



Union Falls, W. T. Feb. 3d.

Rev. H. Lyman
Forest Grove, Oregon.

Dear Nath.

Last week, I recd. nothing from you — was some afraid that my letters had offend-
ed you or at least wearied you, but last Wednesday (Feb 1st) I recd. a double portion from you; one mailed Jan. 12th & another the 19th the latter having come more direct-
ly than any I have received from you. It seems very pleas-
ant to have one come so soon.

I need not say that they were truly welcome & very interesting.
Each of your letters is more precious to me, than the preceding.

I fear that I made you a great deal of trouble by speaking of Mother's going to Oregon. Forgive me for my thoughtlessness; please. It seems to have put you to the trouble of planning an addition to your house &c. &c. It would have been better, perhaps, had I first ascertained something of her wishes in the matter. Now, I hardly dare ask it but think I must: a little longer extension of your patience, before I give you a decisive answer to your truly kind & generous offer.

A few days since I rec'd. from one of my dear aunts my Father's sister, such a good letter, freighted with love & affection, that I know she truly cherishes towards me, that I have concluded I must consult her, before I enter into an engagement for life. Now, I trust you will not think I am to keep

you waiting to ask each of my relatives, one at a time, their consent, in the case. I feel under great obligations to this dear aunt for she has been like a mother to me & I sometimes think she loves me, more than my Mother does. When I was quite young, at her earnest solicitation, I was allowed to go to Merriden, New Hampshire to attend school; & her house was my home. She has always been very dear to me since.

She has often expressed a wish that I might live with her. She has no daughters & her sons, neither one lives with her, though she of late years spends her winters at the house of her oldest son, a lawyer in Boston. I quote a little from her letter. "I am free to say my dear niece you are increasingly dear to me, & many times during the later years

of my life, I have thought if I could
have you with me, as a daughter, I
should as far as earthly good, can
do it; be satisfied. But I well
know your mother and your own
family have the first claim upon
you. She is nearly 82; but her
mind is quite vigorous. I had in a
letter I wrote to her a while before, inter-
sented that there was something un-
usual on my mind, though I did
not tell her its nature. She says in
reference to this; We still have an
almighty; ever-present help, who can
do for us more & better than we
do, can ask. So I hope we will
trust Him who so loved us, that
He gave His only begotten Son to redeem
us. With Him, then, I think he will
freely give us all things needful, if
we only come to Him in a filial spirit.
Are we in any perplexity, His word says
if any man lack wisdom let him

ask of God who giveth, &c. Do not let us cheat ourselves of this inestimable privilege. I should not feel obliged to abide by her decision, but should feel better to state the case to her & have her advice; and while awaiting for a reply from her, will try to ascertain something of Mother's wishes in the matter.

I believe it is harder for me to do this, than it often is, for a man to "pop the question". & that I suppose is sometimes rather perplexing.

You probably know that my sister has been married far more than 2 years. She began housekeeping last fall. Her house is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from ours - so we see her often. Mother has never seemed to expect to make her home with her. F. and I, have expected she would always live with us. She has enough property so that she will not need to be a

burden to any one. But I should
feel better to have her go with me
should I go to C. if she felt willing
to do so. You were certainly very
kind to be so ready to ^{make of} ~~make~~
place for her ^{if I sincerely thank you for it} Her health is much
better than it has been for several
winters before, but the many and
den changes in the weather are
very trying to her, though she
doesn't go out of doors this cold
weather. Since I last wrote to
you we have had our coldest
(so far) of the season. The mercury
went down to 28° below 0.

For 18 hours (I presume considerably
less as we did not watch the thermom-
eter through the night) there was a
fall of the mercury of about 50° and
2 or 3 days after, it rose considerably
faster than it went down. In spite
of my feeling that perhaps I should
be running too great a risk, should

I accept your offer. The risk I fear
is that I might get into a place
for which I am not fitted.

I fear you might not find
me so much of a help, in your
good work as you seem to expect.

I am rejoiced to hear that
there is a good work in progress
in your place. I trust it may
go on & increase in power.

Does Mary continue to teach Indian
children? That seems to me to be
a very commendable work, & one
which promises much good.

As to your photograph, I think I
gave you to understand that it
was pleasant to me, I like it, more
& more I am in some danger of get-
ting it worn out, I look at it so
often. I write in a hurry & I trust
you will excuse the many mistakes
which you will probably detect.
I am
hoping to hear from you again soon.
as ever
Margaret.

From

Margaret