



Sheffield Jan. 13th 1853

Dear brother Horace,

Your very brief letter dated December 9th came to hand last evening with the "Seumbach" soap by enclosed, and I have already written to the editor of the Gazette and inclose two dollars for you, though I may not know for three months how much your tax bill is. I think it is probable that there may be two dollars to spare for the Gazette.

You say the winter thus far has been mild with you. It has been snuffed really so here and we are now nearly half through winter. We had a cold snap the first week in Dec. when the mercury went just to zero. From that time we have had a milder rising warm time almost unparal-
leled-

even for Illinois. The ground has
been entirely free from frost no less
than three times in six weeks.
And though it was winter a week
ago to-day and the mercury went
nearly to zero at night yet we have
another thaw and a rain from the
south. I am thankful the winter
is so mild on the soldiers' account
and hope it may continue mild
through the winter.

The proclamation of freedom has
at length appeared "old Abe" has
been as good as his word. But
we cannot yet see the whole end
except by faith, but hope the Lord
may crush the rebellion and
slavery during this year.

I am happy to see by the papers that
the President's message is well re-
ceived in France and that the Em-
peror is looking more favorably

to the Union cause. The battle in
~~Central~~ Tennessee under Rosecrans
was a success, though the Federal loss
was severe. In Eastern and also in
Western Tennessee there was also suc-
cess at the same time to the
Federal arms. We are repulsed at
Vicksburg and Springfield Missouri
has probably again fallen into rebel
hands. It is truly an awful war.
May it come to a speedy close,
with the rebellion crushed out entire-
ly.

We are in comfortable health by
keeping colds and these are better than
they have been.

One of the worst features of the
present time in the affairs of our
country is the treasonable position
of the Democratic party and espe-
cially their opposition to the President's
proclamation.

I know not what will be the result
there may be civil war in America
yet from this cause, but I hope
not. And yet I do hope that
the present course of the Democratic
party will end in its complete o-
verthrow and ruin as a political
party, for that is just what it
really deserves.

Shame on any man who denies
opposition to Slavery at such a time
as this.

You will please to write a little more
next time if convenient.

We are hoping for some more religious
interest among our people and per-
haps shall have some extra meetings in
2 or 3 weeks, May the Lord bless us
in every honest effort for the promotion
of his cause.

Affectionately your father
A. Lyman.

Love of all to all.