

Shokomish, Mason Co. V. I.
May 18, 1878.

Rev. H. Lyman

Dear Friend & Teacher

Yours of Apr. 24.

I found at home on my return a few days since. I thank you very much for your kind invitation to your house during commencement. & should be very glad to be present. I have just however returned from a two & a half weeks trip down the Sound, in order to dedicate an Indian church. Should I attend the commencement exercises I would necessarily have to stay until after the Association: my family cannot

well go. & it seems to me that
duty both to the church here &
also to my family demands
that I should not be absent
so soon again for so long a
time. Hence I regretfully am
obliged to decline your kind
invitation.

Our families are now all
in comfortable health. & we
join in kind regards to your-
self & family

Yours very Sincerely
M. Eells.

P.S. I send you a copy of our
Chinook Hymns - M. E.