

I shall not forget
this day as a
thing to be looked
forward to and
arranged for as
soon as it can be
done. I had
very great
pleasure to
hear of
And Albert
and I have
always enjoyed
being together
I have not
has been made
I hope you will open to all
most affectionate
Rayson W. G. Mason

Belchertown Mass
July 15th 1872

My dear Uncle

Your letter mailed

June 28th reached me in about
two weeks and I make
haste to reply. Whether you
were indebted to me or not
I am unable to say. As to my
ch. I have not the secure
measure of success to report that
Albert has. He has been longer
in his place. And I came here
directly after a revival as a
result of which 48 were taken
in both ch. There is a healthy
religious state I think but
recently no occasions took

The minds of the people
have been occupied for a
year past in devising means
and executing quite thorough
repairs upon the Ch. edifice
Even remodeling the interior
arrangement very considerably
All this has operated somewhat
against any religious quickening

I have had a ~~great~~ great
deal of work upon my hands
I have attended I think upwards
of 30 funerals since I came
here. 14 ~~to~~ months ago

I have two preaching services
on the Sabbath and a wide
field - I am in rather
better health than a year ago

You are in doubt whether
I am married. Sorry to say
that I am not and no prospect

likelihood of being. Not
that I don't expect to be some
time. But events were with I
had no control have hitherto
prevented and will for months
to come. That "all I can say
now - My pleasure in
visiting you in Oregon will
not be exceeded by you now
in seeing me. I have always
hoped some time to bring it
about and your request and
very kind invitation may
hasten it. I have hoped for
years for a long time that
in some way we might be
permitted to meet. I do
rather it - to be by your
coming East with Aunt &
the Cousins any mail.
if that can be Howard I wish to

That it ^{could} have been before
Father died. He used to think
a great deal of you. But
that part of it is gone.

As to my going, I have
4 weeks vacation. We might
possibly be prolonged if there
were sufficient occasion
whether without my supply
the pulpit - I don't know.

My people are just now
straining every nerve to speak
to put the ch. in good condition
and. I have no reason to
look for any aid from them.

They are not Albert
people! as I am not ^{Albert} ~~Albert~~
He has \$2,100 salary &
reals his parsonage for \$900
I get \$1,300 without a parsonage

nothing new when I settled
up he took off \$55, ^{from the interest} ^{about} ^{of} that
I owe Mr. Lewis \$50 with
4 or 5 years interest
I have paid for life Insurance
during the year \$40, have
loaned Horace \$140, and
have furnished Eunice, who has
been at Mt Holyoke Sem, not
much less than \$150,

So you see that my finances
will not allow of any great
expenditures I need a horse
~~here~~ ~~to~~ ~~buy~~ ~~here~~ very
much and if I ~~do~~ ^{do} ever marry
and begin to keep house you can see
very readily that something must be laid
up ahead for that. I repeat very
sincerely that I must make this self
I hope I may at no distant day look
upon you faces in Oregon or not here
^{that} I don't see how it can finally be done
^{there} ^{now} Will Albert the case might be
very different I don't know what self he will make.

I may work about it

He was often found somebody
to give him one or two hundred
dollars to spend on a vacation
wh. I never knew. & has
been about a good deal -

I have never felt
justified in spending a dollar
just for the pleasure. Except
that some physical or other
good was coming with it
(Don't understand me here to
mean that a trip to Oregon wd
be excused on that principle
(By no means)

This year I have paid
nearly \$300 wh nearly
liquidated my indebtedness
for money borrowed of Mr Edlinton
while in College. I owe him