left, or rather did not entirely leave me, for many months ~~anxiously~~ but almost every week through the winter, I had ill turns, and I could not feel like writing, until lately I begin to fear my friends will forget that I still live, and love them and have no notion of being forgotten by them. Nearly all the letters I have written lately, are to friends far away, whom I have not seen for a long time, and I fear never will see in this world. Yourself and our daughter Mary are the greatest distance away, she is at Santiago. She begins to feel that is much more to give up her friends with little hope of returning, than she seemed to feel when she left us. She is very happy in her husband's society and in her little girl and they love their work and have no wish to leave it; they have as yet but made a beginning in teaching and preaching, but hope for a gradual advancement in both.

I received a letter from Sister Eliza last week. Her health has been very poor the last winter, but was rather improving when she wrote. Elisabeth who was married a year last March was confined in April, her infant did not live. She lives near her Father's, which is a great comfort to Sister. I should judge Edwards wife is not quite as interesting as her Sister in law. She was young and had not advantages equal to her need. She has her hands full, has had 4 boys the oldest 4th years old. Charles is in the army, where so large a part of our young and middleaged men are being sacrificed. Charles Duncan is also in the army. No other of either of our Sisters sons have gone. I have heard that Sister Fanny has not been well the past winter, but have had no letter from her. We had a nice long visit from Sister Sarah the last of the winter. Dr Edward was here with her part of the time; her health was poor which was one reason of her coming, as she wished for medical care. She was better when she went home, but she is apt to overdo and bring on old troubles. She regards Dr Perkins very much more favorably than she used to, there is I think perfect confidence in him as a Physician and affection for him as a friend. Edward has better health and spirits than he used to; I think it strange your letters to them and from them should so many times miscarry. Ammie has gone to Chanhassett Long Island to teach.

My good Husband is now in Burlington giving his annual course of Lectures. His health has not been as good as usual the ^{past six months,} he does a great deal of business. Gridley's death was a terrible affliction to him and to his wife & children and to us all. I think his Father has such deep, tender sorrow for him that it has affected his health, tho he never displays his feelings as some do, but it sinks deep. I suppose Mr Wozatt told you all the particulars of Gridley's death so I will not write more. By the way, - You said in your letter that Mr W. said he offered to take a Package to you from us: - When he was getting ready to go at the time he was intercepted; he said he could not take any thing larger than a letter with Photographs tho I plead for room to take something which we might make that would be pleasing to us to do and to you it to receive; and when he called 2 or 3 days before he went he gave us permission for L. to send any thing more. I wish we had as many opportunities to send to you as we would if you lived in California. Fessie Smith, Dr. Smith's youngest daughter who was married last fall to a Minister whose name is John Smith is now preparing to go with her Husband to Syria. They will leave the 20th of this month. Her Mother is very much unreconciled to it.... We have just had news from our army in Virginia disaster and retreat is the word, to-day. - we have been hoping that General Hooker would be more successful than his predecessors, but probably there have been traitors at work as usual. -
~~Just~~ I suppose you will get the papers when you get this letter so I will not write more - as we may have something better in a few days; but we hope for

We are expecting Joseph home soon. He enlisted a little before
Gridley was killed, in the same Reg. but did not go till Oct. His health
is not good enough for service. Libby is teaching the small scholars
in the Public School in this place. Lucy has not yet obtained a situation
that suits her, but hopes to soon. We have not kept a hired girl for the
past six months; our three girls have found enough to busy themselves.
Cousin H. Higley and family are well Emma is at home. Edwin is in Ox
William and his family are well as usual. Corn is doing well in business
has paid for his place, and I think has done well considering he had
no capital to start with. It is so long since you left here you
would see many changes, and still you would see many old friends who
would grasp your hand with pleasure. ^{Uncle} Mrs. Griswold (Charlette Peaver) has very
poor health, I have not seen her for some time but hear from ^{her} often. Terusha, has
3 daughters the youngest about a year old. Edmund Flagg and family have
returned to West Rutland to live with Mr. Pearson, at his urgent request.
I have not seen them yet; we have had a cold spring it is now raining
unpleasant weather. Eliza Foot is still at the Inmate Asylum at Utica.
It is a sad case. I hope you will write to me soon and tell me all you
can on paper about yourself and family and all that interests you. I always
feel dissatisfied after I have written it so little and measure to what we would
say could we meet. Give much love from us all to all yours. I am sorry
Dr. Perkins cannot get time to write to Dr. Lyman but he has little leisure
and often says what he most desires is rest. He thinks of you with love
and kindest wishes. I send you something to show you the work Time
has been doing for me. I am sorry I cannot send you the Dec. copy but
I hope he will have time to sit for his before long. Yours as ever
with true affection John Perkins.