

“Last letter from Cyrus” noted on back of letter

April 18, 1853
Doct B Johnson
Dear Brother

Jackson April 18__ -53

We are here settled at last in Vernon. I thought perhaps you would like to hear from us. But I cannot promise many lines this time, for last Saturday I had an injury in my left side, by falling across a log – exactly against my lungs. So that, at first or rather, after I found out how bad I was hurt I had quite a serious time of it. But since yesterday morning I have been growing better and hope soon to be able to go to work again. It is now four weeks or more since we arrived in town and it seems a great while longer than that. But long as it has been I suppose if you have not heard some other way, you would like to hear something about our journey.

We started from J. [Jackson] Monday expecting to leave Belfast Tuesday. But the boat had been set [?] back one day from her regular time of starting. Consequently we did not leave B. till Wednes. Noon and more [?] about 23 hours on our way to Boston so we were too late for the morning train to Springfield and consequently too late to get to our journey's end that day. And we had all but Charles & Brainard been obliged to what seems to be the common lot of land lubbers [?] and Mrs. J & Julia were very sick. And then I think Julia took cold on board the boat. Therefore she seemed to be so unwell that we concluded to stop all night in Boston. Next morning she was still worse, but we were obliged to come on, & started at 7 ½ am and after making about an hours stop in Springfield & half an hour in Hartford, allowing us time to see about as much of these cities as Jonah saw of the whale, we arrived in Vernon about 3 ½ & at Samuel's about four. S. [Samuel] was at the depot when we arrived, & we found Hannah at Samuels. Wm [William] was at Manchester had not finished his school. So we did not see him till next day. They appeared glad to see us & we were not inclined to suspect any hypocrisy in the matter. We were obliged to remain at Samuels till the next Tuesday and in the mean time we called in a physician for Julia who pronounced her sickness to be Scarlet fever & rash. And then we did not come into this house but into one near here for we could not have this till the 5th of April. Julia got quite smart [?] before we moved the last time. But about that time she took cold and ately she has been very sick again so that we considered her case much worse than at any time before. The gland became so much swollen as to excite our fears that the passage would fill up so as to put a stop to respiration. But since yesterday she has breathed more freely, and appears to be getting better.

This is a cotton warp factory owned mostly by farmers about here, & connected with the factory, is a saw mill, gristmill and a large farm. I expect my business will be mostly farming. Wm [William] drives the horsestead [?], has 20 doll [dollars] per month. Charles works in the Kellogg mill about a mile from here at 17. Hannah works in this mill at present, but intends to leave soon and go into the K mill where Ch [Charles] works, if she does not get a school to teach. Geo [George] & Br [Brainard] also work in the mill. Mary Ann helps her mother at home. Our religious priviledges are better here than in Jackson and the chance for laboring in the cause of Christ and doing good is great.

We are constantly seeing & hearing things that remind us that we are not in Maine. The manner of teaming axes and the thing used to drive with (which is a whip made of a hickory stick from six to ten feet long and a lash on the end of it) are among the oddest. And then to cap the whole, the sun seems to have caught the addity and rises in the north. When we came here we left sleighing and came where no snow was to be seen, where the pioneer songsters with their glad hosanna were hailing the advent of spring and it seemed as though we were agoing to have an early spring and for about a fortnight we had no storm. But since that, with the exception of now and then a pleasant day it has been cold, with frequent storms of rain.

We begin to get acquainted with some of the people and like so far. No more appearance of aristocracy than in Jackson. Love to all.

Your brother Cyrus
Julia has some cough and we fear her lungs are affected.