

Sabbath eve Sept 20th 1863

Dear Brother and Sister

It has been a long time since I have written to you but it is not because that I have forgotten you but I have been very much hurried with my business and ^{family} ~~the~~ ^{had} written and I have in part given it up to them but last Friday evening I received your kind and affectionate letter just one month after it was dated and I thought that I would try to return an answer as soon as I could although Josiah and Addison have both written to me since they heard of the death of Daniel yet as it takes longer for you to get a letter I will write to you first hoping that I may get time to write to them before long the truth is that since we had the sad news of Daniels death I have not written to any one upon it I have had so much on my hands. But all things it has been almost 3 months since we were almost overwhelmed by the dreadful tidings yet ~~at~~ the affliction does not seem to grow any the less by the ~~to~~ laps of time on the other hand it appears to be greater and greater. I thank you for your letter of condolence in this hour of sorrow and grief. We have had much of sympathy and much of mercy in this strange and mysterious providence our friends and acquaintances have manifested deep feeling for us in this time of need. Daniel ^{was} won the affections of many hearts and when the fact of his end was confirmed it caused the deepest feeling of sorrow in Easthampton of any Soldiers death that has occurred since the war commenced. The company in which he went all felt his loss very much and no one doubted his being prepared for his sudden death. His whole soul was awake to the spiritual benefit of those that were under his influence he labored with all his might yet he felt that he was not faithful enough to those around him and neglected opportunities to do good but he labored as if he was ~~a~~ doing his last work he seemed to be impelled along by some mighty force that nothing ~~could~~ could withstand. From the commencement of the war his mind had been upon going but I did not think it was best for him. I told him that he was not ~~so~~ old enough and the first year of the war he was not 14 but the next year he had arrived at that age.

and when the first 300,000 men were called for he was very anxious to go but I still felt that he was not matured enough for so hard a service and I would not give my consent but I had for him to give it up. I thought that he could bear the hardships of the camp better than he could and talked about going myself but he would not hear any thing to that but still had a deep longing for going and I still had a strong determination to keep him out of the war. The call came for the second 300,000 I still adhered to my determination not to consent to his going. But Lewis Clapp came up to see me and said he wanted Daniel to go with him. I still held on to my determination but told him that I would take it into consideration but said that I felt that the President thought I was pretty hard driven up and finally I gave my consent as he did not wish to go unless I did but told him at the same time that I was afraid that it would bring great calamity upon the family, which has been fully realised, it brought upon a sore affliction for which there is no escape but in the confidence that the Lord will do all things well, I know this to be true yet it is hard to come to such a state of mind yet this is the spot to come to and there is comfort in nothing short of this. I hope that I can have this strong confidence yet still my mind will revolt at the idea that he must leave it were torn from his dear home and friends to go far away in a distant part of the country there to endure the dreadful hardships of a soldier's life and he was ardently longing and hoping soon to lay aside the horrid implements of war and return to his peaceful home to be killed on the battle field and there to lay his bones till the resurrection morning, all this is hard to be submissive under and nothing but a sense of Gods just and wise overruling Providence can stay up the soul under such heavy dispensations but it is the Lord that has done it and my should we complain it is for our profit that we might be made partakers of his holiness. That Daniel went out of duty to his country and his God I have not the slightest doubt and we have reason to believe that he was an instrument of much good while he was in the army and that while laboring for the good of others his own soul was making advances in the divine life

Oct 8th When I comenced this sheet I intended
to have finished it and sent it off but I have been
so occupied that it has been more than 2 weeks
that I have not written any thing in it. I wanted
to write a little of my views in respect to the present
deplorable condition of our country. It was a
~~great~~ dreadful blow to me when the war commenced
I felt as though the country was almost ruined
and our glorious union which had been such
a blessing to us and to the world to have that broken
by the ruthless hand of rebel traitors was enough
to make one weep and mourn for the desolations that
were coming upon the land. I had stung to union
as it were with a death like grasp feeling that
if the union was broken all was lost and also hoping
and believing that it would be preserved. But the
standard of rebellion has been raised without any
just cause and for which there is no excuse.
and it must be regarded as an awfully wicked
rebellion yet that there have been other fruitful
causes of the war I am very confident of and
not the least are the northern abolitionist who
have been led on by reckless men who have been
had but one idea the abolition of slavery without
regard to any thing else whether ^{the union} was preserved
or not. In this way they have gone on and I think
when the guilt of this war is charged upon the inhabi-
tants of this land the abolitionist will have a very
heavy account to answer for. That they have done
very much to stir up this war and to continue it
after it has been begun I firmly believe and
I think that I have good reason for so believing
Charles Edwards said to me that he was glad when
the war commenced others have said the same
and multitudes have felt it in words who have
not said it openly and they are constantly
saying not only privately but in public resolutions
that they do not want the war to stop till slavery
is done with this I regard as all wrong and fraught
with mischief on every hand I do not have any
sympathy for such sentiments and never have
I believe that it has made the war and kept it
on and I do not know but it will keep it on till
this fair land is laid in hopeless ruin. When the rebellion
broke out there was no other way for the govern-
ment but to put it down by force of arms. but in
my opinion they have made a great blunder
in bringing in the slavery question. The Presi-
dents emancipation proclamation never gave me
other but sorrowfull feelings for the reason ^{that}
I have not thought it practicable to carry it out
and that it was calculated to prolong this terrible
war which is filling the land with mourning
lamentation and woe! I ~~believe~~ believe that that
if the President had kept on as he began

to put down the rebellion without meddling with
slavery, the war would before this time have
been ended, but he was driven to the measures
that he has taken by the terrible pressure of the
abolitionist and God only knows what the end
will be to me it looks dark and gloomy in
that extremity, I know that God can deliver us
and I have always thought that he would, it has
seemed to me that there was too much at stake
for this nation to be destroyed but I have some
times almost given up, but I believe that
there is a call for the people of God to repent
and cry mightily unto God that he would
spare the nation and give us not over to reproach,
but that he ~~will~~ would in some way send
deliverance to this stricken land that the enemy
may not triumph and that blessings of
civil and religious liberties may be maintained
to generations yet unborn and that this nation
might be the means of giving liberty and the
gospel to a lost world. A case of heresy and the
heresy hunting for it come to light without any effort
at hunting ~~at~~ ^{the} church in Georgetown recently have
issued a letter Missive for a Council to investigate
~~the~~ doctrines preached by their pastor the Rev Charles
Beecher they speak of four doctrines in which they think
he has departed from the truth Pre-existence, atonement,
state of souls after death, and divine sorrows. On investigation
all these charges were fully sustained and on the final
vote of the Council there was 16 for sustaining to 5 against
the Rev Mr Dexter the Editor of the Congregationalist
noting in the negative and then admitting to Edward Beecher
into his pulpit to preach against the action of the Council
and abuse them. It was the understanding that if Mr Beecher
was found guilty he would withdraw from the society in
Georgetown but when he found that they had decided against
him he by vote of a very small majority of the church
concluded to stay. We have had a very full account
of the whole doings of the Council in the Recorder (which
states that the Council was one of great weight of character
and influence) and the more we learn of the facts in
the case the worse Mr Beecher's conduct appears.
The whole Beecher family seems to be given up to
delusions ~~errors~~ ~~errors~~ ~~of~~ ~~almost~~ ~~every~~ ~~sort~~ and it
seems to me that it is the duty of christians to set
themselves against it like a flint for they are
leading multitudes astray. I have not written so
much news but must let that go for another
time we are all in comfortable health, much
occupied in business and fast passing along to
old age sixteen years having passed away since
we were married. He all send much love
to you and your dear children Daniel & Susan