

Sheffield Bureau Co. Ill. July 25th 1856

My dear brother and sister,

Your last letter mailed March 31st came duly to hand much to our satisfaction. I presume there may be another written if not on the way by this time. I have delayed a little beyond my intention in writing this letter though I have generally not been able to find time to do it earlier. We are right in the midst of an effort to secure funds for erecting a meeting house and I have the begging to do chiefly, and hence it is quite a draft upon my time. And I suppose it will prove no small draft upon my means if we should succeed in completing our undertaking. I have subscribed \$100. and shall probably find it necessary to double this before the work is done. Perhaps this effort among us will be little or nothing compared with your own effort in church building in Portland.

By the way have you sold your place at Portland? If so did you realize any advance on the property I mean any thing above your own expenses?

And have you felt obliged to give as much towards the meeting house at Portland as you intimated you might do in one of your letters. I am not afraid of being permanently any poorer for any sacrifices we may

not called upon to make for the honor of God or the
welfare of mankind. The great thing we should aim at
is to do good to our fellow men. If we accomplish
this God will take care of our worldly prospects and
will also bless us richly with spiritual blessings.
I have recently received a letter from brother Josiah in which
he copies a line from you under date of May 19th.
There you observe that Mary's health is feeble. I would
be glad to know what occasioned her debility. Is not
your climate favorable to her health? And what
effect has the climate upon your own health?
We are now mostly in comfortable health though
we are in the midst of extreme heat. Thermometer
to-day was 98° at a little past three P. M. Our heat
I suppose is more severe than yours. Thus far we
have had a very dry season. There were nearly six
weeks from May 17th without rain. Mary thought
the spring wheat would be ruined, but just as
it seemed likely to give up the ghost a copious
rain changed the whole face of affairs and it
proves a most excellent crop. We are now pinching
very badly again.

I have sent, or rather put up to send, two papers
each containing four heads of white winter wheat.
Loren asked me to send you some approved wheat
in a letter. I may shell a head and put in to this
letter. This wheat, if it reaches you, will show you
what we call a superior article of wheat.

I know not its character for hardiness compared

with other kinds of winter wheat, though for quality of flour it stands first in market.

The amount of wheat raised here this year compared with last is I think at least double in the number of acres and the quality of the berry is better as a whole than for many years before. There is scarcely a field of winter or spring wheat that is not plump and fat berry.

I have not seen a notice of your organizing a church yet at Ballas. Do you anticipate doing this soon? I now anticipate organizing another church at Buda, (my other principal preaching place, four miles distant) soon, of some dozen or more members.

28th I hoped to send this some days since, but I have been very busy soliciting subscriptions for church-building. We have had a refreshing rain to-day which has revived vegetation very much. We have had six days of very warm weather. The season as yet tolerably healthy.

How do you feel in reference to the monstrous Kanran outrage. Don't you blood sometimes boil at these, which are permitted by the connivance at least of the administration, since to which the tax on tea was mere innocent child's play? I don't doubt you feel very much as I do in reference to this subject. I speak occasionally a little in reference to the abominations which are done in the land.

The people of the ~~West~~ North are more roused up
to action than they were ever before. And it indeed
seems very much like the spirit of '76. Our only
hope for permanent relief is in God, the true
Savior of this nation in years that have gone by
may he overcome the dissensions and stripes
of this time to the furtherance of the gospel
and the cause of true liberty.

The prospects for Fremont and Saylor at the
present time are somewhat flattering. And
still there is danger that the party that
has always had such amazing ability "to whip
their refractory tools into the holes" will by some
means gain the president and then what be-
comes of freedom and what becomes of
this boasted republic? Nay what becomes of
the hope of the world's enlightenment and
salvation?

I do pity Josiah and am thankful you
have felt able to help him a little. I intend
to assist him in some way. And yet his debts
are so enormous that what I can do will go
a very little way towards relieving him of his pres-
ent embarrassments. Had he only about it, I
had followed my advice he would never have
been involved to such an extent as he is. If he
should really be obliged to sell his place I would
very willingly give him a piece of land to live on if
he should ever be disposed to move west.

Our love to you all. A kiss to all your dear
children. I have forgotten their names.
Your brother A. Lyman