

Fairfield 12<sup>th</sup> mo 16<sup>th</sup> 1840

My Dear Husband, I take my pen in hand to acknowledge the receipt of thy letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> inst and also one dated 11 mo 16<sup>th</sup> which was like a cordial to my anxious feelings, they found us about as well as when thou left except a heavy cold which I took about that time which seems to hang about me with quite a hard cough but seems getting some better now. Father B has had a turn of the nervous wish

head ache but not severe. I ^ thee could see how cheerfully he is — sliding down cellar seeing to the salting of the pork Mother B pretty smart, I have not heard from Belgrade for nearly two weeks but the last I did hear they were all pretty well except poor Mother which has to undergo extreme sufferings, they have been doubtful a number of nights about her continuing untill morning but I expect she is still living they have got back too their old home. — Mother being very anxious so to do. Crowell's folks have a Daughter added to their family. Brother Joseph and Phebe have been up and made us a good long visit, he does not keep our school because he could not get any one to take care at home the

Agent was very unwilling to have it so we have a man from Watterville to teach the school whether he is a Collegian or not I can not tell and his name I have not fully learned ———

I received a letter from our Dear Charles dated 12<sup>th</sup> mo 6<sup>th</sup> he says I have been keeping a weeks and get along very well considering what I have to get along with. I have from 15 to 25 schollars some Sailors and some rather rough looking fellows but the most of them pretty clever. I dont whip much but pull their ears some, he says he attended New Bedford quarterly meeting where he saw Olive Wing said they



at the school, Charles says he enjoys himself very well he  
he is in a very pleasant neighbourhood, thinks he shall be able  
to keep the school out, is not homesick but thinks of home  
a great many times in a day, do write to him soon give him  
all the good advice thou hast in store, for he is in the slippery  
paths of youth

As to our particular neighbourhood it is a  
general time of health, Galen Hoxies family are visited with  
a sore affliction, soon after thou left Lovina had a shock  
of palsy that entirely deprived <sup>her</sup> of the use of her limbs  
for a season but not her senses, the neighbours went in  
thought she would not continue untill morning she felt  
willing to go, but feared her unfitness, prayed earnestly  
desired all to pray for her that could, but gradually  
recovered from it but derangement took place and now  
she is raving distracted, she broke from them and went  
through the window carrying sash and all with her it takes  
two to take care of her, the young men are principally gone  
in to the woods and help so scarce they fear they shall have  
to put her in a cage ~~now I suppose thou would~~  
like to hear about our home affairs I think I can say we are  
getting along very well we live in love, jeremiah is a very  
good boy spares no pains nor strength to have everything  
done as it should be, he is very steady at home scarcely  
even gone except on business, we have killed our beef  
weighing 697 most excellent meat I like to have said I  
wish thee was here to eat some of it, we have also killed  
our hogs the whole 2167 very nice pork all salted, hams  
pickled, sausages made &c so there seems nothing lacking

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but thy company and thankful hearts, Jeremiah has not commenc<sup>ed</sup>  
getting up wood yet, there has not been hardly snow enough  
yet for good sleiding although it has been pretty good sleighing  
ever since thou left, I believe there is some delay with  
the blacksmith about getting the sled done, we have had some  
very cold weather and some very pleasant ~~~~~

very lonesome I think I never missed thy company so much  
before although our friends are very good to visit us some  
times when my hands are busily employed about my work  
my mind wanders awy after my absent family and think  
perhaps thou art climbing hills or making thy way <sup>through</sup> severe storms  
or weighed down under discouragements while I am at home by a  
comfortable fire, in the very bosom of all my friends but I  
am sometimes enabled to put up a feeble petition for thee my  
dear Samuel as well as for my self, while at other times it  
seems as if I felt like a stock on a stone on a heath in the  
desert, Uncle Zacheus seems very much alive in best things he  
is the only one that has opened their mouth in our meeting  
since thou left he has now gone to attend Vassalborough  
Sidney and Litchfield monthly meetings, he came down  
to hear thy letters read says he thinks he sees a tribulated path  
for you but thinks if you are faithful you will be carried  
through in a way that will be marvelous in your eyes sends  
a great deal of love to you both, likewise Father and Mother  
B with my self send an abundance of love to you both  
do take good care of Uncle John and thyself also Mahalett  
wishes hers inserted too she has gone to Vassalborough to work  
Eunice Nichols, she says tell Samuel I think my head is

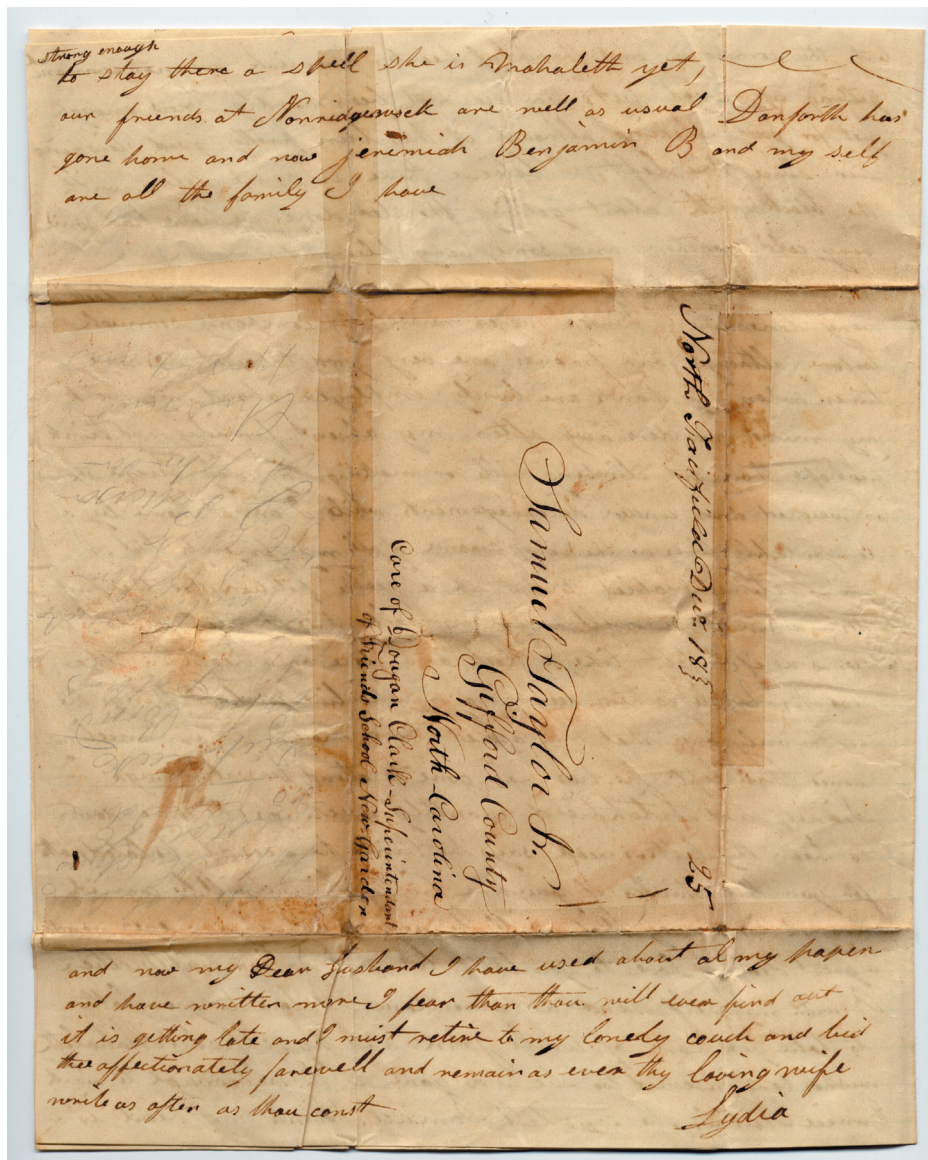
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I stay pretty much [unreadable for the rest of the line]  
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strong enough

^to stay there a spell she is Mahaleth yet, ~~~~~  
 our friends at Norridgewock are well as well as usual Danforth has  
 gone home and now jeremiah Benjamin B and my self  
 are all the family I have

[paper folded and turned for address]

North Fairfield 6 Dec..18

25

Samuel Taylor Jr.  
 Gifford County  
 North- Carolina  
 Care of Dougan Clark- Superintendant  
 of Friends School New-Garden

and now my Dear husband I have used about al my paper  
 and have written more I fear than thou will ever find out  
 it is getting late and I must retire to my lonely couch and bid  
 thee affectionately farevell and remain as ever thy loving wife  
 write as often as thou canst

Lydia