

Castleton Oct 13, 1860.

My dear Sister

When I received your
last letter, I thought I should have written
to you sooner, but the last few weeks have
been crowded with unusual events, which have
required all my time and strength; and as
our letters do not reach you any sooner if written
the first of the month than if sent within two
days of the twentieth, I have waited till now that
Lucy has been written some time. I will not attempt
to tell you how much I have had to do, and
see to, the year past; it is more than a year since
the repairing and altering our house commenced,
it has been a difficult and tedious job, is not
near done; and in that time we have fitted out
two of our Girls and seen them married. Mary
was married the 20th September. At that time
we supposed they would before this time have
left for South America; but the Society under
whose patronage they go were undecided for some
time, both as to the time of their going, and

place of their location; tho they had expressed
to go to Chili; but they have been persuaded
to go to Peru; and now expect to sail the
11th Nov. I think I wrote you in the Spring,
that Patience was sick. She had a complication of
diseases, was not able to be around much after
the first of June, and it seemed very difficult to
discover what was the most diseased the mind
or the body; both were distressed and she had no
courage to help her up. She grew worse the last
of the Summer, and her disease terminated in a
kind of putrid diarrhea. She died the evening of
the day after Chary was married! You can have
no idea of the strange commingling of the events
of that week; I hope never to see another such
You know Chary was her favorite and we have thought
that tho she was very much pleased with^m thought of
her being married to so good a man (for he is one
of the best) some of her nervous distress might have
been caused or at least aggravated by the trial of having
her go so far from home. But I have another death
to tell you you about. Mrs Morse died a month ago
Patience. She has been feeble for a long time, but was able
to work and visit her friends, until in April she

was taken with Inflammatory Rheumatism which
settled in her knee. She suffered most intensely 4 months
was never able to move herself and much of the time
could not be moved; an abscess formed which discharg^d
a great deal and finally she became dropsical and
and after lingering on the verge of the grave for a long
time she passed away. She was very patient through her
sufferings, had uncommon courage and fortitude and
her death has left a great void she was truly a
kind friend, an exemplary Christian. Uncle Higley
feels her loss very much his health is better than
it was a year ago tho he is subject to sudden illnesses
I hear seldom from Sister Fanny; I believe she
is not in very good health. Annie Denison is here
this term attending school. She had a letter from her
mother yesterday, they are all well. Do you ever
have letters from brother Francis? I seldom do; tho
I hear from him thro others. He has bought a farm
in Decatur a few miles from Palamaroo.
Caroline's father died a few months ago. They
had lived for 2 or 3 years in Palamaroo. John Jay
was here a short time in August he seems to be
a nice little man about as small in stature as any man
I know; he says George is tall and large. George is not man
^(said)

You asked me if you had written to William and his wife since they wrote you - they have not received any letter from you. I was surprised and grieved to receive that letter from Sarah, for it does not seem that you can have a child old enough to write a letter but I will write a little to ~~you~~ and close this very imperfect letter. I have not seen Mr. Marsh or heard any thing from him lately, I hoped to have seen him before his return to Oregon. Give my love to Br. ~~others~~ ^{Brothers} Lyman I would say more to him had I time. Write as often as you can and I will do the same, Your affectionate
John.

My dear Niece I was very glad to receive your nice letter and will write a few lines to you, tho I have not as much leisure a little girls have for writing. I am glad you are such a help and comfort to your Mother, a good child is a great comfort. I think it must be very pleasant where you live. I suppose you have much nicer fruit than we do, and not as much cold weather I should delight to see you all here, and hope we shall some time, though it is a long journey. I think you must take a great deal of comfort with your little brothers and Sister; and ⁱⁿ attending school and I hope you will write to me often. Do you have many flowers? what kinds do you like best? I will send you some Pink seeds which are very pretty. We have no children in our family as young as you are but Gridley has a little girl about your age. You would like to see your cousins in Middlebury, but I presume you would think them rather noisy; they are lively fellows - its it is time for me to go to bed I must close. Please give my love to your Brothers and Sister and believe that I love you all, tho I cannot see you. Your Auntie