

15 Dec. 1845

Dear children;

We have been well drenched with rain in this section which was succeeded after a few days of mild weather with snow and very cold winds, sleighing for about 10 days has been excellent. But yesterday after a light fall of snow, Mr. Tomson came again, and as he continues his visitation today also, and as I have not been to Portland to look up my umbrella, I am compelled to stay within doors, a favorable moment, therefore, to advise you of our continued health and comfort. Mother has not since she returned from Bangor, exposed herself abroad, or made a somerset at home. Mary can do such things with a better grace, as she is comparatively young and spry, but perhaps not with much less personal injury. We presume, however she felt no ambition to experiment alone, with no one to witness her feat and therefore it must go into the chapter of accidents. We are for the event and sympathise and "weep with those who weep. The earth bears no tree more beautiful than the weeping willow. But ye deep flowing current yt is constanlly undermining its foundation emphatically reminds us of its destiny - as well as our duty to prepare to transplant it in a happier clime.

Your Uncle of Ex. passed a night with us, having been to Portland. I carried to Saco next day, that he might reach home for N. Hamp. Thanksgiving ye day following. He and Mrs. Stevens were at Delaware in June did not call on Mr. Furniss while in N. York as he understood they were at Bloom. We recd. a letter last week from Mr. F. inclosing the same. This we almost feared to expect or hope for, after your statement of his attributing Mrs. Furniss ill health to her jaunt to Bangor and your influence. It is not uncommon for strong attachments to result in antipathies. I therefore have always considered it a good Maxim not to love overmuch. I think no pecuniary favor, especiaully those justly earned, an adequate compensation for loss of personal independence. Besides, there are some minds that can never flow equally and uniformaly in a liberal channell. He speke of his family as all well, except Mrs. F. whose health also he hoped would be improved by the cooler weather. Winter has set in with them seriously. We wrote a lengty return in the best style we could, but with no allusion to yourselves except that you were as usual. I left yt field perfectly open and clear for you to exonerate yourselves from unjust imputations, which I believe you are able to do with good spirit and good conscience and which I should feel ready and willing to back, if done with moderation and prudence.

We just dropped a slight joke about Mrs. Fur. limiting her excursions east to Boston and Quincy, that your mother with Merry Pegge might visit her at Blooming, next season, such a feat would be no greater, in ye new mode of traveling, than yt. of your grandmother who rode with me in chaise from Portland to Scar. at 80 years. What think you of it. Mother says "Age is nothing". I never anticipated such an excursion for her, but shall not wonder if it is effected.

You are all rejuvenating - transplanting sending off ye young shoot to indoctrinate him in melody and harmony - listening to moral reports of father away up, down east, opening and displaying elegant brick houses (where I was gratified to learn my own remembrance by Gov. Kent if it was not at a great dearth of subjects) all these and a long catalogue of other things mentioned in your very brief epistle are doing and acting in yout midst. Surely then we ought not to be idle - nor have we been - ye shed, as you suppose, is a great convenience, it reaches from house to barn and needs only a door to enter ye barn without going outdoors. Our pigs came up one to 214 the other to 221 lbs. Henry's weighed 317 lbs. Cow over 300. We had a quarter, to be returned next year.

Turkies are on hand quite ready for market. School closed last Saturday. Cousin John came out with flying colours and many tickets of merit. He has done himself great honor. I hope my two eldest grandsons will continue to shine in all they undertake. The next and last two I know but little of.

We hear nothing from Pittsfield. Nabby is better than in my last. We expected Nabby a guest thanksgiving day, but ye weather was too severe, and we imparted of our dinner to her. Was your table filled as expected? Not much visiting friends in Me. nor N.Hamp. such stormy thanksg. It storms too bad to go 1 :and one half mile to ye office of course this must lie over one mail as also ye N.York letter. M. has not advised me of Dr. Gallup's bill nor do we know with whom Mrs. Frost left umbrella. If W. Haines has not found it when I go in, I shall call at W. Moulton's and if not with either I shall give it over. Our kind regards to enquiring friends, and love to yourselves, one and all.

Your affectionate parents
N. and M. Tilton

P.S. Tuesday.

Mother wishes to know if tulips must be transplanted in ye spring and I now recollect your omission of ye subject of pairs scions. I hope your disappointment of ye farmer will not imbue your minds with any illegitimate inferences, like some friends farther off. It was out of my power to effect ye object. We did not know Ruth had emigrated east till you mentioned it. I suspect Dr. Gallupe too sanguine in expecting an entire cure of my complaint. Exposure to cold which I can in no wise avoid will produce a recurrence. Having used ye two first lists of powders I took one of Dulcamara - nearly a week since. After two successive nights of Bry. I took Dul. 3 nights and have been quite well since unto this present. Mother is quite off from powders not considering perhaps yt her complaints can only be alleviated not cured.