

Jackson July 19 1826

Dear son,

We think of starting for New Portland in the morning. When you were here I forgot to speak to you about the \$2 due toward the steers. What I expected to make all even between us I meant the use of the mare & dressing cloth and did not think of the balance due towards the steers & suppose that you did not.

As I have not time to write much nor matter to write I shall leave the residue for the girls.

Affectionately

B. Johnson

Dear Brother

— 23² —

After repeated trials have at length got seated to answer your kind letters I will not say ~~anything~~ of word in justification of my neglect. You know my indolence is not that a sufficient excuse. I must by the way ask of you a remedy for this; it is the ^{reason} why I do not write any more.

In your first you complained of the taciturnity of your friends I think I have been in something such a predicament as you describe but seldom. I should

have to be called the stump. Since that you say that your correspondants have not all neglected you.

I wish in your next you would lay down some rules for conversation every one is telling me how unsocial I am until I begin to think that I am company for no one and conclude I might keep entirely by myself.

You speak of the privilege and pleasure of social intercourse it is a blessing which demands our warmest gratitude and yet it being a common blessing we are apt almost entirely to overlook it and the mediate intercourse is an unspeakable favour one which at this time can be no impediment - Why then not improve it?

You speak of my selfishness in another duty. This truly is astonishing - To see a creature possessed of an immortal soul and conscious of it - who knows that his probationary state is short - can, in the most presumptuous manner, live in the neglect of every duty, and not provide for that state which is eternal - You say that this possibly is not my case. But I cannot even encourage that possibility - That I have reflected on the preeminence of the Christian Religion I will not deny - Yes, and while self makes her religion as it best suits her own corrupted imagination the pure religion of Christ alone corrects the natural depravity of the heart, overcomes the wicked inclinations - softens the asperities of life - places her disciples above the little disappointments, difficulties and trials of life and looks up to the fountain of perfect purity - and Hope flies forward and fixes herself when all is perfect happiness and where changes and trials are unknown.

We have read a letter from Cyrus this morning - he says they
are well - He wrote particularly of his engagement on that
place and terms - which I presume you have heard -
Mrs Roberts has a daughter! last sabbath - Perhaps they will call
it Lemima Wilkinson! - Should not be surprised if they do -
Write to me soon without regard to ~~the~~ my neglect - The
mail we are expecting every moment therefore I must
close - Your affectionate Sister
Give my love to E. Abbot and all Laura Jane Johnson
to whom it is due -

Dear Brother you will perceive that Laura had
a copy to her letter & her fingers became so cold that she
was obliged to employ an amanuensis to copy a part -
Mary Ann has business to ~~express~~ ^{express} my business -
I intend to write to you as soon as I can engage
Father to direct me - He is afraid very much of transgressing
on your patience by writing too often or, appears to be -
I wrote two letters yesterday one to — and one to S. Hayes -
have, if you please to friends - Mrs Burrows is here - is looking
over my shoulder but I do not think she will learn much
by it - Father & Mother started Monday -

Mary Ann


It would be gratifying to have
your next addressed to
Augusta.