

Craftsbury July 2nd 1843.

Mr. A. B. W. R. Fletcher.

Much Respected Friends.

I rec^d. with much gratification your letter of May 25th / 43. the 26 day of June. And this circumstance, I must plead as an excuse for your not receiving any return at an earlier period. Why a letter should be a whole month in coming is not for me to say. You will probably expect an apology from us for not visiting you. Be assured that it was not because we have not often planned and made calculations for a visit. But the probable cause was because we never, in fact, started. We intended to have gone down by Wheeling, but Martha's health was poor for some time. She was quite sick for a few weeks commencing about the 20th June, this put her work behindhand and it was determined to go in the winter and carry Cornelius & Levi without fail as soon as the new clothes were made up. but the great thaw come on just as I was on the point of starting a journey which I was obliged to make to the south part of the state. And as soon as the roads would permit, I was off, absent two weeks, got home about the last days of Oct^r. Just as the great snows commenced. The result is well known. and still we are planning a visit with as much certainty of performing, as though we had never been disappointed in our anticipations. But wife gives up the idea of a visit until after haying. And if life & health permit, we intend to visit you as early in the fall as possible.

You will expect me to write all the news. but I hardly know what would be news, and what would not. I will scratch my head and try to think of every thing that would be interesting. And first, the children and our own family enjoy good health, or at least our usual health. I attended meeting at ~~W~~cott near Davenport's today and saw Cornelius. You are probably aware that he lives with David Adams. He is well contented, and I believe has as good a place as could be obtained any where. His grandman did not like it very well that I did not send him to her brother Mills, however managed so to explain as to escape a flogging. We think Levi's health is improving slowly. Mercy was here a few days ago and decided that he was straighter, etc. &c. Did you know that she is married again? If not this will be news that she was married to a man in Lowell^{ts}. name of Crocker. 13th March last. She moved her goods a few days since. She says she has no things belonging to the children. but she has some things that the children shall have when she thinks they are old enough to take care of them ~~for~~. the farm remains unsold and the rent almost all in arrears. though we believe it secure. but the hard times has prevented a collection of the demands. so that I have not rec^d. enough to pay the interest due to Jas Coburn, this operates rather against my interest. I hope to see you before long and then I can tell you of many things which is not convenient at this time and in this way.