

Holton Jackson Co Kansas  
Mr Andrew & Fletcher } Feb 9th 1875  
Mrs Ruth, A. Fletcher } Belvidere Vt

Dear Uncle and Aunt

Without doubt you will be surprised to receive a letter from one whom you have not heard from for years that are past and gone; and I confess that I feel a certain degree of embarrassment in the attempt. It will not however surprise you if I overcome such obstacles when I tell you that with my little family I am as it were a stranger in a strange land with "no kindred nor relative nigh". Doubtless you heard of Father's death (he died (if I am mistaken not) March 8th 1868. After settling the Estate (as his Executor) I removed to Kansas arriving at Atchison Dec 23rd 1869. Sister Verona died Nov 22nd 1872 and thus you see that I am the only one of my Father's family living. Is it any wonder then that I should feel lonely; and more especially so when I have no family relatives near me. Well now I am in the 45th year of my age and as I look back upon the years that are past since a child of nine years I left the hills and valleys of Vermont what changes have been wrought in my life and doubtless in yours also. Ah! I was a wayward boy but I trust that the changes that have been wrought by Divine Grace in me have not been in vain. I have now been engaged in the ministry upwards of 18 years in the interests of the Baptist Church.