

Chamberlain Family Letters
1849-50

FOLDER 11
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Report of Comd
on Federal Relations
Legislature 1829

Report of the Committee
on
Federal Relations on the
Preamble and Joint Resol-
utions relative to Slavery
and the Slave trade in the
District of Columbia

The Committee on Federal Relations to whom was referred the Preamble and Joint Resolutions relative to Slavery and the Slave Trade in the District of Columbia beg leave to make the following report. We have had the Preamble, and Joint Resolutions under consideration, and herewith report a substitute the adoption of which we would respectfully recommend.

That Slavery under any circumstances is a great evil, which is destructive of the happiness, and disastrous to the best interests of both master and slave; your committee fully believe,

It is one of those evils which had its origin, in the early age of the world, and which has continued to exist in various forms, ^{and} in most countries, until a very recent period. ^{from the earliest times to the present} It had its origin in might, and its ^{and} cannot be defended, except on the principle that "might makes right"; a principle that finds but little sympathy with the great mass of the American people - a people who have learned ^{their first lessons of} ~~on the~~ ^{liberty in earliest ages} the eternal principles of liberty and equal rights. ^{a people who} The American people renounce the doctrines of the ~~American~~ ^{original} ~~Charter of the Declaration of Independence~~. Slavery in the United States, had its commencement soon after the first settlement of the country. In the original draft of the Declaration of Independence, in the hand writing of the Statesman Jefferson, we find that ~~he~~ ⁱⁿ summarizing the wrongs inflicted on this country by the mother country he mentions that of having forced on us the horrible system of Negro Slavery.

It is a system which impoverishes the country
 wherein it exists, and has proved a greater draw-
 =back on the prosperity of those states of this Union
 where it is allowed and protected by law, ~~we~~
 believe that this is admitted by all who have
~~been~~ given attention to the subject.

When arguments necessary to prove that it is
 an alarming evil, we might refer to the settle-
 =ment of the new states of the Union, and point
 out how the greater advancement in the in the
 arts of civilization, the ^{more} rapid strides ^{made} in
 population ⁱⁿ improvement, and ⁱⁿ the education of
 the mass of the people in the new Non-slaveholding
 them in the new slaveholding states; the latter
 having all the advantages of soil, and climate,
 while the former notwithstanding this advantage,
 have made much greater progress. Showing that
 slavery is a curse which retards the progress of
 all that tends to happiness or prosperity.
 Nor are those enumerated the only ^{Calamities} ~~evils~~ which
 attend this growing evil, it tends to corrupt the
 morals debase the mind of the master and
 deprive the slave of all that American citizens
 hold sacred - the rights attendant on free-
 =dom. Admitting then that slavery is an evil
 which is injurious to the best interests of society, the
 questions arise, is it Constitutional, is it expedient
 to abolish slavery and the slave trade in the
 Federal district. For the purpose of ^{throwing some light on} ~~settling~~ the
 first question we propose to examine the Constitu-
 tion, ^{and laws} of the United States, and the acts of the State
 of Maryland treating of the cession.

Article 16, of Section 8, of the Constitution of the
 United States, provides: That Congress shall have
 power, To exercise exclusive ^{legislative} ~~jurisdiction~~ in all
 cases whatever over such district (not extending

ten miles square) as may by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of Congress become the seat of government of the United States" Here then we see that by the constitutional provision Congress was to have exclusive legislation over the district which might be ceded for a seat of government. Your committee are of the opinion that there is not any other provision in the Constitution which would conflict with that above quoted.

By an act of Congress approved July 16th, 1790, Congress proposes to accept of the territory on the Potomac, now known as the district of Columbia; and provides that the operations of the laws of ~~Maryland~~ the States within such district shall not be affected by this acceptance until the time fixed for the removal of the government thence, and until Congress shall by law otherwise provide". This act clearly shows, that Congress reserved the right in their proposition to the States of Maryland and Virginia, of making such laws as it should deem expedient, and in the language of the Constitution exclusive legislation in all cases". By an act of the Legislature of Maryland in 1791 she accepts the proposition made by Congress, and provides "That all that part of the ~~district~~ said territory called Columbia, which lies within the limits of this State, shall be, and the same is hereby acknowledged, to be forever ceded, and relinquished to the Congress, and government of the United States, in full and absolute right and exclusive jurisdiction as well of soil as of persons residing or to reside thereon pursuant to the tenor and effect of the 8th section, article 1st, of the Constitution of the United States"

From the quotations here made (and there are all the provisions of the United States or the State of Maryland which we are able to find touching the matter) we learn that the Constitution of the United States provides that the territory to be ceded should be under the exclusive ^{legislative} jurisdiction of Congress. And we also find ~~that~~ ^{that} Congress provided for this exclusive ^{legislative} jurisdiction in its offer to Maryland and that Maryland in accepting the propositions of Congress ceded "the exclusive jurisdiction over soil and persons." ~~Your~~ ^{that} Committee also find a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States have made a decision which sustains this ^{to} may be found on page 619 vol. 12 of Peters Reports, from which ~~we extract~~ ^{we extract} the following quotation "that under the Constitution of the United States and the Cession made by the States of Virginia and Maryland the exercise of exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever is given to Congress" and "that Congress has the entire control over the district for every purpose of government." We learn then by the Constitution and laws of the United States and the laws of Maryland that Congress has the entire control and that the highest judicial tribunal have so decided.

The question then arises: if Congress has the power would it be treating the States which made the cession, in good faith, to use it? It is admitted that the use of power when fully conferred, is not always justifiable. In this case we think it could do no wrong to those States from the fact that the full power was conferred at a time when it was supposed that slavery would at an early period be abolished, ~~at an early period~~ in all of what

are now, the northern Slave States. As a matter of course it was expected that this great evil (for it was so considered by the Statesmen of that age) would not continue to exist in the Federal district, any longer than in the surrounding country; it is a matter of no moment as touching this question that the surrounding States have not rid themselves of the evil, this neglect does not alter the nature of the contract made under a different supposition. Then if the cession was made in expectation that the power would be used and the right given in the act of cession to make such use of the power there can be no cause of complaint on the part of those States.

We now come to the question whether slavery and the Slave trade in the district are subjects over which Congress has legislative jurisdiction. ~~Whether~~ ^{whether} it is like other subjects & proper ones for Congress to legislate upon.

The power to enslave is a legal not a natural right. The slave in this country is the creature of law. Men are by nature free, and have equal rights, and are only reduced to a state of slavery by the aid of law in civilized and by physical force in barbarous nations; Hence the power which allows civilized man to enslave his fellow man, can prevent him from so doing; or compel him to restore to the oppressed his natural rights.

We ~~conclude~~ ^{believe} that Congress has all necessary power to abolish slavery and prevent the Slave trade in the district of Columbia.

Having the power ^{it would be} ~~is~~ it policy ^{at this time} to use it and if so under what circumstances?

That it would be policy for Congress
 immediately to prohibit the slave trade
 in this district your committee fully
 believe. If in the language of Jefferson
 "Slavery is the sum of all villainies" your
 committee are of the opinion that the
 slave trade which in our country is
 a part and parcel of this accursed system
 is more monstrous and horrible in its
 character. That this traffic in human
 beings - a traffic which is revolting to
 all the ^{best} feelings of American citizens should
 be prohibited in the Capitol of this Republic
 without delay, we think is the feeling of
 every citizen who has the interests of human-
 ity at heart; or who feels for the honor, or
^{propriety} interests of the Republic. It is possible that
 that under some circumstances there may be
 a plausible excuse for holding slaves;
 but we deem it impossible ~~that~~ any
 man who is not tainted with this atrocious
 system; and who has any of the finer feeling
 common to his race to defend or excuse the
 traffic in human beings on a soil and be-
 neath a flag dedicated to freedom.
 Should slavery be abolished in this district?
 That ^{it} is policy to remove this monstrous and
 terrible ~~curse~~ from the federal district, a
 curse which is a blot on the otherwise bright
 page of our country's history, a stain on the
 character of the nation; an evil which calls
 loudly on the ^{nation} people for removal; if it can be
 done without disturbing the harmony and pros-
 perity of the people, no man who has the honor
 of his country or the least sympathy for his
 fellow man would deny

We have shown that Congress has the power and that humanity demands that this ~~foul plague spot~~ ^{defensive system} should be removed if it can be done without endangering peace and harmony.

It is a ^{wrongly stated} notion with the American people that the governed should have a voice in the government. This ~~is~~ ^{is} true as a general rule, but the district of Columbia is in some measure an exception.

As this is a question which interests the citizens of that district ^{particularly} ~~peculiarly~~, we suppose that it should be submitted to the people of the district. This is right and just towards them; and if they should show by their vote that they were willing to abolish slavery, then it is the duty of Congress to immediately enact a law prohibiting its existence. If on the contrary ^{they decide} that the evil should remain, we are of the opinion it would not be ^{politic} ~~best~~ for Congress to exercise the power as it is a well settled principle that law should not precede public sentiment: if the feelings of the people are so debased as to prefer that slavery should exist, then we deem it to be the duty of Congress to remove the Capitol to some free state, where we shall be relieved from the national responsibility of having the groans of the oppressed ascending to heaven, and crying for justice from beneath the flag which waves over the Capitol of a nation of freemen.

All of which is respectfully submitted

Henry C. Townsend, Chairman

James Jarvis

W. S. Wilkinson

Amos Stevens

Saml. M. Hollister

Lansing Michigan
May 13. 1848-9

Brother.

You will see by the date of this that I am at the Capitol of the State. our Legislature commenced its session of Monday the first of the month. Have not done much except preliminary business and shall not do much before the election of U. S. Senator. There will be a strong effort to elect Sen. Cass. but there is a determination on the part of many to prevent it. My opinion is that he will not succeed. I shall oppose him in caucus. It would be the ruin of the party in this State if he should be elected. Strong Free soil resolutions have been introduced into the senate and I think they will pass both Houses. This is a new town and previous to the location of the Capitol here little more than a year ago was a wilderness. The location has made quite a fine town of it. There is a fine forming country round about the place. I have good rooms at the Lansing House. I room with Senators Redfield & McKimney of our district and Mr. Turner of Cass. We have a large parlor and bed rooms attached. I have not heard from

From since I came here, I shall
send you such documents of the two Houses
as I think will interest you. I write in
haste and briefly as my constituents claim
much of my attention.

Yours truly

Henry Chamberlain

L. Allen Chamberlain

New Buffalo Jan 16 1849

Dear brother Henry

It is nearly twelve o'clock but as I am not a bit sleepy I will write a few lines. We have had company this evening from the village some twelve or more, the Gadsdicks, Pike, Thompson, &c. besides Alfred and Willis by the way I am getting quite into the party. Line this being the second I have had in little more than a week and they go off pretty well. Mr Adams and Lady and some of Mr Gerrish's people. Miss Deaper, Harriet Plimpton, &c. &c. came before, had a good time, but as you may not be as interested in my parties as I am, I will tell you something that will interest you, and indeed it is my principal object in writing to night. We are all in great anxiety about Lizzie just now, the crisis is at hand - marriage or no marriage (at least for the present) or, as I should have said engagement, for you know that comes first, Mr Mason has proposed the thing to her and she seems quite favorable to the proposition, what think you of the gentleman? would you like him for brother? I presume you know more of him than the rest of us and are better able to form an opinion in regard to him, now what think you? Eliza told me

Dear H. I am crowded over of letters now - let her hear from you soon again.
Yours most aff. &c. C. Cady

(write soon)

He has to sit in a large chair while preaching, I think he must look funny perched up in that fashion. The all absorbing theme now is California. Mr W. Stuart and family Dr Russel leave next month. I suppose I believe also, and I know not but others. We are having excellent singing now and people are improving it, what a glorious thing it would be could we have a good road all the time. Henry this is the first letter I ever wrote you I believe, do you think I could improve it by copying, doubtful, but I must stop for. Glad wishes to write some, so good bye for the present. your affectionate sister Mary

the gathering is continuing to form a union. I think it will be a great success. I am sure it will be a great success. I am sure it will be a great success.

Dear H. I received a line from you a short time since. I have not found time to attend to that petition yet. Fear I may not write too late. I wish to get Bennett to help me down it up - but cannot get away to town to do it. I suppose you will have a short session. Glad to hear of your comfortable quarters. There has been a good deal of squirming in regard to paying taxes here this winter - but I presume they will straighten them all over - what do you think of Bro. Mason? - If he was a young man just commencing the world with skill & physical ability to accomplish his aim - I would look upon the thing in a different light - but he is some in years, is burdened by a debt, has no particular occupation - and I should think of the Capt. Dats. school - roving and untidy - these surmises may be gratuitous - he is a stranger to us all - and gives no ref. - I am afraid E. is considerably impressed - at least I am somewhat surprised - though not so much as the facility with which Mason forgets his great grief while the scene of his wife is yet in greenness. I think perhaps this Brigham of old manhood has been brought to his knees together with

New Buffalo Jan. 28. 1849.

Dear Sam

Some months ago I wrote you a letter request-
ing Henry to enclose it in an envelope and carry it to town
and put it in the Post office. he being at home at the time
some time after we found the letter I wrote sticking behind
the glass or some other place I enquired of Henry if he did not
forward my letter as I requested he said that he did
I then concluded that he inclosed the wrong letter
perhaps the one you wrote me through mistake &
I immediately had mine inclosed and forwarded -
I am what you wrote Henry ^{since} I concluded at the time you
wrote him, that you had not received either the wrong nor
the right letter from me as you make no mention
of them - We are all in the enjoyment of better health
We have had more than a usual amount of steady cold
weather this winter, a plenty of snow and of course excellent
sleeping - Henry is at Lansing. Elizabeth at Buffalo teaching
William goes to school. Alfred Steven your cousin from Selma
teaches our school this winter. he is a fine young man and
teaches a good school - Christmas day the day before Henry
left for Lansing we had quite a company of visitors from
Lansing. Among which ^{were} Mr. Gomer ^{and his wife} & ^{and their children} Mr. S. O. Adams & wife and two
children Mr. Crosby, Mary & Renney. I Russel, Mr. Moran. the children
were full of frolic all were cheerful and we had a very
good time of it - Last Saturday week. Mother, Mary Elizabeth
Alfred and my self took the team and went to the Prairie
for a ride had a good visit with our good friends James
and Charles Foster. returned Sabbath evening (excellent sleeping)

I have been improving the slaying with the horse team, a hauling
lumber to Laven and hauling wood to build us one or
two additional chimneys whilst Mr McKie and hence Scotchman and
William have been engaged with the open a hauling saw logs
to the mill. William stayed from school one week for the purpose
he manages the team with ability in handling the great
logs, we have got to the mile about forty logs and a dozen
more cut ready to haul. we have a heavy rain a few
days since which makes the road to slippery to walk our
unshod feet till there shall be a little more snow -

Perhaps you would like to know how we spend our days
and long winter evenings. Mr McKie rises early in the morning
builds a fire in the stove and small fire place both in one
room mother then gets up and in a short time I hear her
saying come Father, come William. breakfast is about ready
we get up wash our face and hands comb our hair and set
down to breakfast about half past seven. in the mean time
Mr McKie has the stack fed and wood cut for the day
upon rising from the table each one takes their Bible
we recite a chapter after our old custom. Mother, William
and Elizabeth ^{when at home} join in singing some familiar Hymn. I then
bow before the family altar never thank, to our Heavenly
Father for the manifestations of his goodness towards us -
and ask for a continuance of his mercies, that he would
strengthen our bodies and invigorate our minds so that we
may be enabled to discharge the duties that devolve upon
us in a manner that shall be profitable to our selves and
honourable to our God I do not far get my dear absent
children and relatives when at the throne of grace. neither do
I forget to render thanks to God for the displays of his power

in our turning the despotic powers of the earth so I look upon
such as being none other than the Kingdom of the Devil
and their overthrow as the ushering in the Kingdom of God —
Well might the Heavenly hosts shout glory to God. Peace on earth and
good will to men when they saw the King of Peace unveil his
banner of Peace and came on this dark and benighted earth
which has for so many centuries been crushed under the iron
heel of oppression, We then commence the labours of the day
some times with the team, some times go to the water filling trees
cutting under brush or cutting saw logs occasionally spend a day
in hauling wood &c &c When the labours of the day are
over the cattle, horses & dogs all feed a sufficient amount of
wood piled in the corner Mr. McRae never forgetting to
procure a handful of some dry material split fine and
put it under the stove to kindle a fire in the morning
we then lay by our cups take our supper, smoke our pipes.
(by the way, our mother has got to be a smoker) That being done if
we do not have company (a thing there we not infrequently
do knowers occasionally call upon us to have their teams put up
and to be accommodated for the night for which we have
picked up considerable change within a year) pull up our
boats gather the light shaver up towards the fire one
takes a book another a newspaper and sit down to read
or to spend the time in friendly chat When we get
a new batch of Papers we are all engaged in perusing and
their contents some times I read a loud some speak
much in Congress found in the National Era or some other
good story so we spend our evenings our Sabbath days
we spend mostly in reading or writing —

we shall soon commence preparations for sugar making
that being over spring work will commence and
we shall have a plenty of it to do we have got fences
to put up logs to pile and burn cones to plant
and we want to make an addition to the
haus for a summer kitchen & wood house so you
can see that we are not likely to be out of
work - If we shall be well I think of
going east next summer. nothing that I now hear
of will prevent me so during but sickness
on the shore of the colony -

Let me hear from you soon after receiving
this letter - Your affectionate father

Mr Melior Chamberlain Moses Chamberlain

Boston. Feb 4. 1849

46 Washington Street.

Well, my dear Harry, after ten years' digging, here I am at last, settled down in the most respectable & best office in the city of Boston as Counsellor & Attorney at Law - see laid enclosed. My room mate is John S. Holmes Esq., of New Bedford - about my age, accomplished man & good fellow. You know all my Cambridge friends were kind to me; & so it even continues; for Prof Parsons procured for me the reporting for the Daily Advertiser, in the Boston Courts, which pays three hundred, & the business of the paper which I hold here by & by - when I want it. This keeps me from starvation, & gives me acquaintance with the profession and many valuable acquaintances; and that is more, renders my project of getting married in June less chimerical than would otherwise appear. My spirits are excellent & health pretty good, tho' with some unpleasant indications of settled bilious difficulties. At present I sleep in my

office & board at the central House, where I happened
to meet Thomas More of Canterbury - our mother's
cousin. He seems a good fellow, and will interest him-
self in getting business for me. He is in a market
House & is doing well, I think. Your friend Charles Darn
is in the city doing business. He sends respects to you.

R. S. Jenbrook, Rev. formerly of Concord is dead, & his
hopeful son had just sailed to California as a physician.
You may have heard that the Jenbrooks had a large fortune
left them by a New York relative which amounted to more
than 100,000. I throw the news in all sorts. Helen's brother
Josiah has been here this week & I have seen him several
times.

I have received the paper you have sent, & am glad to
find you voting with the most rational portion of the House. The
field is a new one to you, but I doubt not that you will
do credit to yourself & the party. Take matters cautiously - bide
your time - & you will go to Congress - but you ought not to think of
that before you are there. But that time you properly will be exp. table,
your character formed & information extensive. Were I in the country,
I would promise to meet you there in ten years - but here, there is no

hope, even if I had any wish. Three things are, one of which is essential
to political honor in Boston - high family distinction & wealth, a high
professional eminence. My only chance is thro' the latter, which is not
attainable here before forty five - so that the east & west will hardly
meet on the floor of Congress in ~~our~~ our parish. But I hope to do
an honorable life in my profession & die at fifty-five, or sooner,
much sooner. I now know I am to be married in June. Why won't
you come on to the wedding? If you can't, insist upon Father & Mother
coming. I shall never be able to see them in Michigan. My office
will keep me here as long as I retain it - which may be for years
so use your influence with them & have them come on to the east.

The world here is going to California. Many
of my associates & acquaintances have already sailed - as young
George Kent. They may go, I have no desire to.

What is our brother W. doing? Is he learning any thing?
He has capacity & should be drawn out in something. You must look
to him.

I will write you more to day. My kind love to ~~mother~~ father
Mother so, on

Yours affectionately

Mellen Chamberlain

Ch. Chamberlain
Feb 4 1849

Lansing Mich March 24. 1849

Dear Brother

I received your letter of the 7th ult in due time.

I was pleased to learn that you were well and prosperous. from the fact that I had not heard from you for a long time, I had some fears, that the world went wrong with you, or that you were sick.

You appear to be in good spirits and have a prospect of doing well, this gives me much pleasure, as nothing pleases me better than to hear of your prosperity.

I was at home about about a month since, at that time the family were all well, and in tolerable spirits.

Elisabeth has been teaching school in the Village of a New Buffalo. She is pleasantly situated, and gives much satisfaction. I can assure you that she is one of the best girls in the country, and this is the opinion of the "boys" if we can judge by their attention which she receives, but the right one has not come yet.

William is quite a large strong healthy boy and if nothing befalls him, he

will make a man as large as
his highest point of view to study
but like to read, Father and Mother said

as we might expect, but I think they
will live many years and continue to improve
of your humble brother
Amherst at the Capital of Ohio as so
one of the American by representation of the
people of the state.

We have some good fellows
and some that you must have heard of
legislators as they are not fit for anything
else. But that I am a statesman, that
there but few who stand better than myself.

If I had chosen to have gone into all the
Bank & B.R. schemes I might have enriched
the whole town. But I have other aims
the minority and community have more of
the fear than love of the majority.

It is enough to make our
sick to see the corruption of legislation;
I have cannot all the measures
that I have undertaken but have not been able
the passage of money bills that I have opposed;
I have the reputation of
being the most firm man in the House, if
two or three friends in this fact, we have about
100 regular votes in attendance and who have
occurred in carrying many corrupt measures

by bringing every thing to bear and have
turned the heads of many.

I have written much
about myself, and will say this much
more, if I tho't I could find a good
nice little woman somewhere in A.H.
or Mass, who has a good moral character
of \$8 or 10,000. I would come and try my
luck with you this summer.

I must close here as
my opponent on the bill to incorporate the
Masons is just closing, and I must give
him "good"

Your brother

Wm
To Allen Chambers



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Allen Chamberlain Esq
416 Washington St

Boston
Mass



Boston, 46 Washington Street
March 17, 1849

My dear father,

I owe letters to you and Hale. As for Henry at Lansing, he is my debtor. I have most forgotten, whether I have told you anything about my coming to Boston. If so, I shall repeat a little. My affairs at Cambridge were closed up about the middle of Jan'y when I moved into town and took an office as above:— on the third floor, for which ~~My~~ my room-mate, Mr. Holmes and myself, pay one hundred fifty dollars, besides taxes; so that our office expenses for the present are about one hundred a year. Next year, they will be more as we must keep a boy. I make the office my sleeping room, and a part of my bedding is the same as mother gave me seven or eight years ago, when I went to college. It has done service at Hanover, Brattleboro, Cambridge and Boston, & is still in good repair. My boarding place is in Brattle Square the Central House

where I feed for 2.75 a week. My washing averages about fifty cents a week. To defray these expenses, I have in the first place, three hundred per annum for preparing the legal reports for the Boston Daily Advertiser, which place Prof. Parsons got for me. This was very fortunate, as it gives me a consideration not otherwise easily obtained; or will doubtless lead to some business. I am also writing some for the Bookseller, chiefly mechanical work which pays me tolerably well, so that for the present I meet my bills as they come due. Last Tuesday evening, I went to New Bedford to lecture and got \$20. for the same. My present plan is to get married the last of May and go to boarding. We shall live for about nine months a year, tho' that will be very economical, considering the great expenses in this city. I should much prefer house keeping, but the expenses would be far too great. I have no doubt that I shall weather the storm of bills, tho' it requires a firm faith in Providence, & great exertions on my part. As for business, I can't say much for that tho' I have taken ten or twelve dollars which is very well. The first year seldom pays the rent, but I shall do more than that I think. If I should find it necessary, I have about seven hundred

to fall back upon; but my present determination is to keep
that between me and the waters. My staying at Cambridge
last fall was most fortunate, since it gave me three
hundred expenses & I got my office of reporter besides.
I believe I told you my reasons for ~~not~~ not going West to see
you last summer, I was afraid but you might think
I ought to have gone regardless of the advantages to be de-
rived from staying; and I suspect my conscience troubles
me a little, tho' I well knew that if I went West I should
not return without the sacrifice of one hundred, besides
other advantages from holding on to my position. The compe-
tition is very fierce here, one will be likely to be put to all
he knows if he means to live. As I am now situated, I hope
to get good business without being compelled to engage in
a class which adds nothing to one's character or
information. Walter last letter threw a little doubt on
your coming East this season; but I hope nothing
will prevent. At your time of life, the longer you delay
the less the probability of your visiting the land of your birth.
Pray don't fail to come. If we don't ~~ever~~ see each other
this summer, I fear the time for meeting will pass. You
know there are many friends who are anxious to see
you, & that I will do all in my power to render your

visit comfortable and happy. Mother must wish to see
New England once more, and the journey can be performed
in a short time. So I hope that nothing will prevent.

Henry has grown to be a full man, and one of the leaders.
With his capacity for business he has much to answer for
if he does not do well for his fellow men & much to
increase his own, and consequently, the reputation of us
all. Official life is not to be thought of or wished
by me in the city, and my endeavours are to become res-
pectable in my profession. I don't think I have anything
new to tell, except what relates to myself, unless it be
that Hale's brother Josiah has been in the city and called
on me. It was some comfort, tho' I never knew him
very well. I shall write Hale & Mary, & E. as soon as I
find time; but I expect them to write without waiting
for me.

My love to all; your affectionate Son

Melton Chamberlain

Chamberlain - March 1849

Sanbomton June 10. 1849

Dear Cousin

I received a letter from your father informing us he intended to visit New England this month I believe; with your mother we learn from him that you were to be married about this time and that you were to take a house in old Chelsea and that your office was in 46 Washington Street Boston. After wishing you all the happiness you can expect from the married life, I ^{very much} would extend to you and your lady a cordial invitation to visit us in company with your dear father and mother and we very sincerely hope you will favour us with a visit at the time of their coming or at any rate during their stay with us. you may be assured that our hearts are ^{not} gladdened at the prospect of receiving a visit from them. you will perceive from the state of this that instead of Boston we are in Sanbomton near the bridge within 8 minutes walk from the Rail Road depot. Our family are well with the exception of myself who have improved some since I saw you a year since. It is a general time of health among our friends. Brother John's wife remains in a very bad state of health who is unable to help herself but a very little. Please drop us a line after the arrival of your father when he will be here and whether you will accompany them or not.

Yours truly
Wm Chamberlain

Boscawen
N^o 12

Pair 5

Mellen Chamberlain Esq
No 46 Washington St-
Boston Mass

Salon Friday June 22. 1849

Dear Children

I wrote you a line from Detroit informing you of our safe arrival there, after spending the day quite pleasantly there, we removed our baggage and board of the Steamer Rustic for Cleveland & Buffalo a special Boat took our state room and cabin, went into our berths I soon went to sleep and knew but little that was going on till the bell rang for breakfast the next morning notwithstanding the bustle about the boat and starting off about two o'clock it was a beautiful morning I found myself for on my way towards Cleveland mother I think was not quite as much comforted feeling inclined to keep at least one eye open to see what was going on notwithstanding she got along very well we had a delightful passage arrived at Cleveland about 11 O'clock took carriage and went to the Danbury Hall in the upper part of the city to which here I had a letter from a gentleman in Detroit found good accommodations, much a travel with a heavy stage kept to take us in carriage to Salon Cleveland is much improved since I before saw it, had a fine meal even a good dinner and at Brother Stevens about 5 O'clock where we were received with open arms and warm hearts your grandmother was in the chamber looking out at the window when we came up to the door she saw our recognition us come running down stairs every one Mr. Christman folk here come over is this you Oh how glad to see you &c

Great improvements have been made a school since
we were here before the long piece of woods west of Brother
Stevens and the hall made have given place to a good
school and to well cultivated farms &c —

We found all of our friends well and anxious to see
us spent the night with brother Stevens Mother & Sister
Humphreys coming in to welcome us Brother Stevens has a
very pleasant family their countenances glow with the
appearance of cheerful contentment —

Went to Brother Humphreys to dinner in the afternoon

Brother Humphreys thence up his team, and a fine team of
gray, he has, put them on to the double wagon and

lost the wheel down to the center to a heavy
wheel I took a walk called on Mr. S. Patrick whom

I found on his farm he and his wife and children
are in good health he has so far recovered his sight
that he can see to read and attend to business

Comfortably they were all most overjoyed to see
me I then went to Mr. Gove's found Mrs. Gove at home

Mr. Gove was out in the woods Mrs. Gove is quite healthy
in good health and appears well contented they have
got a good house, barn & other out buildings a pleasant
farm Mr. Gove is in prosperous circumstances.

Mr. Carr announced that seeing with the women Mr.
Gove come in from the woods we took tea had good
social time and before sunset returned to Brother

Humphreys went to the school house to a meeting in
the evening the next day that is yesterday spent the

forenoon looking about the farm went out to see the
boys work corn they use a cultivated corn is backward
here as well as at New Bedford they have not worked
it over the first time yet in fall —

In the after noon Mr Gave & wife Mr S. P. Plunk & wife
 Mr J. Plunk and wife Broth Stevens & wife together
 with many of their children we have a most agreeable
 and delightful visit Brother Humphreys has a fine
 family and is doing well they milk 12 cows
 and are making the great cheese rapidly —
 Spent the night with Broth Stevens This after
 noon all are expected here for a visit, to morrow
 we go to Mr Gaves and on Monday we expect
 to go to Cleveland to take our departure for
 Boston. I write Mr Gernick & Mella from Cleveland
 Our expenses have been as follows for us both at Marshall

at Marshall	0.50
fare on the road	13.00
at Detroit	1.00
from Detroit to Cleveland	4.00
at Cleveland	0.50
from Cleveland to Boston	2.00
	21.80

From your affectionate father —

Moses Chamberlain

Mr Henry Chamberlain
New Buffalo
Berrien Co.
Michigan

June 22 1849

Chas. Chamberlain

Boston July 4. 1849

Dear Sam

I received your letter last evening, it gave me great delight to hear from you and to know you were all doing so well. I wrote Mr. Grimes from Cleveland Mr. Crosby I think it was from Salem and you from this place. we have a fine journey. how joyful our usual health except a slight touch of cold that I was attacked with while at Salem. The weather was exceedingly warm while there as it was as I under storm here and from you at New Bedford. Our visit at Salem was very pleasant and all of our friends there were overjoyed to see us. we were met down to Cleveland by Brothers Stevens & wife Hamnerford & wife and gave with their carriages we came on with great speed. James Mellen anxiously awaiting our arrival at the Depot in Boston to receive us took carriage and went to his house in Chelsea where we were received by his wife and sister with open arms and cheerful countenances. I like Mellen very much, we have visited Mr. Jones family in company with Mellen & they have a good visit called on old friends who were glad to see me yesterday took carriage accompanied by Mellen & Mather went to Dedham through Salem to see Father had a delightful ride & a pleasant visit returned in the evening by the way of Surry & Linn. This afternoon we start for

New Hampshire by the way of Ashburnham. There is great
bustle in the City to day and is to be great display
of fire works in the evening - but in such things
I take but little satisfaction. Goods are very low
in this City and I think there are certain kinds of goods
that might be bought here and forwarded to
New Bedford to great advantage for instance H. Lee
can be had for from 25. to 35 cents say a good fair
article for retail at 30 cents per lb for each also some
kinds of wools & cottons for instance Suffolk Drilling
6 1/2 cents cotton flannel at 8 1/2 cents on low priced wools
in like proportion I am sure should see Adams & Stuart
or Mr Bennett please say to them if they are in want
of any such articles at those prices and will forward
funds to Miller before I return West I will direct to
them order and make purchases for them at the best
possible rates and charge them no more than will be
a reasonable compensation for the time that I may be
detained for their purposes say a day or two or two or three
days expense as the case may be Miller will inform me of
any communications that may be made to me through
him direct my letters to Cambridge New Hampshire

Your Affectionate Son
Moses Chas. Parker



Lansing Mich. July 26. 1849

Brother

I have been waiting some days expecting to hear from you.

I am as you are informed comfortably situated at this the Capitol of the State.

The legislature has been in session nearly a month, most of the time has been spent in unavailing efforts to elect a U. S. Senator.

Gen. Cass was elected last week by four majority on joint ballot. He is a Democratic majority on joint ballot of 26, but as you have learned by an address ^{in capital} which I sent you there was some 20 of the democrats who opposed his election for the reasons therein set forth, and for many others which we did not see fit to make public. Much as I dislike the name of "botter" I could not go Cass and my county will sustain me in the course. Many very members from the 2^d Congressional district acted with us in our endeavor to defeat Cass and we should have done it, had not one of the senators "Carroll" under the influence of the almighty dollar. We have made the old "hunters" fear and respect us and they will not dare to undertake any more such games. I am of the opinion that we shall be

divided at the next election into "hunkies" and "young democrats" but hope it will not be so.

Our House of Reps. is composed of a respectable body of men - men of good strong sense, but not only of any great acquirements. It is our number and we on an average represent 5000 inhabitants. Myself & colleague represent about 13000. He is a man of good strong sound common sense a Virginian by birth without much education but a man who is very much respected. His name is Beck. I have all the talking and managing to do and he backs me every time.

I have reason to believe that I stand as well as I could have expected. I took a bold stand in the senatorial matter and gained the favor of friends and respect of my opponents. The opposition did their best to make me to succumb but finding that I was not to be coerced nor driven that gave me credit for firmness which I hardly possess.

As yet our Legislature has been local and of but little interest; but the time is coming when the fight will be warmer and every inch of ground warmly contested. The Bank, Common School and the Southern R.R. extension bills are to be the great questions of the session. On the first of these questions there will great strife and bribery and corruption in every form will be brought to bear, it is supposed that \$15000.

was spent to carry this measure last winter and
twice that amount will be spent this if it
becomes necessary.

Porter is still sound in this state and after
with some success.

I have not heard from home for some time
but they were all well the last I heard.

I shall expect to hear from you soon.

I am your brother.

Henry Chamberlain

To Ellen Chamberlain

Sanborn Bridge August 6. 1847

Dear Children

I got Henry's letters of July 15 & 22nd several days since and was much rejoiced to hear of your general health and prosperity. I wrote you from Canterbury the day after my return from a short visit to Landon if I have not forgotten the time the next day after writing it being Thursday Brother W^m came down with his horse and carriage in the evening and took us to this place spent Friday in Lofing about, Saturday I rode to Meridith with Brother when he was going on business had a fine ride we had some shower that day which much refreshed the air the first that had been for a long time the draught has been very severe and vegetation is suffering much Sabbath went to hear Mr Curtis preach the congregational minister of this place liked him well, Monday and Tuesday spent the time in Lofing, Wednesday Brother took us in his carriage together with Sister went to Boscowen by the way of Franklin called on Uncle Henry Garrison found him and Abiel at home once overjoyed to see us Aunt once Abiel's wife were equally interested, spent the day with them, in the evening horseed up the horse and went to Sister Bakers where we found her her son Henry and Joseph & wife were once in possession of Brothers old place, spent the night with them made some calls in the morning, before dinner took horse and carriage and went to Uncle Greenoughs, had an excellent visit in the evening Brother & wife returned home we spent the night had a delightful time of it

Charles Chamberlain
August 6, 1847

The next morning Uncle Henry and Aunt
came down with their carriage and took us
to Mr & Plummer where we spent the day most
agreeably Mr Plummer has a great farm has Borns
sheels &c all in great order his mother lives with
him a most interesting old lady Mr Plummer & wife
and their daughters compose the family. They have
one that is married They most all love very much.
The eldest daughter at home teaches the District school
she is an interesting girl and as Brother May says
of her, of inestimable worth, although no beauty,
the others are fine girls, we had an interesting time
of it in the morning Uncle Henry took us down to
the place where I took a horse and buggy that
brother had provided for us, made a short call
on Dr Peck, also on Fisher Ames & David Gerrish
at Fisher Mill whom we found at work in our
iron foundry which the two Ameses & Gerrish
have established. Then at Stillwell is has got to
be a smart place, went to meet Vilas, Canoe
called on Cousin Joseph Darnley & wife took dinner saw
Cousin Byrnes & there from Amherst had an interesting
talk with him on the subject of his long foundry
Jas is full of facts & cheers as ever and as rich as need be
went to Cousin Samuels Athol and took Tea saw
him & will see Cousin John all well and doing well
they are both industrious and fine men John says
Walds gets you will see me out that way before long,
when I was telling him something about Hedger -
Took horse and buggy and went on to Pembroke went
to an old house found no person there but a girl and
some small children saw James & Mother & went home.

looked about the house a little and then got in to
our carriage and returned to Judge Whittemores former
The Judge & wife well has son Jane & wife with their
children also wife who all live in one house they gave us
a party well came had many questions to ask and
inquiries to answer walked over the street in the morning
as for the meeting house made some calls did
not think it expedient to go further down in consequence
of their having the smallpox at Mr Gilberts at the lower
end of the street called on Mr Burnham & Asa Morrell
after dinner took our carriage and started for Concord
call at Darius Morrills spent some time in making calls
and in the evening went to Chas. Moody at the north
end put up in a room stayed with him over the
Sabbath went to hear Mr Bailey preach found him
about as formerly had a good visit with Mr. Moody
and wife spent Monday in making calls on old
friend Silvester has got a stone full of goods
and says he has done well Concord is all near
same in the afternoon over called on Darius
Chubb was very reticent for the Sabbath but it
will not operate took our horse and carriage went
over to call on John Eastmans former his wife sick
with Dysentery Cousin Moses & wife were there took
tea and passed on to Joseph Madleys N.S.
before the day spent the night had a good visit
in the morning started for Cambridge went to the
Post office got 2 letters went to Brother Johns took
dinner called on other clan to who left his the went
to Buscander took horse and carriage home walked back
in great haste got very warm & sweaty, saw many
men about the oleo who had been fighting fire on
the planes where it has done much damage the draught
is very great and vegetation suffering much.

took care for this place for Mr. Norrell's wife & two children
in the room found Brother & family were on a visit
for a casual visit which they expected the next day
The next day Wednesday last we were favoured with
the following company viz Brother Wilkes & Wife Brother John &
daughter Cassin John & Wife Sister Baker & Son Henry Joseph
Brother & Wife Lillian Abbott & Wife John Boston & Mrs
Moses Eastman and wife had an elegant visit
The next day Brother in release in some of these
in this place for a visit with whom I was
formally acquainted for a visit but I could
not enjoy this society being compelled to
keep my chamber in consequence of an attack
of Sciatica I am giving help of it and shall
soon be about again when so we shall go
to Canterbury & Lucca and finish our
visit there to Concord and from there to
Boston and about the first of Sept. start
for Michigan -

Henry
Elizabeth &
William

Your affectionate father
Moses Chamberlain

New Buffalo September 5. 1849

My Dear Parents.

We received your interesting letter Sabbath evening and were happy to learn that you were enjoying health and the society of dear friends. But I must confess that I was quite disappointed to learn that you were not to be at home this week as we had expected, but the reason for your not coming is so good that we think your decision a wise one and we feel reconciled to your remaining among the hills of New England until you can be borne in safety to your western home. The time of your absence seems very long to me still I have waited patiently and tried to do the best I could for the family, but my health has been very poor most of the time since you went away. I find I cannot perform heavy work without an injury to myself. I have had a diarrhoea nearly all summer which has a tendency to keep me weak. I have been taking such remedies as were recommended me and were within my reach. I think I ought to consult some experienced physician with regard to my case, but I have no confidence in those of New Buffalo. I have thought of going to Michigan city to see old Dr. Everett who now resides there, but I find it difficult to leave home as long as it would be necessary. I have got Margaret Mandin here now doing the work. She says she will stay another week, and perhaps till you come home we get along very well while she is here. But I fear I am troubling you too much with my affairs. I

This has been written sometime but I have not had any opportunity of sending it to the B. B. Express. I have sent for Dr. Bowditch and I have placed myself under his care. He thinks he can help me, and perhaps effect a permanent cure in a few months.

hope you will not distress yourself about me for I think that all will be well. I wish to be prepared by the grace of God for every trial which awaits me and so to live that I may meet his appointment with love. Mary and the children have been here two days - have but just gone away - they are all well - Dinny is a good boy and loves his little brother very much - it is a pretty baby and is getting to be quite healthy - there is but little sickness in this vicinity - now the departing has carried off a great many children among others those of our friends who in other stories may be numbered. their home is indeed desolated.

You wrote me with regard to some purchases - there are some things which I should like to have bought if you have the means of doing so I gave Mother a list of articles before she left home. I expect to go to house-keeping as soon as may be after your return. Mr. Mason has his room nearly furnished but there are some things I would like to add - I want a cabinet - not an expensive one - but one that will do service and I should like 15 yds. of cheap bared muslin for curtains. There are other things such as silver &c but I suppose your means will not allow of your buying them. Henry has gone to West Buffalo to stay a day or two he has not been very well for some time and has not done any work for more than a month I hardly know what ails him. Mother and William are plowing for wheat - but we have had a great deal of rain the last month so that it has been difficult working out-drows. I hope you will be blessed with health and soon be at home. Give much love to Mother and wife and ask Mother to write if he has not forgotten. "sister Lizzie".

Your affectionate daughter.

Elizabeth Chamberlain

New Bedford, Mich
September 21. 1849

Dear Brother,

I have the pleasure of informing you that father & mother arrived at this place Sunday evening last, they had a pleasant journey, and are in tolerable health.

We are all well except Eliza, she is quite unwell - has a bad cough, some fever &c I am in fear that she will never be entirely well again, she is now taking medicine which seems to help her.

If she ever gets well she is to be married to Mr. Mason, of whom I suppose that mother ^{gave} you some information, I don't like him, can't bear his presence, but sister thinks him to be the finest of men I hope I never shall "fall in love", it makes such fools of both men and women but I am subject to passions like other men and the only way that I can secure myself against such a calamity is to look up a wife before I have an opportunity to ~~find~~ the sweets of love, and make a fool of myself. I did not intend to write an essay on this subject, as I suppose it would be a waste of time to write you after you have taken the necessary steps to avoid the thing which I so much dread,

I wish you could be with us a few days
and help us eat peaches, we have a fine
lot of them. We are drying some. We have
a few apples. in the course of a few years
we shall have both apples & peaches in abundance
and there will be a good market for them.

I suppose that father & mother have told you
all about the country and family, and I will
write some things about myself. We have
had our County Convention and made our
nominations for Representatives. I was offered
a nomination but that I best to decline
as it is bad policy for one to come before the
people in this County for the same office often.
My friends are making efforts to have me
nominated for the Senate, but I do not
think they will succeed, if they should I
think I should decline the nomination
as the chances for an election are small.
I write this while I am waiting for my dinner
and consequently not in the best of moods
for writing a long letter. I shall expect
to hear from you soon.

Your brother

Henry Chamberlain

New Buffalo, Berrien Co.
Michigan, Dec. 25, 1849.

Brother,

Your letter addressed to father has been received. We were much pleased to hear of your prosperity and success in business. I never had any doubt but what you would succeed. It is scarcely possible that a man possessing your native talent and unbounded energy to fail of success in anything he may undertake. If I had your energy I think that the ^{reputation} ~~power~~ of the family would be safe in my hands; but as I lack in this essential requisite it will devolve on you to give a name to our family that shall be remembered with pride by those that may succeed us. I have succeeded in life full as well as could be expected; I have been honored by the people with responsible situations, and continue to have their confidence, but my circumstances at present forbid any further progress in political life. I must accumulate property if I would succeed. In order to this or to commence doing it, I have taken a contract to deliver 2000 cords of wood (to be taken from our land on the RR) on the cars for which I am to receive 94¢ per cord. If I can get means so as to be able to work to advantage I can make from \$400. to \$600, and clear the land at the same time. I shall commence work about the 1st of February, but do not deliver until summer. I want \$200. about the first of

February or \$100, then and \$100. in March.
Can you furnish me with that amount,
if you could I could afford to pay you
7 per cent for the time I had it and re-
turn it in September next so that you would
realize 7 per cent and have four months
to invest it again. It is hard to raise
money here on short notice or I should
apply to some one here and should expect
to pay 10 or 12 per cent. I have spoken in
the singular number but it means the
firm of Ch. C. & Cons. I should like to
hear from you on this subject at an
early day. Since I ~~wrote~~ you E. has
been married. she was married Oct. 18
they (Mr & Mrs J. S. Chason) live in town,
he is engaged in putting on and about the
R.R. and is doing tolerably well. I think
he will make a kind husband and get
a good living, but I never tho't Miss
good enough for sister. Her health is
somewhat improved but is not good all
the rest of us are enjoying comfortable health
and prospering in business. ~~Wm~~ attends school
and studies well Mr Crosby is teaching
school in his district, he is doing well
and will be rich before many years.
I have been out in the cold all day and
this accounts in part for this bad writing.
Remember us all to your wife and accept
our best wishes for your welfare and prosperity.
Your brother,
Henry Chumtatin

New Buffalo December 29, 1849

Dear Sam

I enclose a draft on New York for \$116.⁰⁰ enclosed by A Bennett in favor of Henry K Gage which I wish you to do me the favor of taking to him and cancel your account with that firm of the same amount. take a receipt once forward it in your first letter I enclose in a letter which Henry writes you you will see what he thinks of going about if you can pardon his meddling to his work you will do him and me a favor for which I will see that you suffer no loss matter and I am on a visit to Mr. Mason's. Blessed be health seems to be improving though a multiplicity of cares I have neglected writing you. Thus long my health is much better than last summer I am more fleshy. When I have been for some time I shall endeavor to write you before long give my respects to Mother Mr Gage & in haste
your affectionate father

Moses Chamberlain

Boston Jan 1. 1850

Dear Brother.

This day I have mailed
Four Drafts on New York, by Wells
& Co, payable to your order for 100.
each.

I shall send this letter in
the course of two or three
days

Yours
Mellen Chamberlain

M. Chamberlain

Jan 1 1857

For Henry Chamberlain Esq
New Buffalo
(Berrien Co)
Michigan



Henry Chamberlain Esq
New Buffalo
Mich.

Boston Jan'y 11. 1850

My dear Henry
Toms and Fathers letters,
with the draft, came to hand yesterday, &
the latter was paid over as per receipt,
herewith enclosed. It is too bad that your
letter did not reach me before the 1st inst.,
as then I could have sent you the needful
for your operations; but as it is, I see no
way in which it can be done. It stands just
here. About a year ago, I had about six
hundred & fifty dollars, which I wished to in-
vest, and as I knew little about the security
of hoisomers, it was an object to let it
out safely at a good rate, rather than seek
the rates then in the streets - 18 per cent. So
I asked our cousin W. C. Strong to take mine
at 8 and 10 percent, which he did as a
favor to me. It fell due on the first of
this month and he was ready to pay me then,
or to reinvest it and giving me a note on
six months at 8, though money just now
is worth one & a half per month on good
paper in the street, tho' it will not hold
long at that rate. As he took it on six
months, and made that the consideration of his

New Buffalo Jan 23. 1850

Dear Son I have been to Town to day on
horseback, had a fine sunny day of which we
have had but few for several weeks no snow but good
riding and have returned as well satisfied as
was the woman who had been out shopping. This
woman had unfortunately got in possession of
a counterfeit piece of gold which she had made
some effort to get rid of, on her return from
shopping she seemed highly delighted and
said to her husband my dear I have got rid
of the gold piece. why said he how did you do it,
I put it said she between two cents and passed it
off and the man never noticed it I have been
to Town to day and got rid of the balance of
my old goods which have long been an eye sore
to me, that is what we called worth one hundred dollar
at east and got in exchange for them a good clear
deed of a bit of land in the center of New Buffalo
village right rods long and sixty six feet wide it is
a corner lot on a ^{good} ~~good~~ and handsome street joining
the great lake, a few rods from the Railroad depo
one end on an elevated bank a good dry building spot
the other end reaching down the bank to a fine brook
of water where a spring gushes out, such lots have been
selling as high as one hundred and fifty dollars and
the man that I had it of says that he was offered
over two hundred for it in other good property, a turn of

horses, every year horses of two years a go, but money is scarce
and but little sale for village property at this time
whether I shall be able to get any thing for it I
do not know, but one thing I do know, that I have
got rid of the heaviest galled piece. They were
the ads and ends of my old stock —
further more I was glad to find a letter in the
office from your director to Henry containing a
receipt from Messrs Gage & Co. also to know that you were
well and doing well, and that you were sensible
that you had got a good wife, although I knew
that before, I collect to see Elizabeth Jones
her some better than she had been a week before
she is no other fable how it well turn with her
I know not she thinks of coming up to stay
with us a while Henry has commenced apprentices
on his woad job has six hands at work William
goes to school Mother and I stay at home and keep
the castle Mr Crosby and family are well their babe
is a fine boy his eyes are as bright as a new made button
My health has been much better this winter than
it was last summer I have been very busy since
my return home doing a little of a most every thing
I found myself rather deficient for the want of
money after my return home not having collected
debts which were due and that I had made the promise
of but I have scribbled a long paper off my taxes
and some other small demands so that some ten or
a dozen dollars I think will pay all that I owe
and that I expect soon I do not like to be

Henry is getting along well with his work. No more news of the young lady.

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in debt our crops were poorer we killed 6 goats
keep one a small beef salted most of them so
that we do not want for something to eat
Henry will want all we have to show and much
more we have a fine flock of hens and a
plenty of eggs we have a good school this
winter. I spend my evenings mostly in
reading some new sellers have come and
others are coming into town
I shall never forget the very pleasant parties
I experienced in our visits at the court last
summer let us hear from your affectionate
your affectionate father

P.S. Jan 27

Moses Chamberlain

I left the remaining space for mother to write
a few lines to Martha but she never seems to get ready
I therefore must finish it myself. I would say
to her that we were exceedingly happy in the
short acquaintance we had with her and her sister
also we shall not soon forget the pleasant ride
to and delightful visit at Danvers it would
be exceedingly gratifying to have a more extensive
acquaintance I hope she will write to mother soon
and if she can ever get about it she will answer
her we shall ever remember her affectionate feelings
manifested towards us with this grateful
feelings that are due from a parent to an
affectionate child mother sends much love and
we would be remembered to her sister and friends
M. C.

Henry is going along well with his work. No more such a good spring like



Mr. Mellen Chamberlain
No 46 Washington St.
Boston
Massachusetts.



Miss Mary Anne Weston 10.1850

Dear Mother -

Although not needed in the letter line
to give others account of the "new" history
the communication may be desirable.

We have been very glad to hear of your
in the same life - and also of your success in business
the time that property & happiness in life relations one
it continued to you a happy morning, months & years after
embrace the results of your labor, and of your day
course of training in active life - the world is very good
to the many with it (it will also in the future) and
months as before the three of our family take
perhaps you have had information of the
years of your & our dear sister Elizabeth (Miss Weston)

She is now quite ill, and is at home with her mother
The two last weeks - after a week's rest - she is
on the twenty third day - after which they felt relief and
that a very comfortable & pleasant home in the village - which she
then, slight reluctantly, it seems, on account of inability - to attend
to her household duties - since which the two last weeks
she has been in the care of an old and experienced physician
more of the same, but soon to be gradually getting weaker, and
we fear approaching her dissolution, she seems to have a complication
of several terrible disorders - she has had a Chronic Gastritis, then
for her 6 or 8 months - also an increasing cough and inflammation of
the lungs, much more extended to the lungs - although, should
think the doctor that she carries her very much clearer, she also
has a lump and for some time very much swollen throat
regarding almost every the slightest of food - does any medicine,
or food will be thick - the doctor says she also has a
like that to hope, and we are not entirely without it - although hope
is far fading - there has been only slight improvement and only a
few symptoms, we should have thought, hope of recovery
further, but as to her case, our convictions and fears are
unfavorable - she is quite thin and emaciated, and her
bones are getting to be painfully prominent - you would
not recognize in her former features, your little young
sister of 24 years ago - now, dear Mother, from your old age
one in your family can be called "good" she is that case - I know
afflict and affliction, and good offices and friends
of character, have widely seen the respectability and esteem of
all, however to the highest from the common & the most active, from
her position and needs she is surprised a prominent place in our com-
munity - she was known - only to the least.

she is now in quite comfortable quarters - occupying our place

and bed room adjoining. She takes the bed at night and the sofa in the parlor in the day time - sitting up a little as yet. She is remarkably mild and patient under her afflictions. I have just told her I am writing to you - she seems quite glad I have at last got at it, as she has been anxious to have some of us write. She says she has anticipated much pleasure in seeing you, again, and becoming acquainted with your wife - But "tell him I do not now expect to meet him on earth, but I hope we shall meet in heaven!" She seems to desire the company of her brother, and she has been here a good deal of late - today she went home with William who came for her with a horse. She is quite well. Your father is not quite so well - but so as to be making signs. William has grown exceedingly the last six months, and can wear any of Henry's clothes. Henry is getting ~~over~~ ^{on} board aboard on the Rail Road line - and will probably do a good business. They are both quite well - also myself, Mary, Perry, and Charles - two fine nephews you may depend -

We have had quite a notion of going East this season. I wish very much to see my aged parents before death. I had separate as I will require a large expenditure (which I dislike to withdraw from needed improvements on my farm) to transport my growing family forth and back - and Mary needs a whole upper set of teeth, to restore symmetry of features and put her in good humor with herself - we can get along ^{very} tolerably ~~and~~ here in our retirement - but when we go into the great gaping world appearances go a great ways. Will you do us the favor to make inquiry as to the expense of an upper set of grinders, &c. for a very nice woman? So that we can make up our minds whether to have it done or not, as our means will allow. We ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~think~~ have not yet fully made up our minds whether we go or all or not - and if we go, whether in May or October.

I am making improvements gradually on my farm. I have now about 25 acres cleared - I think I have done as well as could be expected "considering."

The political horizon seems to look rather squally at present - but I guess there won't be much of a shower. If some of the white-livered and soft visaged gentry could see a good brownie, by some means, it might do a little good. However, if the South really would secede, and set up for themselves, I, for one, would be very willing to let them go - and I do not see the necessity of spilling very much blood or brains, which Sen. Cass is trying to put himself into the belief of - Some of our Union Repr. are true men; I think all but Cass will be true on the secession question. Bingham & Sprague I am quite sure of - well. I am full - good bye and let us hear from you soon. Remember us to your wife, Yours, D. C. Crosby

New Buffalo August 25. 1850

2716

Dr Brother & Sister

Many months have passed away since I have written you and several weeks since I received your last letter which we read with much satisfaction we are ever extremely interested to hear from you and the rest of our eastern friends we received a letter from Mrs Bradley some weeks since - Now Dear Brother my neglect to write has not been that we have not often thought and spoken of you and your dear family as well as many other of our eastern friends our thoughts often roam back to the land of our nativity we often speak of our visit last year and can never forget the friendly reception we met with in all of our journey.

But the fact has been that I have been so busily employed about other things that I did not set myself about writing it is no great affair to write when one begins but the difficulty is in getting begun there are so many cares to occupy the mind and chances to be performed which urge themselves directly upon my attention that I put off writing till some more convenient time and that seldom comes my paper is out of the way my ink is dried up and my pen has got rusty and I have been at work till have got to much fatigued or to lazy to hunt them up put them in order and get about writing but I thought to my self this morning it won't do I must and will try to write so I have gathered up my old materials and have begun to scribble away as well as I can, I have some miserably intelligent to communicate as well as much that is interesting. Eliza & Mary have lost their son Charles he was an exceedingly promising boy about a year old healthy and sprightly till a few weeks before his death his death occurred on this wise Mr Crosby was engaged in raising a barn we were all there helping him Mary was very busy in preparing for the new life Perry to take care of Charles who was in the best room on the place by some accident Charles tumbled

from the bee which fell seemed to injure his knee
he had also several teeth about cutting through at the
same time which caused much irritation he was soon taken
with spasms or light fits together with fever which continued
about three weeks in spite of every thing that could be done
to relieve him he died Friday July 12th his remains
were brought and deposited by the side of our beloved
and much lamented Elizabeth on a beautiful note some
fifty rods east of our house shaded by about a dozen stately
sugar trees in place near from our door as we go out
in the morning or come in in the evening we cast a
look towards the grave of her we so dearly loved
Mary and Boney is now with us they come to make us
a visit of a couple of days Boney is a fine boy -
we have all been favoured with very good health
through the season thus far there is little yesterday
apartly Mother and William both had a slight fever
turn but are quite smart to day there is a good deal
of sickness just at present although not severe the
season has been very warm and the fore part of it dry
although there is a plenty of rain now it has produced
a good deal of bilious complaint nothing very severe
however the weather begins to grow cooler and I think
health will be restored in a few days

We have had a fine season for all kinds
of vegetation crops of every kind were never more
abundant William and I have managed the farm
with some hindering about a few days work Mr. Mosen
has been with us doing a job on the raeel (which by the
way we have got quite a good raeel to Paffols now)
we made an exchange with him helped him with our
team and he helped us on the farm he has good now
we have about 4 acres of wheat and about the same of
oats cut some 20 tons of hay which we have been in great
order now cultivated about 8 acres of corn & potatoes
which have arrived at a great growth cultivated about
a half acre of garden from which we have and shall have
a great supply of almost every kind of garden vegetable

our young orchard will furnish us with a comfortable supply of Apples and peaches the woods abound with nuts and wild fruit of all kinds every kind it on the whole is the most fruitful season that we have ever witnessed since we came to this country Henry has been employed in getting out wood on the railroad for the steam boats ever since last June any he took a contract to get out two thousand cords which will clear some 40 acres of ground - he is getting on very well with his job very well the road will pay for clearing and fencing the ground and perhaps something more We have had a meeting at our school house through the season this year which has been well attended we have a Presbyterian Minister one fourth of the time ministers of other denominations occasionally and the rest of the time conference and prayer meeting we have had also a very interesting Sabbath school superintended by Mr. Moran Saccety seems to be improving a good state of feeling prevails among us -

God is overturning and I trust will continue to overturn the powers of earth till he shall come whose right it is to reign, what a mighty struggle there is to stay the hand of God to shut in the light to stay the onward movement of Gods Kingdom but the spell of darkness is broken the light begins to shine the inhabitants of earth begin to arise from their slumbers and I trust the time is not far distant when every yoke shall be broken, the triumph is being proclaimed from high places and to every one who has access to the throne of Gods grace pray unceasingly that the truths sent forth on the wings of the wind may be ~~strengthened~~ attended by the energy of the Holy Ghost so that there may be a general enquiry among the inhabitants of earth as there was on the day of Pentecost what shall we do let the friends of right be not discouraged a better day is coming now has been accomplished rather

eight months in clearing away the clouds of darkness
 exposing the deformity of falsehearted men in this country and
 perhaps through the world than had been done for as
 many centuries before the world seems lighter and
 then God's Kingdom will have come and his will will
 then be done on earth as it is now done in heaven
 with much respect I remain your affectionate

Brother
 W. Chamberlain

22 60
 5 10
 28 70
 60
 28 10



William Chamberlain
 Sanborn & Co
 New Brunswick

09 86
 09 55
 01 47
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 09 86
 25 5
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0 682
 235
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10

C. Harris Chamberlain
 Tour
 Letter
 Aug 25/50

P.S. I should be extremely to have a call from
 of our eastern friends if they would get from
 over here not get them from you quite
 tell them to come on for the one fine
 chances for the time N.C.

[March 30, 1851]

New Buffalo Dec. 30, 1849.

My Dear Mellen

The close of the year is fast approaching but I am resolved to answer your kind letter before the New Year comes. I have neglected writing you so long that I hardly know how to apologize to you. and I greatly fear that my excuse may be unsatisfactory - but if you knew how miserable my health had been and how little ^(little) ~~exposed~~ ^(little) to exertions of any kind I have felt I think you would be more ready to excuse me. The truth is I have written but two or three letters in six months I have done only what I have felt obliged to do. It is true I have performed one great action but it was one that required little effort and one to which I was not at all averse. Well I suppose you would like to know what this act is oh nothing less than changing my name instead of Miss Chamblain some call me Mrs Mason. though I am known as "Lizzie" is yet. but I have changed my condition and taken upon myself the responsibilities of a wife. I hardly need tell you that I am very happy in my new situation. I have a good husband and one that I love as myself. We are poor in worldly goods but I doubt not we shall have the comforts of life as long as we live and with that I am content. We were married Oct. 18 my birthday you recollect. there were but few present and after the ceremony was performed we came directly home, we have a pleasant house in a part of the town where we can have a fine view of the lake, harbor, and railroad. my husband John Gardner Mason has been employed on the railroad for two years.

we shall probably remain here for the present - though we have
thought some of moving into the eastern part of the state and
go to farming. Father and Mother left - no day after leaving
made as a great - of two or three days. They are in good health
this winter mother particularly. Their journey east - was very
beneficial to them. Henry and William are both at home
his attending school and is very much engaged in his
studies.

Dear Mother, it is with deep emotion that I now write
our dear Elizabeth is almost gone, I feared this day would
be her last but she got remain but soon must leave us -
Dear Mother last Monday evening I took this short part which I
commenced so long ago and which I then felt must be her last
to you to finish but such were my feelings I could not write

freely of regretted Brother Mason to give a part of the short
readily compiled and has given you a concise account of our
various death, there are many circumstances connected with
her last illness and death which I wish to write, but time and space
will not permit me to do half I wish, she came gradually
and gently down to rest the dark night not suffering extraordinary
exhaustion, her mind was perfectly clear, and her heart perfectly
free until it was released from the clay tabernacle to join
the rejoicing throng above. We had been doing what we could for
her until last Monday, when, feeling she could see no more medicine we
were obliged to decide and commit her into the hands of a merciful
God, who gave up all hope of recovery and although have to part with

there is a loud bell she was willing to go, desiring a German physician
to come from the village and to be with her and express a strong hope of recovery

New Buffalo, March 30, 1830

Miller Chamberlain Esq

Dear Sir - On the first part of this sheet you will find, in a well-known hand, a statement of a few facts which will serve as an introduction to you - and here, Sir, without apologies or sentimentally dissimulating, I proceed to the statement of a few additional ones, in which you have interest, and in which we are mutual losers, and - may I add - sympathisers.

Your dear sister - my wife Elizabeth - died the 27th ult. of what was considered by the most eminent Physician among us, Dr. Everett, of Michigan City, Ind. the Consumption - Her body being examined after her decease, it was found that her lungs were diseased through sympathy, while her liver was evidently the first and principal cause of her death - It was thought from the enormous enlargement of it, that it had been diseased at least four or five years - It was found "four to six times as large" as it should have been, and consequently had so displaced other organs as to entail death - not that her lungs were so far gone, that she might not have recovered as some thought! but - I repeat - because of her liver - O the shortightedness of those having lives in their hands! But, not to speak further upon that which is of no avail, I turn your thoughts to another bereavement - And here, I enter a large place, too large to be probed at present - My affection nor feelings will not permit it - I can only say, that she was in herself lovely, and by me beloved - You need no explanation of the Character, strength and tenderness of conjugal affection that I can give, but, Dear Sir, permit me to remark, that Death will develop new strength, new tenderness, and will touch ^{us} ~~us~~ that will situate peculiarly, producing sensations before unknown - - But, she is gone!

Happy in her "precious Saviour", and triumphing in His grace,
she passed away without a groan, on Wednesday, the 27th, at 4 o'clock,
P.M. — Thus was I left to mourn the loss of one I could not
retain — And when I look at myself, I find in my heart a vacuum
deep and broad — at my home, and it is desolate — at my prospects,
and they are blighted — at the world, and it has lost its principal
charms — But, when I look to God, the Supervisor, at least, of this
event, I behold righteousness the Habitation of His Throne! To
Heaven, I behold another immortal Spirit made perfect, robed
in glorious white (the righteousness of saints) tuning its golden harp
to more joyful lays than this earth can afford; and balancing on
wings of Celestial origin and beauty, hovers around this my frail
Tabernacle to comfort the soul! These things in view, I cannot
weep, as those without hope, but joy in her release from disas-
trous trials, pain and death —

Dear Sir — I conclude these
reflections, and my little addition to this letter, begun by one
so much beloved, and to be completed by another not less so,
by expressing my earnest wish that you and all concerned
may be as happy in death as Elizabeth C. Mason.

While I remember with heart-felt gratitude the kindnesses
bestowed upon me here by the friends, I shall hope to receive
that remembrance by your replies, together with all the friends
as the circumstances and your respectful feelings may
dictate

Yours, in aff. affliction

John C. Mason

E. Miller Chamberlain, Esq.

Boston

Mass:

[1849, Dec. 30]

under his constant she commenced taking little pills, Wednesday he came again and appeared much pleased with his success he caused her to snout, left more pills, and wished to keep up the perspiration until three o'clock but she was so pressed for breath we were obliged to remove some of the clothes she was wearing and requested Mother to read the Bible to her, she listened for sometime and turning anxiously to her said "Mother am I dying?" for a moment she exhibited some fear, Mother said calmly "I hope not yet dear," but Brother J. perceiving it must be so, said it might be a precursor, she requested all the family to be called, we gathered around, to see her die I could not see she was so near gone, she breathed short but I hoped she might yet be spared a little longer but soon felt that she must leave us, She wished she chosen, Mother and a young friend who was present to sing "Rock of Ages" she then exclaimed "Precious Savior, let me to thy bosom fly, while the waters near me roll, while the tempest still is high," Mother asked "are you afraid to die?" she answered promptly and firmly "No!" her last words were "Be faithful" after the first she died happy and I doubt not is among the bright celestial throng. The evidence was not confined to her dying hour but great strangers as she approached it, and now dear brother are we prepared to join her in that bright world where partings are unknown do let us so live that we can look forward with pleasure to a dying hour, may we feel that "to die is gain" She wished me to say to you she was happy to hear you were united to one so good, one who loved the Savior and his cause so well, and tell not to seek to earnestly for the honors of this world but seek that which comes from God only, we feel sadly bereaved, she was dear to all our hearts, it was lonely here before what will it be in future! we felt we could not spare her, yet God has taken her to himself why should we mourn dear brother your best, most lovely sister has gone but you must not forget me, let this ^{affliction} be a new cord which shall bind

more firmly together in love to each other and to our Heavenly Father, and dear Martha
I feel will be a sister to the sisterless I feel very inadequate to hold correspondence with her
and yet I wish it that we may become better acquainted, and enjoy each others love and confidence
Father & Mother here are under this great trial much better than I expected they would, they feel
great consolation from the firm hope that their dear daughter is free from sin and
sorrow, Brother Aaron feels his loss keenly, he was a kind devoted husband watched with
an intense interest over her he so loved, anticipated all her wants, and consoled and
encouraged her until the last parting struggle rent their hearts, then closing those
eyes which had turned so lovingly upon him when the lips refused to give utterance
to the feelings of the heart he turned in silence to his chamber with a desolate heart, and
yet not without the consolations of the Holy Spirit I feel he has that for which we should
all be very grateful, He is well, as are my children, but little Charles is crying for
his mother's care, and dear Brother I must bid you good bye and take kind,

Your affectionate sister Mary E. Crosby.

To Mellen Chamberlain Esq.

The enclosed is a lock of Elizabeth's hair

Much love from all, to yourself and dear sister
Martha, Dear Brother & Sister I wish I could be with
you for a little season there is so much I wish to
say which I can not write so much about sister E,
so much about ourselves, so many inquiries concern-
ing your welfare but it cannot be, but let us hear
from you often - yours &c Mary

Spartanburg C. H. June 4. 1850

Dear Ellen,

I suppose that long ere this, you have some one else to call you dear Ellen, and it may be, that she may not so well like my appellation, but when she, (that is, your Lady, for I suppose you have one, although I have never been able exactly to ascertain the fact,) finds, that it only from dear, old, Aunt Kate, I am confident, that her face will resume her wonted smiles. But before I proceed farther on that subject, I will just inform you that I should like very well to know what is the reason you treated my last letter with so much neglect?

Did you, because you ~~have~~ at last found a companion, think, that all the rest of your friends must be buried in oblivion? Recollect, that we are somewhat selfish, and not only still claim a little corner of your heart, but also, a part of the heart of our new niece. But I am in quite too good a humor to write you a long lecture at present. We should like

very much to know, how you are prospering, and whether you are still residing in Boston, And, in this too, we are selfish. for we now expect, (that is my husband, myself, and perhaps your cousin Susan Elizabeth Foster, to spend a day or two in your city, in the middle or latter part of August next. And would above all things be delighted to meet you & yours.

We now expect to leave here about the 15th of next month, and go to Cincinnati, (Ohio), where two of Mr. Judd's sisters reside; from thence, to Columbus, & Solon. From thence to Northampton (Mass.) and Boston; and then to N. York; and home. Now if you will answer this immediately, and give us your address; we should be most happy to call on you.

It seems to be a pity for Mr. Judd to go once a year, to the same city where you reside and never meet you, or perhaps to meet you and not know you from that venerable old Patriarch, commonly called Adam.

We have not written to our friends in Ohio, of our intended visit, because we wish to surprise them. So, if you write anything about the

^{in your friends} matter, please tell them to keep it a secret. Your friends here are all enjoying good health. We still continue to board with brother Joseph. He has five children; the four eldest attend school.

Brother Abel, and his wife and two youngest children visited us, 2 weeks since. They were well, and very happy. They reside about twenty miles from us. Have four children. Brother Ab is still merchandising in the country, "Foster & Ludd", are doing a very good business in the village. Mrs. "Foster & Ludd" have about as much business as they can do at home.

We wrote to your mother, and sisters, a month or two since, and are now looking for an answer in return. Hope we may not be disappointed.

Do you ever visit Canterbury, London or your native place, Pembroke? I should like well to go to N. Hampshire, but do not suppose we shall have time, because Mr. J. would like to be at home, and receive and prepare his goods, before the first week in Oct. which is court week here, and generally their harvest - We have not heard from Mother very recently, but received letters from sisters Augusta & Sarah a week or two since. They

were all well. Sister Sarah, was expecting to return to Solon this summer and I have written her to meet me there in July or August.

I chose a small sheet of paper, not because I had so little to say, but because I had but a very short time to say a great deal. For you must know, I have a little fixing to do, before I can show myself in your Northern cities.

Mr. Ludd joins in sending love to your self and Lady, and we both hope are long to see you "face to face" and I would advise you if you are not pretty swift with the tongue, to use a little oil, by way of preparation: for the way I mean to talk, "won't be slow."

That you may ever be under the care of a kind Providence, and that your bark may at last be moored into this safe haven of rest, is the sincere desire of your ever affectionate aunt

Catherine Foster Ludd —

Albany N. Y. - August. 9. 1850
Mr. Chamberlain Esq.

Permit me to introduce to
you our friends, James Farrow Esq. & Lady, of
Spartanburg S. Carolina, Mr. Farrow is an
Atty. at Law, with us. He and his bride are on
a visit to the northern cities; any attention shown
them will be appreciated by us.

Yours aff. - Hunt
Catherine Foster Fiddell -

P.S. We have visited our friends in Ohio, whom we
found in usual health, and are thus far on our
visit to Boston, After spending two weeks, or
more in Northampton Mass. we hope to have
the pleasure of seeing you "face to face" until then

Adieu C. F. L. -

It is possible you may see us next week.

Mellen Chamberlain Esq

17 State St.

Mr. Farrow

Boston.

Brooklyn Sept. 6. 1850

My dear Henry,

Your letter, announcing the death of Mary's child, was received sometime since, but I have delayed to answer, that I might tell you something about our Southern friends who have recently visited us.

Our ranks have been broken and death has deprived us of one and another of our immediate family. Tho' Elisabeth's death affected me most deeply, yet I can but feel that the loss comes nearer to those beneath our fathers roof, than to those who have been separated so long from the loved one. Before our sister had left the East, I had seen enough of her character which was then beginning to develop^{fully} to know that she possessed uncommon qualities of heart. and I have soon since learned that all who knew her loved her. The playmates of our youth are, one after another, departing. It was but a short time since, that I saw in the papers the death of Betty Stevens Barnister whom Mary well knew; and so they fall here and there, one after another. It is most difficult for us to know what shadows we are and what shadows we pursue.

M. Chubb
Sept 6. 1850

About a fortnight since, Cousin John's wife
paid us a visit. For some weeks, she has been
with Mrs. Fx, formerly Hannah Sawyer, who
resides in this city. At the same time, cousin
Wm. Emery came and passed the night. He is
good company, and we like him much.
The last of August, Catherine Foster Sudd, her
husband, and Cousin Susan Foster, from So. Caro.,
were with us for some days. They, as you may
know, left So. Caro. for Cincinnati 10, Ohio,
Tenn: Ky & Ill, and so on to Columbus and
Solon. Aunt looks thin, and would not
survive our eastern winter. He seems to be
consumptive. He is good company - at least,
was so after she had lost her awe for
the Boston lawyer, and ^{came to know} that we were not
very ^{grand or} great people. Her husband is good
enough tho' I have one charge against him
which I will mention by & by. Cousin Susan
is fresh all over, - fair fat and sixteen -
with a good mind, but not great culti-
vation. We did the honors for them in the
best style we could.

Mr Sudd is worth about \$10,000, and
seems to be doing well. He is trading, you
know, with Uncle Jo. But don't you think
that Grandmother gave the general Wash.

ing the portrait to him. I am afraid the good old
lady forgot herself in two respects. First,
that she had already given it to Aunt
Susan, as mother told me, and I saw that
Cousin Alfred had written his name on it; and
secondly, that Mr Judd has no children
and never will have. The portrait is of great
value of itself, and it belongs in the family
to mother as the oldest granddaughter, or left
Aunt should claim it as the eldest son - and
to me as the oldest grandson (you see my
reasons as well as my wrath). But Mr Judd
claims it as a gift to himself (not to Aunt)
from grandmother. However, I have it for a
year, tho' I expect to be obliged to disgorge
it, unless some happy railroad accident
should release me from that necessity. It is
really a beautiful thing and would sell for
\$100. I would be very angry as well as very
unreasonable if it would do any good.

Martha is now in the country with two
folks pretty well, and will remain for ten days,
during which time I shall keep bachelor's
hall. We got along pretty well last year. That
is, we paid our expenses and saved about
\$400. That we call doing well for us. Martha
is economical - does her own work, and in good

With a mind much superior to my own and with every
quality to ensure respect and esteem, I should be a brute
not to improve with her. She will return to the city in about
a week. We were disappointed in not seeing Hale &
Mary. The journey would be good for them, and they ought
to come. Why won't you come in this winter, if you could
better spare the time than, than during the summer moe.
Martha and I would do our best to make you
enjoy yourself.

Business in Britn is rather dull just now. I
mean all kinds of business, and I'm afraid, will
not revive at present. Money is high. I could let
it at 6 per cent a month - tho' the best paper
is not worth more than eight per ann.

I have not said all that I wish - but, must
close here. I shall write to some of the family again
before long. Give my love to all and believe me
your affectionate brother

Mellin Chamberlain

To Henry.

I have just been writing a great deal in the
office and find my hand very unsteady.
Hope you will deapther.

Spartanburg C.H. October 18. 1850.

Dear Martha & Mellem,

I little thought when we parted from you, that five weeks would have passed, since our return home, without our writing to you, and giving you some account of ourselves. But first one thing and then another, has claimed our attention until the present time. At first we were rather fatigued with our journey, then we received a great many calls, our clothes were needing repairs &c. &c. which taken together left us little leisure for writing. So please excuse us.

After leaving your interesting city we went, as fast as steam could carry us, back to Springfield, and from thence via Hartford to Plymouth Conn. where we arrived about night. We found Uncle and Aunt Jackson well, and apparently very glad to see us. We remained with them and some cousins, until Tuesday morning. They did every thing in their power to make us happy, and we enjoyed ourselves finely. Tuesday morning, we left them, and arrived at New-York, at three or four o'clock the same afternoon.

There were a great many passengers, and when we arrived, at the depot in N.Y. - we were detained 2 or 3 hours before we could even get a sight of our trunks. We found them at length, and proceeded -

at once to Mrs. Ballards, a private boarding-house, at the corner of Warren St- and College-Place-It was a pretty place and comparatively quiet. I have not time or space to tell you much that we saw, but assure you, we improved every hour of the time that we were not sleeping in looking at the Lions of the city. We visited Barnum's Museum, Castle Garden & the Battery and Biblo's garden &c. Jenny Lind was in the place, but had not commenced singing, and I suppose it was quite as well for us, for our purses were not quite heavy enough for the tickets, many persons went to the Spring House to see her, but we did not quite like the idea of going to gaze at her. We remained at New-York until Saturday morning when we set out for Washington, where we spent the Sabbath.

In the morning, we attended worship, at the Capitol. We listened ^{to} an excellent sermon from an Episcopal Clergyman - delivered in the House of Representatives, I was permitted to fill one of the chairs, which I did with all the dignity of which I was Mistress, and (I flatter myself) with a little more than was exhibited there the ensuing day. In the after-noon we attended the Presbyterian Church, and heard a tolerable sermon from quite a young man. The next day as soon as we breakfasted, we set off on a visit to the National Institute, in which place we spent nearly 3 hours, in looking at every description of curiosities, (nearly), that could be named. There were stuffed beasts, birds, insects & reptiles. Also shells, lava, coral

of every variety. Mummies, Indian curiosities &c. But I was very much interested in seeing Franklin's Printing-press, Washington's clothes and camp utensils, The original Declaration of Independance, &c.

At half past ten, we went to our hotel, & after indulging in a little of the "Foster & Gould" pride, by spicing up a little we again repaired to the Capitol. The Saturday before, the compromise bill with some other important ones had been passed, and this morning, they were voting for an adjournment, and all was "confusion worse confounded". There was the Speaker with mallet in hand, vociferating at the top of his voice "Order gentlemen! we must have order! The members will take their seats and observe order". But all in vain!

It was Mr. Speaker! Mr. Speaker! from all parts of the house and we went on to the Senate Chamber in disgust, thinking that if men occupying the highest stations in the country, ^{could not govern themselves,} how could they expect children to be managed.

Arrived at the Senate-chamber, we found a body of men, both orderly & dignified - Gen. Houston was defending himself against an attack made on his character by Wallace, (of the house). He said some pretty hard things, but I believe the matter was finally amicably settled. While there, we saw the California, Texas boundary and ^{Utah} ~~Utah~~ bills, signed by the Speaker of the Senate with a great deal of ceremony. One thing more. Among the pictures in Rotunda of the Capitol, is one in which Washington resigned his commission to the Senate. They are all portraits taken from life, and the first figure in the foreground, next to Washington is Grandfather Foster. I always had a desire

to know how he looked, and now it has been gratified. In the after-noon we visited the Presidents house - The National Monument, and the Smithsonian Institute. Tuesday morning we again set our faces homeward and arrived here in health and safety, Saturday the 14 of Sept. Found our friends well and happy to see us. Brother Abel, wife, and youngest daughter, have been here, left us for home this morning. They had many questions to ask about you - which were answered to the best of our knowledge.

We often in imagination make our visits over again, and some-how we love to linger, near that nice little domicile on Beacon Street. I want to visit you ten times more than I did before we saw you. But we hope you will still adhere to that good resolution of coming to see us. You shall be more than welcome.

Brother A. says, that the Miniature of Washington, was taken from life, and Grandfather, Washington and Judge Tenney all exchanged with ~~each~~ other. I remember hearing Father say something of the kind. We hope you will soon write to us - Mr. Fidd would have written, but is very busy, receiving and marking his goods. ^{Mr. and Susan} ~~They~~ both join with me in sending love - Susan, is not well - The rest of the family all send love - Try to overlook mistakes.

Yours very affectionately

Catherine F. Fidd -

Red Buffalo, Berrien Co.
Michigan, Oct. 18. 1850.

Brother,

Your letter of last month has been received. We are pleased to hear of your continued prosperity; but father wishes that you might have less business to do when you write letters that he wants to read.

We are all in a tolerable state of health, tho. we have had some ague or chill fever this fall. Mother has more the any of us. It has been a sickly fall in the country generally; but the form of disease has been light ague & chill fever in the timbered country and but few deaths, - in the open country many deaths.

Aunt Sarah Foster is with us. She has been here about six weeks and enjoys good health for her. She has been very useful to mother, - will continue here till spring or longer.

I am pleased to learn that you have that profile or portrait. - Keep it at all hazards. Mother is "mad" to think that Aunt Kate's husband should think of keeping it - a "bad promise is better ^{kept} in the

know what is the answer. Let some

one state it, I don't promise to present them;

and for Mr. Briggs I can't do better.

If I could speak it I would come and see

you on Thursday to do it for nothing else.

Once for all I say don't let them hear it.

And it to me by itself and don't promise

to return it even, which I promise I will not

keep.

Also I have been good and have

been generally received in first rate order,

that of this year among the some up well

and I promise well for next season, but it

don't always make its promise.

We are in the act of an election. I have

and his friends have made hills and earth

in order to obtain his restoration to the mem-

bership in '52. I cannot with certainty predict

the result, but think that not over 3 Compa-

ones will be defeated and that we shall

have but a small if any majority in the

Legislature; I despair from and his own

that do not think it prudent to know

any had against the small, nothing but

the usual bad management of the things

can prevent our defeat. And I think it would

be well for the party if each of them to the

our. I attribute this to some party concentration

the present work and could have been a

Nomination for Representative, but I did not want to go and support Sears for the Senate as I should have been under the necessity of doing.

I saw our friend Taft & wife a few days since, he is well. He will probably be nominated by the whigs for Pros. Atty for this County and will stand a fair chance ^{to be} of an elected.

I am at present on the R.R. attending to my wood job. I have made a fair business for the season, and should have made more had I got off as much wood as I expected, but sickness of my men in August & September prevented me from cutting as much as I contracted by about 600 cords. I am now in a good situation for another seasons business except for cash funds. I can have 2000 cords and shall buy for 7000. if I can get felled if I get the 2000 I shall have to borrow in addition to my own means \$500, and if 7000. \$1000. if I can. If you have any funds that you can spare me I can afford to pay you 10 per cent for 6 months or at the rate of 20 per annum. I should like to get of you all that you have to spare between this and the 1st of March & can pay you by August next. If it were an uncertain business I should not dare to borrow money, but it is perfectly safe.

As the men with whom we contract are able
& responsible owing to Steamboats and ^{most of} those of
the first class and they pay as fast as they take
the good. If you have any money I will pay
the interest named and you need not fear
but what I will and can repay you next
Summer. Money here is worth just what
you will ask and it is mostly loaned on
short time at from 3 to 10 per cent a month, and
those that have can & have paper at a great discount.
I once bot. Bro. Cusby's note due in ten days and
he ready to pay in that time at 20 per cent discount
and I have bot. my own (not due) at 30 per cent
for 6 months. Such being the case it is hardly
possible to loan money for 6 months at any price.
Money commands 10 per cent a month in Chicago
and most of the small merchants mechanics &
borrow large sums at these rates. I have
written this much to show you why I did
not try to loan here but was asking the price
of you. Let me hear from your soon.

Yours brother
Henry Cunningham

Boston Oct 30. 1850

My dear Henry

I have (besides small sums which I shall need for personal expenses) two notes - one for \$400, due the 1st Jan. 1851, and the other for \$112. due September 1st 1851. The sum which falls due Jan. next, you ^{can} have at that time, allowing for the time of transmission to New Buffalo. It has been worth to me about 12 per cent, tho' I could have let it at much larger rates, but I have sought short notes and good pay. If you can afford to pay at the rate of 20 per cent per annum for six months (10 per cent for six mos.) I have no objection to taking that sum; but pay no more than the money is worth to you, giving you fair profits. It is not worth that sum to me, unless some good chance for trade should turn up - probably not more than 12 per cent. If, when the time approaches, you still think you wish 400. give me direction for the purchase of a draft, and the rate (if any) I shall pay, and I will forward it to you on the 3^d of Jan. 1851. I can now see nothing which can possibly prevent. The other \$100. will not fall due in season for your wishes, and I must reserve about 100. ^{which is on deposit} for my own use. Your own note, I suppose, is all I want for ample security in any contingency. You know best, and as you think, so shall I, and be content. So much for business. Now for other matters.

Father, Mother, Mary, Haleb & theirs, you, William and

all. Chamberlain
Oct 30. 1850

aunt, all well. Lizzie, too all well with her! I can't realize that she is not with you. My eyes fill when I think of her.

It is well with us. I wish you knew my dear Patty. You would like her. She has the best union of mind and heart I ever saw in woman. Her eye is black and quick; her affections strong; her faith and conscience pure & bright. Keen to enjoy and quick to appreciate whatever is true, beautiful or sensible, she fills my whole heart. I wish you knew her. I wish you had such a wife. She is just the woman I have heard you often speak of - in everything except in health. Although she has not been sick a day since we were married, and does her own work, and never complains, but is always cheerful, yet she is not strong. I would give all I have if she ~~was~~ were! I have some fears. But we are happy. We love each other.

Mother recollects Kate and Sarah. The former I have not seen of late; but Sarah was with us a few weeks since. She, Patty, Emily (Rev. Mussey) and I went to hear Jerry Lind of the Hetchum Depot. There was the nearest approach to a panic I ever knew. Some three thousand people in a hall sustained by the roof, for the safety of which fears were entertained. The hall was full, and a thousand seeking entrance in vain, but crowding those in the rear of the hall, where hundreds were suffocating for want of air. Some fainting, some beseeching for

and then the crash of windows, doors & settles, and
a grand rush which the police could not withstand.
The madened crowd came rushing over the backs
of the seats up to the one in which we were sitting,
women on all hands fainting, and an impression
that the hall would fall. I believe the firmness
of a few of us saved a panic, the consequences
of which would have been awful to that crowded
mass. As I said, they came to the seat backs of us.
"Patty" said "keep your seat & be calm." She was so,
and so were the party (her sister) in our seat. This
reassured others, and the tumult subsided. Then
came the music of Henry Lind. I can give you
no idea of it. I have no pretensions to enthusiasm,
and but slight claims to musical taste, but I was
overwhelmed with astonishment at her power, &
charmed with her joyous music.

Mother was in the country during September.
Cousin Wm Emory has passed me night with us.
Sensible fellow. Cousin John & wife have been
with us - tho' not together. John is good company;
but headstrong. His wife, so so. Gerrish Chamberlain
left us a fortnight since for the west. He goes
no to this & I hope will visit you.

I went as far as Exeter one or two days, &
for the rest of the time, have been in the City
during the summer. We get a living. Shall get
rich and I have no great desire to. I mean to
live happily and rationally. We remain where

us well, when Father & Mother visited us. No one in
Boston gets rich in the law. We live well, work
hard (do a great deal of good) and die poor.
There is great competition, and only a few great men
get rich. But I love living here, and am happy.
I am glad that you entertain a proper feeling
about the Washington Portrait. I fear it will
go South, tho' not if I can help it. By a
thousand considerations, it belongs to mother.

We had a letter from Aunt C. yesterday. They
reached home well. The wear and ~~tear~~ of the
after journey excepted.

Give my love to Aunt Sarah. I recollect ^{and love} her
well. The other I love. None of you know what
it is to be alone. At times, my heart yearns toward
my parents, my brothers and sister of the west. I
wish they remember me. In good time, let me
hear from them all.

Many things I could say - but I must now go
home to my wife, who has the tea kettle blazing
and steaming, and the bright light in our cozy
parlor.

Yours affectionately
Wm. Henry Miller Chamberlain

Mellow Chumblain
Dec 17 1850

Boston Dec 17. 1850

My dear Brother,

I have this moment received your letter enclosing the note of 400. dated Jan 2. 1851. As I wrote in my last, I shall have my funds in the 1st of January 51. or will transmit them to you in the manner which seems best, after making due enquiries. Whatever arrangement is made with father's approbation, in the nature of security, will be entirely satisfactory to me. In my circumstances, it could neither be prudent, nor could you allow me to risk the bulk of my small property upon the contingency of the life of any person. My understanding is, that father understood and consented to the arrangement, that in case you should be taken away, or should be unable to pay at the time when it becomes necessary for me to use my funds, he will assume the debt, and

pay the same.

I will endeavor to send the drafts or certificates on the first of January, in my letter, and on the second of the same month, apprise you that I have forwarded the same.

I don't now know when I shall need the money; it will depend upon the state of business here. If I am successful, it can lay nine months, but perhaps it would be well for you to expect to pay it in six months from date of the note. The rest of the money that is out is not due until next autumn.

As this is enclosed in a letter to father, in answer to his, I will write no more than to say I am truly Yours

Mellen Chamberlain
Woffensz.