

Guilford, Chenango Co., Jan'y 27, 1832

Dear Brother Wait,

Sometime last month, I made Sarah & Br. Hull a social call. They had returned a short time previous from Oneida Co. and I am indebted to them for information respecting your location. They thought of going the succeeding week to Honesdale to marry off Russell and Mary Ann. But to history – You recollect my detention from going with you. It was providential, next morning brot me a letter advising me to stay as the ground would be otherwise occupied. Rev. Mr. Pratt of Bainbridge (who is now in your vicinity I suppose) came to Mr. Hasting & enquired for a Teacher of Music. Mr. H. referred him to me. Mr. P. brought me down, in his waggon [sic]. I have schools at Bainbridge, Sidney Plains, East part of this town, on the Unadilla & at the Centre, where I now am. I sing one evening in each place, except two evenings here - Thursday and Friday evenings. This evening, am to sing here. The two last weeks have been spent in commencing reading music in the xxxxxx & every energy has been exerted and I have sung myself out. This week I have lain still. But, thank Providence, I have a good home – a good mother – my lungs are a little impaired, think I shall be able to travel next week. My school here is very interesting – consists of 60 or 70 – a very fine society of young folk, here, mostly pious, the subjects of a Revival the past year. This makes it very interesting to me. My schools are about half through. When shall “pick up my Copper & gong” If you were in my route, should be very happy. I rec'd a letter from Brother Sampson and Mary yesterday, which was a little feast. Sampson says “I will just tell you what a frolic [?] fortune & I have had lately. Have left No. 60 consequence of a desire of Mr. W. to abridge his business. He has furnished me with copious recommendations which will probably introduce me to good business in Boston, New York or Philadelphia. Leave this tomorrow morning with determination to remain in employment (If I get any until May next, when will come back & remove the wife & children.” Mary says (next day), The “good-bye” has just been given, again says, “I began to realize that this is a changing world.” Again, “I am left like bird without mate.” Poor Mary. It will be a long 4 months. I shall write her soon.

I see by this week's Recorder that our old friend Capt. L. Demton, of Rome, has gone to heaven shouting – so go the children of the Lord. Soon, Der. Wait, you & I must follow. How important that our influence be entirely on the Lord's side. You must excuse me. Write soon. Direct here. If you see Rev. Mr. Pratt make yourself acquainted with him. Tell him you are my friend.

I shall expect all the news from N & Rome that you are in possession of.

Yours,
/s/ E.F. Ely

[Addressed “Mr. Wait Talcott/Merchant/Horseheads, Tioga Co.]



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