

Craftsbury Nov: 1st 1840

Mrs R. A. Fletcher

I have been a little surprised at not hearing from you - and yet my surprise has abated in some measure when I think of the connecting circumstances - Perhaps you have not rec^d. my letter dated, I believe about the 18th of Sept last. If you have not rec^d. the letter, that will at once account for my not receiving any from you, and presuming that is the fact is one principal reason why I shall trouble you with a few lines at this time -

About the 17th day of Sept if I am not mistaken Mrs. Ellenwood & Mrs. Wyatt came here and wished to take Mary away from Mercy and carry her to Canada to live with Mrs. Wyatt, and go to school - I did not know what to do about giving my consent - to have her go upon any terms. I knew nothing of the character or ability of Mrs. W - Mercy was all in favor of the project and I consented that she might take her upon the following conditions - That she should carry Mary down to you and if you thought it best for her to go she might take her if she would keep her and school her all the time until I should see fit to call for her - provide her with clothes and all necessaries and send her back here free of expence when I saw fit to send for her - and Mrs. Ellenwood to be surety that these terms should be strictly complied with. With these conditions they seemed well pleased and I wrote a letter to you stating the facts which letter they were to deliver to you, and Mrs. W. professed to have no fears about your giving your consent - in which letter I requested you to write me immediately the result and in case you did not give your consent I requested you to keep Mary until I called for her - you perceive that I have written much here that I might omit in case you have rec^d. the letter - Before the said Ladies left town Mrs. Wyatt told me she rather thought she should not take Mary, because Mercy had got a promise from her to bring Mary back or let her have her when she should call for her - and she might not be able to comply with Mercy's order and these conditions upon which she obtained my consent - and she next move was that Mary should be permitted to visit Johnson - This I could not deny in reason for a Great Aunt wanted to see her - and they agreed that you should be informed of Mary's being there, and that you would take her from there when she had made a visit - all this you perhaps know or perhaps not - for Mrs. Wyatt took charge of the letter and agreed in case you did not visit you in person to leave the letter in your neighborhood where you would soon get it - Well the case stands thus I have not heard from you - but have learned that Mrs. Ellenwood, Mrs. Wyatt, Great Aunt's children started for Canada about the 22nd or 23rd day of Sept - That the Select Men of Johnson told Mrs. Ellenwood that that she was the only legal guardian of the children and that my consent or authority was nothing worth - that it was her duty to see to and provide for the children - If this is the case - Why does she not see to the property here belonging to the children - It would relieve me of a great burthen for I am tugging along with all my might to save the farm for them -