

Mother 1853

Ruby November the 26. 55

Dear Mother. It is a long time since I received a letter from you but those from the boys always give satisfaction & comfort to your old & aged family. My last to you just - which was addressed to Amanda was never received as Raymond informed me. Amanda is a great favourite with them they frequently speak in the highest terms of her many excellent qualities. They describe her all that a woman should be. I desire that you return to her my warmest thanks for her kindness to them. It is now five months since I received their last communication, this causes me uneasiness particularly as Raymond has been so thoughtful as to write hitherto once a month. They wrote last from Portland whence I suppose they embarked for California since which time no tidings has arrived from them. I look with intense anxiety to the arrival of every mail latterly conveying bad news such as cholera, disaster to vessels and Indian wars especially in Oregon. All conspiring to excite alarm. While they remained in Oregon I felt perfectly satisfied but since they went to the land of great many fearful forebodings as to their fate harass my imagination. Still I trust them to Providence who has always as I believe cared for all my children. They wrote at one time they might return home this fall and again that they had concluded to ^{remain} ~~remain~~ ^{again} ~~again~~ I hope you will not delay writing, as I expect you are apprised of this

locality at least. We have had a fine summer
and fall, corn crops are excellent except in low lands
where it was injured by the rain which fell in great
quantities during the early part of summer. Your Papa
thinks he never raised better, he has just disposed of his hogs
at 6, 34 cents per hundred meat, 25 in number, averaging
200, 50 lbs at 18¢ in the city. Corn is 40 cents and
wheat 1.75 cts, vegetables though raised in greater
abundance, bear high prices. The foreign element
in consequence of the war which is likely to be protra-
cted on it is thought, will continue to enhance
the price of our staple articles. The dirty people are still
doing well. E. H. Gaston has two daughters by his last
wife, Sam Gray continues to live in stile and act
the dishonest part when opportunity is offered by
misplaced confidence, or otherwise. E. H. Gaston who has
been Esq. for a number of years and is I presume posted in
such matters, says your account can be collected with
intrest by any person you wish. Sam has outlived
all his friends, if he ever had any which is somewhat doubtful.
He cheated a doctor twice out of three months of his
news paper and attempted the same fraud with Frank.
he is far from a reliable Post Master and got the office
by falsely representing E. H. his predecessor.

Sewell is in Minneapolis engaged in the St Paul
Democrat, gets 15 dollars per week and has entered some
land, Mr Carroll has just returned from that region
but I have not seen him since his return. Victor and
he have been buying land in Iowa, for speculation.

I suppose Wilson Pottenger and his brother are selling goods on a large scale in Canada, they procured their fall stock in New York. Wilson rents his farm for 300 per year. They call their last boy Payaraus. Jacob has sold out his printing establishment to E. P. Taylor, his former partner, I have not heard his intention or prospects for the future nor do I know why he has abandoned the press, his paper had a good circulation and was as proved by various notices addressed to the journal since his valedictory appeared by his contemporaries of the press, a useful and ably conducted periodical. Deaton is going to school from Ellens and Clayton from Ohio, they have sent their adopted daughter Elvira Banolt east to be educated. Our family once so large is now reduced indeed, only two, Franklin who was a baby when you left and Cora our present baby eight years old, are all we have at home at present. It has so happened that Corwin is decidedly the most beautiful of the boys, ~~he~~ reads in the third reader, writes remarkable for a child, and is beginning to cipher. Our school is good or at least should be, the assistant is receiving 80 dollars per quarter. ^{Tom} David has been engaged since last spring in E. H. Gas store, he is the most delicate of our boys. David Griggs is about moving to his new home or more properly his old one, being part of your Grand Pappas Indian Creek farm it was when sold by David Dietz divided the part bordering on Davis's is David's situation it was bought with your Aunt Priscilla's Dower the butchery are good fifty five dollars per acre was paid for it

Your Aunt Priscilla's health is better than she has
enjoyed in two years. Cregg's family are doing
very well. The new Universalist meeting house at ^{North} ~~Frank~~
is finished in good style and has a respectable con-
gregation. Ellen and John are zealous members.

Mrs Harris who I believe was a widow when you
left home was recently married to Dr. King.

John Gaston is also married he is a blacksmith
and resides in Illinois. Your Aunt Rebecca
is about building a new house. She lately purchased
some 10 or 12 acres of land from Charles, who is married
and has a daughter. Priscilla is married also I have
not seen either of them since. Griffin carries on two
team yards at Eaton and Eleanor, also a shoe and
leather store. Lucy resides with him. Willard, Olivia
and Ann are at home but I expect I am telling you
of children of whose existence you never heard
I might doubtless tell you of many things more
interesting if I could summon them to memory.

But my sheet is filled and the shades of evening
warn me that it is time to make a fire in the
stove, having no one to assist me at this time.
It is four o'clock and I have bread and min-
nies to bake for supper. So good evening.

and do not fail to reply on receiving this
I think you had better bid adieu to that land
of Indian troubles many places are quite as
good and far safer. My love to all. E. J. Kees.
Willard H. Kees.