

Fairfield 2<sup>d</sup> mo 21<sup>st</sup> 1841

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My dear Samuel

I have now set myself down to answer thy 6<sup>th</sup> letter all of which have been very acceptable indeed and I should been glad to have answered every one of them but my many cares at home and some abroad together with my great inability to write has prevented me, but do not my dear charge me with neglect or forgetfulness because I do not write of times for when I think of what I could say if I could see thee my writing dwindles into nothing, I must inform thee that my health is very good at this time and the rest of our family are in as good health as when thou left a very great blessing to be sure but it seems so in an especial manner now thou art gone, for it seems as if death had but just passed our door and taken our beloved Aunt Anna Hoxie, she departed this life this morning about 9 o'clock having been unwell nine days but not thought dangerous untill about 3 days before her death she seemed to take some cold in the first place had some fever with great weakness of the bowels which ended in a stoppage a very distressing sickness indeed, but I said in my heart oh that my last end might be like hers it was the most tranquil death that ever I witnessed death had no terror for her she said she had for many long years been striving with all the strength she was favoured with to walk so that it might be well pleasing in her divine Masters sight and now she felt an assurance that she should an entrance in to the Celestial City she said she felt but one thing on her mind that was she was afraid she had not plead enough with her Children but they acknowledged with

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society  
(Coll. 1580 box 1/2)  
Date: Feb. 21, 1841  
Description: Letter to Samuel Taylor from Lydia Taylor.

with weeping eyes that she had acted the part of a faithful Mother  
and that they alone had sinned in disregarding her instructions but  
said although she could not live to see the fruit of her labours  
they thought it would not be lost for it was treasured up in their  
hearts, a more attentive family I never saw all the Children left their  
homes day after day to stay with her, Solomon and Aaron are in  
the woods cannot get here to attend the funeral, Aunt called me to  
her says give my endeared love to Samuel and tell him I loved him  
Uncle Abels heart gave way and melted like wax ~

I thought when I was going too and from Uncles  
alone at all times of the night how acceptable my beloved Samuels  
faithful arm would have been to lean upon I could not help dropping  
a tear as I went but wiped them soon,

now I suppose thou will want to hear how Dear Mother Taylor is I  
do not know as there is much alteration since I last wrote thee  
all the rest of the Belgrade folks are well as far as I know and  
our Smithfield friends pretty comfortable I believe I have not been  
there this winter Sister Polly has an other son (and Ansel's folks  
have a Daughter) Uncle Elihu is now better so that he has carried  
down to see Aunt Anna all her Brothers and Sisters when there  
and truly it was an affecting sight to see such a tottering comp<sup>ny</sup>  
taking their leave of her) Lavina Hoxie is some better all our  
friends and Neighbours are well as far as I know it is a very heal  
thy time amongst us, now a little about our family affairs we are  
getting along very well Jeremiah continues to be the same steady  
faithful boy as ever Father B thinks he is one of a thousand, there  
is a great deal of love and harmony subsists throughout the  
family, we have had a very poor school this winter and after  
keeping nearly 3 monthes they turned him away and now we

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have no school he was a young divine from the College —  
I have no girl with me this winter I have not hired but 9 days  
work this winter except tailoring, I attended our quarterly Meeting  
which was large and very satisfactory had the company of Dear Uncle  
Thomas Jones, I staid all night to Alton Popes had the satis-  
faction of meeting a letter from thee likewise heard from our Dear  
Charles, Alton having been on to Boston saw a man belonging to  
the district where he was teaching, he said he had a down East  
Boy teaching their School by the name of Charles Allen he spoke  
of him with a great deal of satisfaction said he was keeping a good  
school which was like marrow to my bones I have had two letters  
from Charles he says he has had one letter from Uncle Samuel and  
one from me both of which he esteems more than gold or silver  
I intend writing to him again soon

Dear Samuel I need not tell thee that I was  
to see thee, Father and Mother B and my self sat down the other  
evening and figured it all out that you must and would be at  
home before the Yearly Meeting unless you stopped to play by the  
way, do tell me what the prospect is about your coming home  
I do not want thee to come untill every jot and tittle of the work  
is accomplished that you find to do, Father Taylor wished me to ask  
thee to get him 6 bottles of Doctor Jaynes Expectorant at Philadelphia  
for Mother if they can bring it he will satisfy the point  
Jeremiah has his hands full taking care of his young stock we have  
2 calves both heifers, I dont know but he will loose all  
patience to think his steers are spoiled I believe the stock  
looks well, the snows have not been very deep this winter  
it has been very comfortable getting about this winter

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25T

Samuel Taylor Jr.  
to the care of Hough Balderston  
Baltimore

\*[in side margin]

and

Father and Mother ^ [scratched out] most every body else send  
their love to you both give my love to Uncle

me

John an take a great share to they self and believe ^ as  
ever thy faithful and affectionate wife Lydia T