

Berlin Ap. 4th 1851.

To the Lyman Family.

Doubtless you are interested in H. S. Lyman & a word from me may not be out of place as to his behaviour. I am sometimes alarmed at his conduct. Perhaps, if I had known him in his earlier years these things would not cause anxiety.

Whether it is mental aberration or a monomania I am not decided. The indications of this peculiar malady were first developed about six weeks ago.

First he took to turning up his pants & sewing labels on the pieces. So far no harm was done for the pants were grey with age but imagine my surprise when he walked the gentleman shortly afterwards, with a bundle of cloth on his shoulder & he set to cutting it ⁱⁿ fragments after the fashion of the labeled parts of the old pants. Then having gathered needles, thread & other accoutrements, he set to putting these pieces together. First he made two bags then sewed them together & made the coat that he had a new pair of pants.

Last winter we had a howling dermish here. Since then he at times imagines that he is a howler & I assure you he does not deceive himself. There is no

of his being carried off with a lung disease.

Usually before going to bed as he reviews the events of the day he beats his breast with such energy that our hall resounds again the blows. He wishes to revive the abuses of the Catholic church, taking all these means to afflict his righteous soul for imaginary sins.

So far it has been quite safe to live with him, he being content with his own penances. But if he should attempt to take one to task for I may have to appeal to the authorities for protection.

I can testify that he has a strong arm & a heavy hand. It fell on me once or twice. I thought it might be advisable to ask how you managed him when he took those streaks. Perhaps you will think it a favour if I take him in hand to control his wanderings?

With many apprehensions

G. J. Powell.