

Sheffield Bureau Co. Ill. Dec. 2/05

Dear brother Sarah,

It is a long time since I have either received a letter from you or written one. If my recollection is correct I answered the last letter I received from you. This is my habit and I think I did this after receiving your last letter.

I am now put in mind of the importance of writing you from a recollection that the time for paying taxes is at hand and I shall need the wherewith to pay the taxes on your part as well as those of others.

I gave you a statement as I believe of the amount I paid for you last year. The taxes Federal, State <sup>Hampshire</sup> & local were \$15.18

You were indebted to me on previous yr. 1.25

~~The commission was~~ 2.00

Hampshire Enrollt 2.00

\$16.42

15.00

Cash from you balance due me 1.42

May the Lord bless you and yours in all respects.

Whether the taxes this year will be more  
less I am not now aware. If you send  
me from 15 to 20 dollars I presume it  
will cover the whole. If you could readily  
send in the form of a draft payable in  
N. Y. to my order it would be more  
safe for you than to send Treasury notes.  
I know not whether you have the facility for  
doing so or not.

We are all in comfortable health though  
your sister Catherine has not been really  
well for three or four months I may  
perhaps say six. She is <sup>in</sup> feeble <sup>health</sup> and  
somewhat afflicted with nervousness  
and consequent melancholy. She is  
however better in health now than two or  
three months since. The rest of the  
family are in comfortable health. Emily  
has been afflicted a few days with a  
severe cold and has been quite un-  
well, though she has continued about the  
house. Albert has been unwell some  
time all for a month past he has been  
in a telegraph office making an effort

to learn to telegraph. Last week as you  
know was Thanksgiving week, we received  
a box well filled with clothing on Monday  
from Oswego N.Y. worth some \$150, &  
on Thanksgiving day a barrel from  
Worcester Mass. containing over \$40.  
worth of cloth and the remainder of  
the barrel stuffed with ready made  
clothing. You may be sure in a fan-  
cily like ours with eight children and  
arrivals are thankfully received. It was  
a week of Thanksgiving I assure you  
with us. We had not anticipated but  
one gift of this sort and were not  
in fault for receiving too since we were  
not even asked whether we would have  
the present from Oswego. I suppose it  
was through one of the Secretaries at  
N.Y. that we had this box. The barrel  
came through the Home Missionary a-  
gent at Chicago, Rev. J. E. Roy.

Friday Morn. Dec. 1. Yesterday as you  
recollect is my birth day - fifty years  
old, - a half century, I have seen <sup>had</sup> child

youth and the full age maturity and  
now have come to the point in which  
whether I see it or not there is the decline  
of life. Probably more than two thirds  
of my life have gone never to return.

May my remaining days be more abun-  
dantly useful than those which  
have passed. To-day is the anniversary  
of our second marriage sixteen  
years ago. Many and great favors  
have we received as a family since  
our marriage. Comparatively little sick-  
ness we have had as a family though  
we have not been entirely exempt but  
death has not entered into our win-  
dows we have not been called upon to  
bury any of our number in the grave.

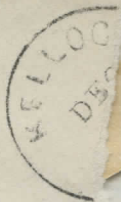
Mr. L. <sup>as before remarked</sup> has not been well for several months  
although she keeps about the house, her  
health is quite poor. Some of the children  
are now nearly sick with colds (one).

Then Addison quite so.

The love of all the family is hereby sent  
to you <sup>and yours</sup> we are all encouraged by the  
progress the war in Tennessee. We  
hope the rebellion is soon to be crushed.  
Please write immediately. Your brother A. Lyman



If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to



Rev. Horace L.  
Belcher ~~town~~ ~~East Hampton~~  
Mass., ~~in Hampshire Co.~~  
~~Mass.~~

