

~~London~~ | Lodi July. 3<sup>d</sup> 1847

My ever Dear Children

You have judged right respecting my answering letters, I have received none from you I think for two years, I got some paper about four months since and thought I would write to my children but as to my situation in life I am under necessity of forgetting the past smothering the present and trusting the future to that kind and benevolent providence who ever has and ever will do right is no sorrow or afflictions that are dealt to us but there is a need be to wear our affections from a too strong attachment to this transitory world and teach us that one thing is needful to elevate us above the <sup>of time</sup> and prepare us to meet our final Judge approved to make us happy here and hereafter. I do hope you have chosen that good part which I shall not be taken away from you. In view of all my trials and sorrows, I do feel that the good hand of my God has been very bountiful to me in many respects you probably think well Mother is now 71 years old she is bowed and — and wrinckled I shall hardly know her - if I see her.

I presume you would be disappointed to see me all the people with whom I have been acquainted in these parts say I have not failed since they first saw me. My health is very good planting an I hoeing Poling Beans bushing peas and weeding my garden.

I think contributes very much to my health and the use of my limbs my garden and fruit contribute to my support. I work at sewing to considerable amount in the year likewise work for wool and wool rolls and I spin them and work for the weaving and get flannel. I have a full supply of food and raiment all the necessaries, I eat when and what I please.

I did write you that if you would send me a barrel of flour it would be a convenience to me. But if you recieved it, I have not recieved any. While I am able to work for most of my flour I shall not suffer. I have some money at interest here yet I can apply to if I need to you see there is little prospect of my suffering for a while. I had an offer for my place one year ago of about an hundred dollars, I feel thankful I did not accept. There is no buying or selling here for money. I am at home as I shall never be if I leave this yet I know and have long known that I must fail and hope I am thankful that I have sons to think of me and are willing to do for me. July 5, I have been weeding my (garden) the flourishing of fruit

vegetation thinking<sup>2</sup> of the numbers of people  
within my knowledge who have been to Michigan  
and have returned to be sick of living there. I confess  
I never was so puzzled to decide in my life. Years  
ago I was willing to abide the judgement of my  
children and wrote to you and Samuel accordingly  
but considering all here and there which if I could  
see you I could talk of. I seem to hesitate

for me. I have been sick so many  
years of my life and now enjoy such good health and  
plenty it seems much like presuming on the good  
providence of God to start off and go into a  
sickly place we are liable to sickness and death  
everywhere but we are required to use good judgement  
and care to preserve life all times and everywhere.  
What shall I say more that I long to see my children  
and grand children. of what avail I have passed  
through the weaning process.

O Lord God almighty in mercy incline us all to  
prepare ourselves to meet where sorrow shall  
cease and parting is unknown. You have surely  
learned that fishes make themselves wings and fly  
away.