

Union Falls N.C. Jan 20<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Mother & Aunt

Upon arriving here last week after another years wanderings I was gratified to find your letter of Dec 10<sup>th</sup> but feel somewhat reproved therein for having so long delayed replying to your kind favor to me last spring (April 15<sup>th</sup>) which reached me at Washington D.C. (where I had sojourned three months) just as I was leaving that city. I trust you will not attribute my negligence to any want of appreciation or lack of interest in your correspondence. On the contrary I delayed from time to time thinking I might reach some place where I should have a prospect of tarrying long enough to hear from you again which is still my paramount object in writing to you

But having still "no continuing  
City nor abiding place" I have  
not felt settled for so long in  
advance any time since leaving  
Washington last year after  
which I passed a few days  
each in Philadelphia New York  
City Boston & New Hampshire  
and the balance of summer &  
autumn in the Green Mountain  
State Mostly at Windsor Woodstock  
Castleton Rutland & Middlebury  
at some of these places selling  
atlases & at others only <sup>consuming</sup>  
I spent sometime in & about the  
pleasant village of Woodstock  
where I think you were some-  
what acquainted formerly  
I enjoyed a very pleasant  
visit at Castleton forepart  
of August but think you  
have heard from there more  
recently

At East Middlebury I concluded  
to take lessons in Vermont farming  
with a former schoolmate  
a part of whose help I sought  
him while I was visiting there  
& I prolonged my stay with  
him until his crops were  
all housed & some of them  
marketed But finding that  
after wandering so long I am  
about as hard to locate &  
as uneasy as a sailor on  
shore I resumed my precarious  
traveling business & was passing  
it in Burlington when the  
last steamer to cross the lake  
for the season was announced  
& I embraced the opportunity  
to visit this my old home  
I found Mother on a sick bed  
and under doctor's care but she  
is gaining rapidly & now sits  
up about all day (I presume Margaret  
will write more particularly)

The river on which we enjoyed that delightful ride in an old boat is now sealed over & prevents us going all the way to Oregon

While at East Middlebury I frequently visited Uncle Edward & family & spent some time with them though some miles from where I farmed it

I am sorry if my inquiries about Oregon & talk of going there caused any shadow of disappointment among my young associates there I should delight to disappoint them over again by dropping in among them when not expected but see no immediate prospect of attempting such a project

I have not recently felt like enlarging much in any speculation or extending my travels to such great distance from home on account of the unsettled state of our financial & national affairs which look as if every dollar & every man would be needed to satisfy the cravings of war I expect Providence permitting to return to H. to finish the business I left there but how long I may stop in any place is very uncertain but if you can favor me with another letter please direct again to this P.O. & if I am away it will be forwarded I am anxious to learn all about Oregon & the friends I have there & am not sure but it may yet be my home at some future time We were agreeably surprised last week by a good long letter from Uncle William on his farm in Prescott. His family & I were well in Dec. <sup>My family & I were well</sup> My respects to your wife & children  
Jas. S. Dimean