

Miss Elizabeth Mountfort Dawn Mills Canada West  
My Dear Christian Sister: March 8<sup>th</sup> 1850

Having a grateful remembrance of your kindness in affording aid for our Dawn Mission some two years ago I feel encouraged to address to you a few lines presuming that with the lapse of time your interest in the cause of humanity has increased rather than abated & that the same is true of the noble sisterhood of charity in Portland with which you are associated We have the precious assurance from Him who came to preach deliverance to the captive & the recovering of sight to the blind that whosoever shall give to one of his little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple shall in no wise lose his reward

How great then must be the reward of those who in the fullness of Christian love are daily ministering to the necessities of the Lords poor. That the blessedness of the cheerful giver whose bosom glows with heavenly love may be yours is sincere prayer of a humble stranger whose aim is to enlighten & happy the forlorn pilgrims of liberty in the wilds of Canada. I am still here though in peculiarly trying circumstances, winding up my 14<sup>th</sup> winter campaign in the fugitive slaves asylum. I have kept up an interesting school through the winter for male scholars numbering from 15 to 20 some of them recently from the house of bondage & my wife at the same time has had charge of the female department some 25 in number who were making fine improvement

Miss Elizabeth Mountfort  
My Dear Christian Sister:

Dawn Mills Canada West  
March 8<sup>th</sup> 1850

Having a grateful remembrance of your kindness in affording aid for our Dawn Mission some years ago I feel encouraged to address to you a few lines presuming that with the lapse of time your interest in the cause of humanity has increased rather than abated & that the same is true of the noble sisterhood of charity in Portland with which you are associated We have the precious assurance from Him who came to preach deliverance to the captive & the recovering of sight to the blind that whosoever shall give to one of his little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple shall in no wise lose his reward

How great then must be the reward of those who in the fullness of Christian love are daily ministering to the necessities of the Lords poor. That the blessedness of the cheerful giver whose bosom glows with heavenly love may be yours is sincere prayer of a humble stranger whose aim is to enlighten & happy the forlorn pilgrims of liberty in the wilds of Canada. I am still here though in particularly trying circumstances, winding up my 14<sup>th</sup> winter campaign in the fugitive slaves asylum. I have kept up an interesting school through the winter for male scholars numbering from 15 to 20 some of them recently from the house of bondage & my wife at the same time has had charge of the female department some 25 in number who were making fine improvement

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society

(Local Code: Coll. 14, Box 1 fl. 3)

Date: Mar. 8, 1850

Description: Letter from Hiram Wilson to Elizabeth Mountfort concerning fugitive slaves and his mission in Canada.

till she was taken ill three weeks ago & was obliged to suspend her school till she could recover health & strength to resume again her labor of love She has been confined to her bed ever since till within a few days. She is now recovering slowly & it is hoped she will be able in a few days more to resume her work. Fortunately a sister of hers who came on from Boston last Autumn is here to participate with her in her joys & sorrows & administer to her comfort during her illness.

I am preaching an Anti Slavery & Anti Sectarian gospel in this section of Canada mainly to the colored population but not unfrequently to the white people who are lamentably destitute. Our support is so uncertain and inadequate we shall doubtless have to leave soon & spend the balance of our brief pilgrimage in some other section of the Lord's vineyard.

I know not what may be the present state of feeling in Portland in relation to the oppressed and suffering of the injured African Race but unless there has been a marvelous change within a few years there would be very few there to sympathize with us in our unpopular & very fanatical work. Possibly I ought not to ask for help from Portland, but if the few who feel an interest in the cause of crushed humanity could make up a few dollars & send by mail Postage Paid it would be very acceptable. I remember calling on Gen Fessenden some years ago & have ever regarded him as a true friend of the oppressed. Would you have the kindness to wait on him with this letter & make known its contents. The present is with us a most serious crisis. We require about \$200, which I could soon raise at the east but know not how

till she was taken ill three weeks ago & was obliged to suspend her school till she could recover health & strength to resume again her labor of love. She has been confined to her bed ever since till within a few days. She is now recovering slowly & it is hoped she will be able in a few days more to resume her work. Fortunately a sister of hers who came on from Boston last Autumn is here to participate with her in her joys & sorrows & administer to her comfort during her illness.

I am preaching an Anti Slavery & Anti Sectarian gospel in this section of Canada mainly to the colored population but not unfrequently to the white people who are lamentably destitute. Our support is so uncertain and inadequate we shall doubtless have to leave soon & spend the balance of our brief pilgrimage in some other section of the Lord's vineyard.

I know not what may be the present state of feeling in Portland in relation to the oppressed and suffering of the injured African Race but unless there has been a marvelous change within a few years there would be very few there to sympathize with us in our unpopular & very fanatical work. Possibly I ought not to ask or help from Portland, but if the few who feel an interest in the cause of crushed humanity could make up a few dollars & send by mail Postage Paid it would be very acceptable. I remember calling on Gen Fessenden some years ago and have ever regarded him as a true friend of the oppressed. Would you have the kindness to wait on him with this letter & make known its contents. The present is with us a most serious crisis. We require about \$200, which I could soon raise at the east but know not how

to quit my post for that purpose.

You may have seen or heard of Rev Josiah Hanson from Dover who was in Portland a year ago. Making interest in behalf of a Steam Saw Mill enterprise as connected with the cause of Education & the welfare of the fugitives. Whatever representations he may have made he has brought me no help, & his mill I am sorry to say is badly managed & is an unprofitable concern. It had better never been built. Please excuse this hasty scroll for want of time I am obliged to omit much that might be said.

In the fullness of gospel love

Your faithful friend

Hiram Wilson

to quit my post for that purpose.

You may have seen or heard of Rev Josiah Hanson from Dover[?] who was in Portland a year ago making interest in behalf of a steam saw mill enterprise as connected with the cause of education & the welfare of the fugitives. Whatever representations he may have made he has brought me no help & his mill I am sorry to say is badly managed & is an unprofitable concern, It had better never been built. Please excuse this hasty scroll for want of time I am obliged to omit much that might be said.

In the fullness of gospel love

Your faithful friend

Hiram Wilson