My Dear Mother

I have lately received two letters from home one of which left on the 19th Septr the other on the 18th October. After I received the first I wrote to Hullet Hall and I have sent an answer to the last to yourself. I hope and expect that they will both reach you in due time. Since your last letter reached me I have almost felt as if you were all going to come, I hardly know why I should think and feel so. Before it came I frequently thought about paying a visit to the Country of my birth, but it appears to have broken the charm, it appears to have severed the last thread which bound me to England, and I have now about ceased to think of again crossing the Atlantic. I think more about our meeting in Heaven than I do about our meeting again upon Earth. However I suppose if you continue where you are, and your life is spared - which I trust it will - I shall think about and make an attempt to see you again in this world. While you do live I hope you will frequently write to me. You cannot think what pleasure your letters afford me. I am with regard to them almost an idolater; they are perused by me over and over again. I like to hear all particulars, about you and about all my friends. Since I came to this place I have felt more than I can express, my heart is often ready to burst. I have had to weep and mourn over the state of the Church, and the condition of sinners. I have sometimes been ready to abandon the post of duty, but I dare not do it. I have felt as if I should be glad if the Society would turn me away. I believe it is wrong for me to indulge in these feelings, and I hope I shall get over them. But you must not suppose that I am without comfort or friends, I thank the Lord he is with me, and I have been treated with much kindness since I came here; there are some who do
pray for me and for Zions prosperity. This being my first year in the Ministry, and being as a preacher alone I suppose I feel more than I do may hereafter. I have been thinking that I shall want some clothes in a few months as if I continue to preach I am not very well prepared with suitable clothing. I would therefore like you to send me 3 1/4 yds of good black broad Cloth for a coat and pair of pantaloons. I do not need them just yet and can get them made here when I do. English Cloth is better and some cheaper than it can be procured in this country. You will probably send to Mr Wood for it, tell him it is for me. I would like to have a very good Cloth as it is the cheapest in the end, and I want it for a best suit. Barzillac will probably be able to spare the money to pay for it, and I will repay him when he comes here. You can also take pay for the other articles I mentioned in my last. You must not think that I have plenty of money. I have not. But I have as much as will pay for what I have sent our. And I would rather pay for them, and not put you to any inconvenience. And I fear if I do not get the cloth now that I shall not be able to purchase it when I may need it. Preachers receive very little money in this country, the people pay their servants better than they pay their preachers. I have been here about three months and I have not received a single cent from the Church, and I do not know when I shall. Coming here has been almost a hundred dollars out of my way already. But none of these things move me. I am willing not only to suffer but to die for the Lord Jesus.

Respecting Barzillac I think I have said all to and about him that will be found necessary. I know there are some persons who would rather be in a poor house in England than live in a state of independence in this Country, thus it is impossible to say who will like and who will not. I know if I were situated as he is I would prefer trying myself here, to remaining where he is, tho at the same time he may not make much more.
make so much money here. I think his best plan will be to follow his business in some town. I fancy Mineral Point is a very likely place. When I was there I did enquire, and was told that a steady Butcher who would pay respect to the Sabbath would be well supported, there being a great number of religious persons. I expect to be there in February and will attend to the matter. I think I need not say to him that he must make up his mind to be sober he is already aware of the necessity of this. But as one who knows something of this country and who wishes him well, I would recommend him to take the temperance pledge, and determine to abide by it. It will much conduce to his respectability and prosperity, and need I add comfort, and safety? Let me entreat him to listen to me in this matter. I do not fear that he will become a drunkard, but I want him to be beyond the possibility of becoming one. I know my advice is good and I hope he will attend to it.

I have thought much about my sister Ann coming. And I hardly know what conclusion to come to in her case. I am not in favor of young women coming here without they have a home to come to. I would not wish any one to come with the intention of being a servant. Had I remained at the Creek I could have provided for her, and should have wished her to come over but I fear it would be out of my power to assist her much, situated as I am at present; and next year I may be five hundred miles off a Missionary to the Indians or I cannot tell where. If I had been married and keeping house I should have desired her to come but alas I have to live in single blessedness a poor batchelor. I can assure her that at present she will be much more comfortable where she is, with you. Houses are inconveniently small and rent is very high in towns, if Barzillac should live in a town he would very soon tire of paying rent. He would have to build a house. However after weighing
the matter over if she still desires to leave and if it be the wish of Barzillac and Jane that she should accompany them, I do not desire to oppose it. But my impression at present is that she would be better where she is. I believe she would be more comfortable. But on the other hand I am almost inclined to say if she still desires to come let her do so. You must determine amongst yourselves. I have spoken to Barzillac about coming by way of N. York, that is because I am not acquainted with the New Orleans route. I expect the latter is the cheaper way, and from New Orleans he would come all the way up the Mississippi to this place. I suppose the distance is about two thousand miles. I think I should come by way of N York. Let me wish them always to watch - attend to themselves constantly - If the come up the Canal they must look out for bridges or they will get knocked down. And when the steam boat calls at any place let them not leave it very far. At one place on Lake Michigan the Boat left 6 or 8 persons, and if it had waited about two minutes they would all have been on board. But the Captain said wait for no created being and off she started, with the unfortunate passengers looking on; what they would do I know not for they had luggage on board. The boats stop at different places to take in wood, and then the passengers take a walk into the country, this is well enough if they do not go too far, and keep away too long. Let them have directions on every package, or at least a name. If they bring any pantaloons or other articles for sale let them be distributed among their other things not all together, in one place. I told you in my last that I had been to Pedlars Creek a day or two before I mailed it. I went over to see my friends and procure Mr Philip Allen's address which I forwarded to you. For fear my last has not reached you I will give it again (Wendon Street Helstone Cornwall) let Edw Write to him if he has not done so. He is over from this country and expects to return early in the spring, if he sails from Liverpool Barzillac might come with him. If you have
not received my last letter you must be guided by my former ones. If Barzilliac comes by N York I have directed him to land at Southport and aim for Mr Sills, if he comes the other way he will come to Potosi direct. When I was at the Creek I called to see George Hewgill, his wife was on a visit at a Mr Bakers about five miles distant, they were both well. Matthew Willis was going to write to his friends. Barzilliac will of course bring all his butchering implements with him. I think I said in my last if he could conveniently procure a good gun, he had better bring one, that is, if he can shoot with one. Dubuque, fifteen miles below this is a thriving place, I intend to go there soon and shall enquire if Barzilliac would be likely to get along there. A Mr Waller from Swaledale has invited me over. He knew my Grandfather Dinsdale when he lived in England. A Woman resides near here who formerly knew my Uncle Thompson. She comes from Swaledale. Last year at this time I was on my way west from Peter's. What changes I have seen during its course! May I never forget the goodness of God to me. I hope Elizabeth will tell me all about Christmas and New Years Day Tea festival. I have to eat my morsel alone. I am glad to find that John thinks of writing me a long letter this winter. I do hope to be able to write one to each of you soon, perhaps after I receive your next, I was going to do so but your last put me off it for the present. Write to me soon as convenient, I purpose by the Lords blessing never to be without a shilling to pay the postage of your letters. If I can procure no money as a Preacher I can go out to work and earn some. I am ashamed to beg but not to dig. Perhaps I give you too melancholy a picture. I was very sorry to hear about James Caygill; what a misfortune! I send you a Western Christian Advocate with this, you will see in it a notice of the Death of a young Preacher belonging to this Conference. I was in his company once. The Blue River Miss' adjoins Pedlars Creek. I expect he
is better off than toiling here. But we must remain and suffer till God says it is enough. In view of Eternity I would not exchange my present situation with the most favored on earth, and be without God. I stated in my last that Barzilliac would not be able to follow his business for 2 or 3 months in the spring I find that I was not quite correct in that statement, it appears that fat cattle may be had, but I expect (or rather newly settled) not readily, and no wonder as this is a new country. I find that it will be best for him to be a chandler as well as butcher, the two should be connected in this country. He had therefore best take a few lessons in candle making. Dip candles are retailed for 12½ cents a pound and mould for 15 cents. Wholesale about three cents less; pay in cash. We hear sad accounts about your part of the world. Are you all going to be starved to death? Or have you oat meal and potatoes? In this land we do pity you, we want you to have some of our Indian corn. I suppose report makes you in a worse condition than you really are. I should like to know if you have food enough. You will think it is strange that I have not yet been to see the Mississippi River as I only live about a mile and a half from it. I should now have no difficulty in getting to it as the river is frozen over. But I have not been able to find time to pay a visit to this celebrated stream. I do however intend to see it before I leave this place. It is now covered with ice some say one foot thick some two feet, it is thick enough to bear horses and waggons which are daily crossing it.

I intend to send my brother Edward the Rattle I mentioned in my last letter. The number of rattles denote the age of the snake. Thus the one this was taken off would be eight years old when it was killed. Do not fail to write to me soon. Tell me how religion prospers at Askrigg and in the Circuit. Are your congregations large? Have you had a Missionary meeting lately? How does the Sabbath School prosper? And above all I would ask if you all seek for and enjoy God's grace which
prepares for a better world than this. I think I am hungering and thirsting for righteousness, I want to be filled with it. I find I cannot be content or safe without it. I believe I could leave this world without regret. And I know not but I may soon be called away. I have not heard from Mr. Hargrave, nor yet about him. Has he wrote to anyone in Wensleydale? If so where is he and what is he doing? I am sorry to hear of Mrs. J. G. Woods bereavement, but I have no doubt but she looks the right way for comfort and strength. Poor James Metcalfe of Woodhall has gone also. Truly there is but a step between us and death and yet how unconcerned we live. How are the Johnsons of Woodhall? Do any of them belong to the Methodist Society now? How is N Horner and his family? Does he sometimes come to see you? I often think of him as my fathers friend. I sometimes think I may again see at Askrigg my grandfathers and Grandmother and my other relations, Nelly Cloughton, W. Gildart, F. Morton, & Mrs. Morton, Mrs. Daykin James Segar and all the rest. I never like to mention names as I cannot name all I think about and respect, and some may think if I do not name them, that they are forgotten by me; but this is not the case. I am sorry to hear of Ann Little's state of health, but am glad she finds the Lord to be with her. Perhaps before now she has been called to Abraham's bosom. When I talk about having two Grandfathers and a Grandmother living the people in this country are somewhat astonished, and say they must be old; then I have to give a short history of them. Persons in general do not live so long here as they do with you. Will you give my love to all my relations and friends as if named and believe me to continue your affectionate son

Matthew Dinsdale.

If Jane can bring her crockery with her, or as much as she can conveniently bring I think it would be well as they are dear with us.
Blates, Dishes, Basons, Cups & Saucers &c but they must be properly packed. Let them bring no lumber nothing but what they will want for use. If Barzillac buys some land to live upon, I intend to try to purchase some also, near him that whatever may come or go I may make myself a kind of home. I have as much money as will enter eighty acres, if I can only keep it together. But I am not anxiously careful about this matter, I leave it to providence.

If you are doing well and are comfortable, where you are I expect you cannot do better than remain, for what more can you expect in this world. I think it is better for some to emigrate, and it is better for others to remain, let people judge for themselves. For a person situated as Peter Sill was, it is well there is such a country as this, as he is far better off than he could have been in England.

Please remember me to Mr Wood of Richmond, I intend sometime to send him a letter. In my last I told you to say to George Metcalfe that I am looking for a whole volume from him. He must try to satisfy my appetite for news and information, of the kind he knows about. Tell him he has kept me fasting a long time and I have now become very hungry.

I must again conclude. I think I have nothing more of importance to say. Do not forget me in your prayers. I expect you do not. The Lord be with you. Farewell.

Will you give my love to the Preachers. Is Mr Fowler still at Middleham? Does Bro' Calvert still visit you?

Tell Margaret Thompson I am glad she continues at the post of duty. If I think something about turning traitor, myself I like to see others faithful. I hope the class prospers and that the members grow in grace. O how I would like to see them all once again. I pray that they
may be faithful even unto death. I give over writing and then begin again, while I have a corner unfilled, I want still to talk with you. But I must give over. This is a strange letter but I have almost given you my heart in it. What do you think about my preaching can you encourage me to try to go on? Duty I expect is the safest road. I am very glad you have enjoyed good health during the last summer, you do well to rest yourself when you feel tired. Be as careful as you can of yourself and keep from taking cold if possible.