

Recd Feb 3^d 1863



Mr. Benj^r F. Butler.
Fair Haven,
Minnesota Ter. y.

Please direct your letter 190 Washington at Boston.

Chelsea Mass. Jan 25th 1863.

My Dear friend,

I was surprised and be assured exceedingly pleased to hear from you by letter this last Friday eve the 23rd inst. Surprised because I could hardly dare to expect it after so long a time had passed since either of us had heard from each other glad indeed to read your welcome letter for it brought back fresh to my memory - former times so pleasant that we have passed together of which you allude would that I could once more visit our friends at "Detroit" with you - no doubt many changes have taken place there since I left as it has been most five years but everything is as fresh as ever to my mind and often I sit and think over those good old times and of my friends there &c. &c.

I had presumed knowing you to be a military man you would figure somewhere in this great war and have looked for your name as Col of some Regiment but for me to attain any eminence in a military enterprise would be out of the question for I have not the faint idea of firing a loading a gun much less to think of commanding a company however I came near enlisting last Summer as a matter of duty and not of my own free will but I did not go and now have fully made up my mind I won't until I am obliged to for I do not feel satisfied the over things are managed perhaps they cannot be any better - but it seems to me they might.

I am glad to learn you have come out all safe and unharmed you were very fortunate indeed and I would advise you not to try it again though perhaps this is wrong advice but I would not be surprised if your wife would wish so to it seems to me so horrid so dreadful and useless this war what misery and suffering has it brought to many a home once happy and where it will end who can tell? (That peace would come again, I believe the Western Soldiers have done an immense amount of service to restore the Union they have indeed one and all done nobly.

I regret very much that you should have come this way and I not see you undoubtedly you passed right by my store on your way through "Boston" I wished here given a good deal to have seen you for I would have made you visit very pleasant and would have given you a chance to hear some good music. &c.

I enclose a card where I am located have been in the business going on three years here and I know nothing to the contrary but I shall remain where I am for some time to come last fall I had an appointment in the "Custom House" in "Boston" but in two years I stood a good chance of being thrown out if there should be a change of Administration (and I presume there will be).

so after some talk I concluded to remain where I was at least for
as they were anxious I should. We have the largest and handsomest
store of the kind in Boston in fact I never saw a nicer one of the
kind they keep the very nicest kind of goods and their trade is almost
exclusively among the rich people, having been established 45 years
at present I am the only Clerk and my business is mostly to attend
the Retail than we have three packers and a man to get out
the Orders &c but somehow as pleasantly situated as I am I wish
I could go out West to live again - and I feel eventually I shall
somehow I like the Western people the kindness and sociability
what good times we used to have together - I have a good deal
easier time than I did when I was at "Wetmore" - for do not have to get
to the store until 1/2-8 in the morning and leave at 7 at night then
I have two weeks vacation in the year and my time is never taken
out when I am away, and get good pay for I think I can sell
a few more goods down there than when I was there. Still it is rather
expensive living in Boston. You speak of visiting Detroit and seeing
our friends there wouldnt I like to have gone down with you? I
guess I would. Could you see me now I think you would say I have
changed very little. I love Company and music as well as ever last
winter and fall believe I went to over seventy five Parties this
winter am more steady this last week went to three on Wednesday
night I sang at a large gathering of the Congregational Society in Chelsea
with my Guitar. "Faded Flowers" "Dumb wife" and the "Unfortunate Man"
presume you remember that piece. So you see I still enjoy myself
I have a good many acquaintances there and with a fine String
Band. meet often and practice in the different homes of our
friends. Do you play the Violin now? The old Guitar you once
rescued from the "Michigan Central Rail way." I sold some
time since and have now a very fine one which I value at \$50.00
That was a famous trip you had not forgotte it I presume
we did not seem to get rich on that Concert tour. however
since that time I have had the pleasure of a grand trip with
the celebrated "Butehinson Family." some four years ago I went
with them all over New York State, Vermont, and New Hampshire
and can assure you I had a splendid and profitable time.
But I have nearly filled this sheet and have said little else but about
myself and my own doings which is not very wise to be sure but I
felt as though you would like to hear perhaps what I have been up to
these many months and years, and I wish you would answer accordingly
and tell me all about yourself and mine about our friends in Detroit
who is married and who is not. Among the ladies you spoke of?
The 9th of next April I shall be 28 years old and I begin to feel it most
time for me to settle down and be more quiet. what do you think?
Two years you say you have been married? which is preferable to live
a bachelors life or a married one and have some one to love some
to care for. Some one to cheer us through this worlds wilderness" &c. I
enclose my Photograph it was taken rather dark but it is the last one I have out of fifty two
I had taken. Please send my regards in your next and do not fail to write me soon a
good long letter and I will answer promptly. Kind regards to your wife and believe me as ever
your true friend John B. Moore

Cornville Me

Feb 6



~~Mr. Butler~~

M
Dear you get
Valentine's

Genl B. F. Butler

Genl F. H. Haven

Stearns Co

Chapin

Trinity

Cornville Feby 5. 1863

Dear Bro & Sister

Your favor of 14th Jan'y was duly received; and we were rejoiced to hear of your safe arrival at home, You speak of its quietness &c in comparison with the noise and bustle of camp, but to me that would be its chiefest attraction.

Your remark "I must pitch in," and improve it. I wish I had one to pitch into myself, and who knows but I shall some day.

Let us know as soon as you can what are the prospects for us in your vicinity.

I was disappointed in my expectations regarding the Clerkship, there was such a press for places that I had no chance. So I have taken work at my

trade, and am now partially sup-
plied with employment, sufficient
to supply our table.

Anna's health remains about the
same. The children are all well
now, though the three younger ones
have all had ill turns since
you left us.

I sincerely hope you may not again
be brought into collision with
Indians, surely we have foes enough
sufficiently malignant, both North
and South, without having our
homes desolated by awfully sar-
agen enemies.

All is very quiet in our neighborhood,
the general health is good, there
is no excitement, except on the ques-
tion as to the reconstruction of
the government, and leaving New-
England out in the cold, I think
the leaving out would suit a

majority of our Maine farmers
who seem to me to be casting
shrewd eyes at a junction with
Canada. Conway's speech, lately
delivered in Congress, will find
a good many adherents, if you
have not yet read it, procure it
by all means. it is original.

I visited Worsidgerock one day
last week to see a friend, and
while journeying on the ice, I met
Mr Williams and his young wife
and Miss Judkins enjoying the
pastime of skating. she looked
blooming, they were evidently very
happy - and I should think they
regarded skating as the highest
development of marital enjoyment.
We visited Abigail some two weeks
since, they were all well there, the
same day we took tea with
Wint Thurston, his family is a
pretty one, and they are pleasantly

situated.

We design to soon visit the Bartlett's
at Harmony.

I believe we have no news; Anna
would write you a few lines, but her
nerves are all unstrung with the cold
weather.

We all unite in Love to Eliza &
yourself

Your aff Bro
John N. Warren

West Cornville Me.
Feb 10th



Benja^r F Butler

Fair Haven

Minnesota



Conville Feb 8th 1868

Dear Bro and Sister

We received a line from you with your pictures and Mothers for which please accept my sincere thanks. We received a letter from you since you arrived home was glad to ^{hear} of your safe return to your friends. We enjoy good health this winter we have had a vary fine winter so far good sleighing we have not broken the roads since you was here.

I have not seen any of our folks vary lately they were all well the last I heard from them the soldier Aid society meets at 4 o'clock next Tuesday to help her sew and

limit on account of her poor
health and not having the
use of her hands I dont
know what Joanna would
do if it was not for her friends
and neighbors. Isa Judkins was
married the 31st of Dec she
and her husband called on us
last Sunday eve a few min-
utes Mr Williams appears to
be a very pleasant fellow.
we hear the Indians are being
troublesome again. ^{hope} they will
be able to subdue them I hope
you wont be troubled with them
it seems as though we had been
punished most enough for our
sins I hope this rebellion will
be crushed soon and peace will
return to our country.

we read in the scriptures that
everything shall work for good
to them that walk uprightly

if the slaves get their liberty
they will be benefited by
this war I think the destruction
of slavery will be as much
benefit to the whites as the blacks
of the South

Marys health is improving
she gets along without a girl
Joanna is no better I dont
think she ever will be well
again she is obliged to work
more than she is able to

I suppose you are preparing
for spring farming we are
halling hoop poles and cord
wood to buy flour with.

flour is from 8 to 10 dollars
a barrel. My husband and
Sophia has gone to meeting and
I stay at ^{home} so I thought I would
write to you. you must not
expect anything very interesting
from me for it is quite a

task for me to write
remember me in much love
to your wife and also to her
fathers family I am glad
you have so pleasant a
family connection to associate
with as you are so far sepa-
rated from us all we often
speak of you and you may
be assured we remain as
ever your affectionate

Brother and Sister

Robinson
write when convenient
direct to

Bradbury Robinson

West Cornville



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