

Fairhaven, Massachusetts
February 25, 1849

My Dear Brother and Sister Hastings:

Your very kind letter enclosing \$1, directed to Dorchester is received in one from Brother Otis Nichols of Dorchester, Mass.

We thank you for your kind offer. Yes, our hearts felt as we read your kind words. We thank you and the Lord too for the \$1. We hope to be able to visit you before we go to Maine again. Our means are quite short now, but the way may open. We have recently received a letter from Connecticut where we were last summer, giving a glorious account of a good work there among the Brethren and Sisters.

Long existing difficulties are being removed and union is being restored. Sister C. Bonfoey is anxious that we should spend the summer in Connecticut, others are anxious--they think they can provide us a home. Sister C. Bonfoey thinks she can get furniture and offers to come and live with us. She is single--a good, humble, lovely soul. She and two sisters own furniture and bedding, of a large house. Clarissa hopes to effect a division, if she can we are provided for. So that now we hope to be able to visit you, then return to Maine and get little Henry and go to Connecticut. If we do not obtain the means now to visit you, we may be able to on our way from Maine to Connecticut. When the way is clear I will write in season, so that you can come to the Depot for us. I am inclined to think we shall not see you until we go from Maine to Connecticut. I hope and pray and believe that the Lord will guide you in all your duty. Pray much for duty, then have perfect faith that God will make duty plain. I dare not mark out duty for you or any one. I have as much as I can see to attend to my own duty. My dear Brother and Sister, Do not think that in anything I have written I have designed to reflect on you in any way. This has not been my design. I no doubt have written carelessly. God knows I love the saints and wish to comfort them. I want them saved in the New Kingdom.

Here I wish to make a correction in a letter I wrote you just before our conference at Topsham, Maine last October. I do not remember just what I wrote, but I supposed that New Ipswich was on the Boston and Maine Railroad between Boston and Portsmouth. But I see that I was mistaken greatly. Please excuse that blunder, and what I wrote

about coming so cheap, etc., etc. Ellen is now quite well. We hear that our little Henry is still well.

We have had a free time here with the Brethren and Sisters. Ellen has had one vision at Brother Hall's, on the island. When we came here two weeks ago last Friday, we immediately went to Dartmouth (8 miles) where we found Brother and Sister Collins much afflicted. Their children have had the whooping cough all winter, and Gilbert had run down so low that they had but little hope of him. The first time we bowed in prayer, his case was before us. Ellen anointed him with oil in the name of the Lord, and while we prayed and lay hands on the wasted child, the Holy Ghost fell upon us. It was a time of power. We left Dartmouth in a few days, and when we returned in just two weeks we found Gilbert up and dressed. He has been out twice, eats hearty at the table, and in less than two weeks gained four pounds. This, my Dear Brother and Sister, is what simple faith will do. No matter how poor and unworthy the instrument, God is almighty, and Christ is worthy and we are bidden to come with boldness. Amen.

Be of good cheer. Trust in the Lord. He will sustain you. Believe it. Believe it. If He presents duty and opens your way, be sure and obey HIM. It is God that we must please and obey. He is Omniscient, while man knows but little. Go then, ye children of the Most High, to God--the fountain of knowledge, and learn your duty. As for selling, the Word seems plain, though this subject has been abused by men who cared only to feed themselves and not the flock of God.

No man or woman who can work should be sustained in idleness. Their duty is to labor with their hands (the thing that is good, saith Paul). The cause, the cause of truth is what requires believers to sacrifice. The Lord guide you and bless you and in His glorious Kingdom save you. Amen.

Ellen is not here, or she would send love to you.

From your brother in tribulation.

(Signed) James White.

N.B. Bro.s Bates and Gurney have been some three weeks in Connecticut. We expect them home today. (Signed) J.W.