Dear Susan, Luly & Elizabeth

March 25th 1844

Would that instead of writing you, I could see you face to face, and relate to you the different scenes through which we have passed within a few weeks. God in his providence has been pleased to afflict us in ways we least expected. The last day of December we started from China and arrived at our home the last day of January fatigued and glad to find a home even in the wilderness. We found a comfortable house and well filled, we were all together for the first time for four years and anticipated a great deal of pleasure in each others society.

But God had marked out a different course for us. On the thirteenth of March Father stuck the axe in his foot, but we thought the wound was not dangerous until a few days before he died. We then sent to Houlin after a Doctor but could not get any, we then sent to the river about fifty miles distant, but before he had time to get there it was too late. The cause of his death was bleeding, he bled twelve times after he cut him and the first time it was thought he bled eight quarts. He was so reduced that he could be moved only on a sheet the rack before he died. He suffered a great deal the week before he died but was insensible the greater part of the time. The last moments of his life were peaceful and he died without a struggle. Friday
March sixteen minutes past two the twenty-sixth day of March. Thus I see my cousins how suddenly we are deprived of our dear father and it would seem at a time when we most needed his prayers and his aid in this wilderness among strangers, without the privileges of the people or any of its attendant blessings.

It was indeed hard to see him languish day after day for the want of medical aid and at last to lie for the want of proper treatment. Did I not believe that God's overruling hand was in it, it seems as if I could not bear it. But I know it is the Lord and that he does not afflict willingly, therefore I desire to be submissive to his will and to make a right improvement of this solemn providence, but I fear and tremble lest I shall not humbly assent to the corruptions of my heart.

I know dear cousins we have your sympathies and prayers and likewise those of your dear mothers and that does us some good. You don't know how much we long to see your faces once more before you can come and see us. I should think and stay at least six months. Mother is well and bears her trouble as well as we would expect. My health has been very poor but the week past I have felt much better and am in hopes I shall yet well again. George is here but starts today for Bangor after Hannah, I shall be obliged to send this by nine whether I finish it or not for I may not have another opportunity for weeks.

We live here much better than we expected it is very
pleasant or will be I think in the Summer. The people here have shown us no little kindness in our trouble. We found Christians to pray with us and we felt it a great consolation — John Fry has died since we left China. Lucy Runnells has put an end to her life, she wrote letters to her friends stating that she was weary of life the evening previous to her committing the dreadful deed. She appeared as usual except rather less spiritied at times. It is the most unaccountable thing I ever heard of.

They say her Father is the most distressed man they ever saw. Her Brother is perfectly calm. She is not in her right mind it is thought.

Mrs. Hammel visited us last Fall she wanted me to say to your Brother she had visited her old habitation and the grave of her husband and wished to be remembered to you all. George is ready to start and I must close. Give my love to your Brother to Owen and John. I want you all to write as soon as you can. Remember us daily in your prayers I entreat you and if we never meet on earth may we meet in Heaven at least is the prayer of your affectionate Cousin A. Brackett.
Hampton County  April 1, 1871

My dear Methin Lovejoy

Your kind letter was duly received and would have been answered immediately if I had been able. I have been deeply afflicted the past winter and will give you a brief account. In the first place you know something of the hostility which Selena and mother felt in regard to Mr. Lovejoy and the Antislavery cause. Another thought best to keep it more to her self than Selena with the hopes of reclaiming me from my ways as she supposed. This I heard that she expressed a desire and determination to go with her and could not be contented to do otherwise; so she was my mother I felt it my duty to do all in my power to make her happy, when my hours began to fell with boundless they were of course about the time she considered a disagree to herself and Selena consequently she persecuted me all she could which was not a little, she required me to renounce my Antislavery principles on she would not live with me I always told her I could not as I did not done
to do such a wicked thing, sometimes in January my mind and body sunk under my trials for I did receive any thing but reproaches from her and threats that it would be my destruction if she should be obliged to leave us. I tried to reason the case with her but it did no good. My sickness was an attack of the brain, I was in fits and tremors. The first ten days, I did not expect to live neither could I if she had not got some little relief it brought me very low indeed. For ten weeks I was only lifted from the bed by the persons who were with me. I could not bear my light duties. This sickness made me not come near me only three or four times when I was first taken she said it was all the doing of the abolitionists she suspected they would kill me. 

Mr. Wells remained with me and nursed me faithfully and suffered every thing on my account. [Name] was extremely fond of me. She said every thing she could to injure him, soon as I could be moved on a bed I was removed to a place where the people were good to me. The disease began to take possession of me and to go back to St. Charles and to take these steps the Vigilant committee of the city whose business it is to look after these cases presented the case to the court. As [Name] had not commenced her the court promised them free and afforded a good deal. He then took possession of them, he refused and went to the court with Mr. Wells. The men were sent into Kentucky, and lodged them. He had a real bad man who said she did not know the abolitionists had got them. She did not know. When they were she found that the man was obliged to appear and give an account being summoned to appear before the court. She went over into Kentucky herself, with [Name] you see.
commit the ground on which the girls now live was
used to be a time when it appeared as if the west
over the air all she could do to excite and inflame
the minds of the slaveholders against the abolitionist
she told them how I had abused her, and was engaged in
in helping my wife's relatives from their state of
society. She did not appear much at all. Norris, the man
who was assisting her, he was doing all he could to raise a
party and succeed but
shortly to a merciful God. They were not permitted
to shed blood. The most attached the committee
of Weller and those that went one day they never
saw. a more unfeeling mob at noon day. They
affected to be torn to pieces, in this time of efermen
ment against the abolitionists. Mather & Beale
must down. The river a bear with the girls and
took a boat. The news abounded after word
the girls are again slaves notwithstanding a
law of any of the states would free them. It
not be even attempted without raising a
the slaveholders are so sensitive in regard
to any abolition movements that they will not
listen to any. They for that greater, Mather
stands now committed as a Radnor & ad is at
the mercy of this committee by the laws of
this it is a precipitating offense. Now my son
Mather I will leave you to imagine what my
feelings and struggles have been. Surely all
this is in my low state of health. I could
not say one word to facilitate or defend my mother
or ought against great justice being inflicted
if the cause demanded it, even should it be
done at the sacrifice of my own life. This thought
is appalling. Were she should be impressed for
life to hard labor, then is a great consolation
in the midst of all this. The Lord he cares, thus
there has been a great support he will lead the
world of men to praise him as the remainder we
will restrain) I am now twelve miles from the city trying to get some tetter strength it would give me much pleasure to visit you but with my present state of health I wrote not close to go into Ill this summer I am perfectly satisfied and regard to its being more in uprightness with the same I do not expect to go out of this state this summer I expect to go to hectic Bushalls must wait the resides at the northernd I mean General Harisons I will continue to take about journey I think I will go to Stinson or some other place in the state when I return from your will find you quite a long way I wish you could see how I am in hopes you may after long do write me soon as you receive this and I was answer you writ out delay if I have the thought I wish I could get a letter from John I wrote him last I do not know what to think about him give my love to the girls I wonder if they ever expect to write me again I found Milton did not and will answer him But the letter is yet still will he and will answer me the estate day out well be out and was out to see me the estate day out well be out and much to hate me to the estate my heart is full of I have not said half I wish I wish I will wait a little more my wish you well and pray you as the pray of young Affie will the Lord
Dear bro. John,

I was almost about to write the last paragraph when the last postcard from John the elder was received, and my informant said she had received it, as I have been unusually engaged. I have not found time to write. I must content myself now with answering the business part of it. As to the time and trouble we can make it out in some way if you come over. But how will you drive them? You cannot take them along with you. I wish you could get some good horse also. It is very desirable to get a good horse. It makes all the difference in the world if you will want something to get you steps to the farm. If you can get a good horse to work in a printing office for a while, I can advise the time I should think would be the best time to get them ready to work in the Spring. You must make arrangements to make the best of your going, so I think that will be the most profitable. I was told that a man in that country earned $600 to $800 per year. If you can make half that, it will be a good business. I have never had a bargain for any one, but there will be some when you come over. I hope you are taking good care of your horses, as I will help them in good care, so that they will do well when they come.

Give them a little warm water when they are kept inside with a little mixture of molasses. If you have it, or mix it with others if they do not have it. I think that you had better not form any partnership with you, but keep all your things over, and divide what you raise from them. The improvements you make according to what you do. Not gold, I hope your prosperity is what you want.
will be sufficient to help you there, & to you can have that entirely separate. As to the travel & the other impossibility of course you must help him get so many as will fall to his share or compensate him in some other way. This way you can look together to get in the grain & at the end of the year close your accounts together. As to helping the crop this winter of course you must make some arrangement for that also. I think probably you can make an arrangement, that you can all together for the present, but I would not lay my plans too long. I think farmers miss it especially in getting a good deal of land & keeping to little such stock such as cattle & sheep & hens. If you keep a good many cows, it will be less well for you & more profitable, & more easily disposed of if you should wish to do so. Mind & tell your wife of what you have. We have had some very severe weather & March is a trying month for cattle. Are your cows all with calf? If you must make bookings from them next Spring & Summer & fall.

Mother I think you are about the time of coming over. Mother Time is not the 31st of Apr. March, but that will be a bad time to come, especially to get your cattle over. How did you intend to manage about that? You must learn to plan & not depend upon your aged lady, my son,

There was a man from Pennsylvania. Long time was sold corn before to Mr Turner (the old man), he wanted to know when he was & whether he could any land out him in Henry County. He sold the second on credit & was asking about his pay. I had forgotten when he lasted last letter to me, but promised to write to you about it. If you know any thing or are disposed to inquire you can do so, at any rate you can write me his address. So you expect him on there in the Spring? If so you will remember
The conversation of the Samaritan woman.

There's some unusual feeling on the subject of religion his on friends. The situation is more clear, I than have been several conversions, among them the Mrs. Pendergast who lived here. The girl now is Julia Hitchen, but I hope it will continue to spread. There is an effort nothing to write the thing, but this does not last well with it. I have been the usual Gray, to the time of the letter be a reminder. I really believe there is not one thing so promising times as those have been and may. I asked you a description I had made up my mind to go over with you but the time was unwilling for me to do it. I thought it was not duty, but I stay for the present.

Mother's health is pretty good. I mean all well. I have not told you or Elizabeth of the Called of your kingdom. So if you are passed to keep counsel you can do it. I am not doing quite as cheap as I expected. Though I could not have your much money it would seem. Commit your ways unto the Lord, the will direct your footsteps. I would like that we might all be together. Especially I want to make a home for mother. Can't even do that when we make

Nothing from Joseph except in the goods. I said now the plan. About seven thousand Abolitionists votes were cast for Frederick. The same as would not have to beat your brains. All sure love, or would if I was an arm. I dare say. Me bestow and respect.

If you want any thing like me know

Affectionate greetings

Owen Conjour
Lodi Nov. 4, 1841.

My dearest Mother.

John received a letter from Oman yesterday in which was the pleasing news that Oman had another baby. But he gave us some of the particulars relative to the matter, only that she was well which was the most important to him, but I shall expect a minute account from you hand. What kind of a time, what for a looking baby is the as promising as Austin. What is the color of his eyes, hair, what features, whom does he resemble, is he bright and active? Delig the must train them right and begin as soon.

Noah fell very sick. I expect two boys in one year and a half. He is fulfilling the command given to his command of love to the letter here.

John says you must call them Ellen and Ellen. Did you see another at his flight? I should like to have them there to show by. I am not much disappointed in not being there. I know the journey well to think he would court it. Such things would have been exceedingly gratifying to know. You use time I know this time of year it would be very unpleasant coming,

John is not married yet. When he will be I do not know but think likely in a few weeks. I have not heard from him, no word about the subject of Owen’s letter that presume they will write this opinion is full to them.

And now Mother I have something more curious yet to say. I am thinking about getting married. I have any lean in that the "No child" you will say, provided you get a good husband. This that is to be proven yet.
What is his name? Who is he? What is his business? His name John Agy. Blackwed a Bache [illegible] strongly from New York, a Farmer, Congregationalist, Emigrant Man. and abolitionist. He is a kind affectionate disposition. I think, common sense unless I am deceived which is possible to be sure. A good manager industrious刻苦 diligent. I doubt not make a kind affectionate husband. Provide the good things of this life in abundance not gratuitously. To read and observe men and things understands him as well

As to his person about 5 feet high, well proportioned. Blue eyes, dark hair, appears decently well. He is a faithful description of the man and now to what say you? To have weighed the matter in reference to this world and the next I hope and have concluded to accede to the proposition with your consent and approval. If you do this assent which I expect you will, as you say you with I was married, it will probably be got along with pretty soon. I should prefer going to Princeton on some account. But his health not very firm and I dread the journey at this season. Also, Mr. B is very busy. Bishing and it would be quite inconvenient. But he is very urgent to be married as he has no friends there and is not a town. He says he has been well old enough to think.

If the things work we shall go down in the Spring and then Mother that want you to come those with us. There is to be a room on purpose for your comfort.

The case is now fairly before you. My dear Mother Brother Sister and I want to have your approval or disapprove as the case may be. I think I shall be happier for the rest of I know shall.
You will please write your opinion without any delay, as I wish to know how to shape my future course. John is very unwilling to have me leave here this winter. He wants me to learn about how to work Yankee fashion. We have preaching every third Sabbath the minister a congregation which has gone to be ordained, a very good preacher. So you see we are making some improvement. There have been three houses erected in this neighborhood since I have been here and another about to be.

Dear Mother:

As to your letter, rather auspicious news there in Princeton that we cannot take care of ourselves up here I thought I would add a few words by way of improvement to a letter telling all about the description of the subject of the tenderash front. I do not know if I can take ought from it or add any to it, but guess it is about right. You will no doubt feel somewhat surprised, but it is only the fulfillment of the old adage, "It is a long lane that never turns," and for that I am concerned. I hope not the least objection in the world, and presume you will have none. I shall write to Queen about yours soon. Yours Love,

[Signature]

All Sissy I shall want that dress and those night caps I expect when I go down which will be in May probably. O Mother I wish you was here to advise and direct me in the right way though I might not heed it as I think give my love to Mrs. DeKuman Eliza, Lucy and all the folks. That engine after the Kiss little Austin and the half and Samuel for that Sipple place next the subject of this letter.
Providence. May 21, 1845
My dear Mr. Allen,

After hearing the news of your recent call to duty, I cannot express the deep concern and sympathy I feel for you. Your sacrifice and dedication to the cause of human freedom are a constant inspiration to me.

Believing that the salvation of the poor and oppressed is a cause dear to the heart of Christ, I urge you to continue in your noble work. Your efforts in behalf of the oppressed and the neglected are a testament to the power of love and compassion.

May God's blessings be upon you and your work. May your strength be renewed and your resolve unshaken.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
My dear—Dear sir,

I received your note from the hands of my servant, who wrote to inform me that you were in the city.

I write to inform you of the receipt of your letter, which was written in the most genteel and polite manner, and which I read with the greatest attention.

I am now engaged in a business which has occupied my time and attention for some time past, and which I hope will be completed in a few days. I shall be delighted to hear from you again, and to receive any information you may have to communicate.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

John Doe

P.S. I must add that I have been informed that you have been in Paris lately, and that you have been engaged in a very agreeable occupation.
By this you will perceive that the justice has returned, I visited your box at last week, it was very refreshing to meet with him, like water to the thirsty. My heart, I spent a Sabbath with him, no doubt he has written. Since I was there, I want to see you, every moment, I will come up early. If I could I can.

I mean some clothing for the printing house, and your little brush of it with a bundle from your box—I wish I could deliver them to you, you can do with it just as you please, only let it be found in Canada for the friend's last will at all times be ready to furnish us clothing as we may. Make our dear to know, I have some promises for the spring trade; I rejoice at your deliverance from the wrinkle. I believe of your enemies in the recent indictment, I am very much disposed of practice at the result. I could not believe any other results than fairly in your case. And the Lord is on our side. Why should we fear. What man can do.

I can but feel that the decision in your case must affect the interest of our severely. Can I more than any thing in this for some time, I wish you would write me your opinion about our establishing a road from Saro through our place to Princeton, or some where in that direction. To Dispersoona. I now not to a certainty what will be the views of Joseph on this subject, but suppose his hatred to the Mississippi and would prompt him in this thing to prophesy immediate efficient action, to determination, that and a man be left there to tule the soil, or carry a cup of cold water.
I have made up my mind to effect the establishment of this route if the friends do not advise otherwise. The route from Quincy now is no longer pubic. That there are many watching it, and some change must take place, I expect to set down on the route from Rochester to Quincy soon, and distribute clothing there by, this will be a voluntary agency, as well as that of procuring all the East to.

To Lovey, I can hardly tell what I have written to you for it is quite half past six, I was expecting some to go to the salt to dig, I endeavored to affect something I have been to bed, so completely employed that I could not set a moment to direct to you. It has all been grown out of the fact that the barrier of this was about to leave Earle, Monday, Monday I wished to find you the bundle from your room, and with it I have run you some clothing for the poor latter.

If you need more for yourself I will send you some shortly if it arrives. I suppose it is at Chicago.

In haste hast your for the map.

Yours for the map

R.D. Benson

Write soon
Canton, October 7, 1840

My Dear Sister:

Your letter dated the fourth of August, came to hand last week and found me lying upon a bed sick from which I have hardly arisen for two months. I was taken sick the latter part of July with the fever and ague and have had it constantly since. And what is added to this I had a corn burn about three weeks since, which burns before its time and it does three days after its birth. But I am not helpless upon my bed and do not require your strength at all. Mr. Blackstock and the children have also been sick. It is a good sign of the time, and at it was impossible to hire a girl and where we have suffered a good deal for the want of care and assistance. You have heard before that Mr. Blackstock and the children were sick last fall and these facts together with circumstances must be my apology for not writing because I presume they will explain it.

You will suppose, of course, that I am very much relieved by any thing which has been the case. You would hardly know one as the same person I once was. It should be glad to have you here once again. I am doing accounts, but suppose that you are more comfortable where you are than the country here for the last two years.
I am not able to write or even dictate to do business. I am not able to write or even dictate to do business.

Give my love to all the folks and kiss the children for me.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

If these things from the past can be used by mail, you may send them to the place directed by me.