

10-13-1834

Letter to Rachel Denison

B. Wells

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Oct 13th Oct 1834 341013

Dear Madam

I cannot suppose that any apology is necessary for the liberty I take of addressing you. In passing on thro Michigan to where a part of my family reside, I have called at this place & spent a few days with the Bishop & your Brother. I can readily suppose that you, Madam, and indeed all the friends of the family feel a tender solicitude concerning their welfare. Situated in what was when they came to it, almost a wilderness, it would naturally be supposed that they must for a long time suffer the privations incident to ~~settlement in~~ such a recently formed settlement. That even the common necessities of life would be difficult to be procured. To persons unaccustomed with the progress of settlement in the prairies of the west, such reflections are natural & I have no doubt but that you have had anticipated many painful anticipations, when you heard of the retirement of your brother to a wilder ^{his family} life, that must for a long time endure much suffering, before they could raise within themselves, even what was needful for their subsistence. A desire to relieve your mind in this respect, has produced this letter. I have enjoyed a satisfaction during the short time I have been on this delightful spot which I cannot fully express. I have travelled much thro Michigan, and consider the selection made by the Bishop, for his purposes, one of the best that could have been made; his farm

is situated in the midst of a rich & beautifully fertile
tract of land that admits of a compact settlement
for many miles around him. his progress in improve-
ment has been far beyond what could have been ex-
pected from the scant means that were left him
in the sudden wreck of his affairs - he has a large
farm already in cultivation, from which he raises
abundance of the necessaries & comforts of life, for
his family & sufficient to ^{support} a considerable stock of
cattle - he has now near 100 head, among which are
as many milch cows as enables them to make
their own butter, and a sufficient considerable
quantity of cheese for sale. he has a saw mill
in operation which affords him the means of getting
the lumber necessary in erecting comfortable build-
ings, & other improvements on his farm, and he
looks forward, with ~~the~~ ^{unshaken} confidence, trusting in the
mercy & guidance of a good God who has ~~thus~~ ^{thus} sus-
tained him in all his difficulties, to the time when
he will be enabled to erect a decent Church
and suitable buildings for a School for the
education of the youth, both male & female, of
this rapidly populating Country. Accept Madam
of this hasty Scrawl, in the spirit of kindness in which
it is made; at the moment of my departure on my journey
with my kindest respects for yourself & Sister Dorothea.
With much esteem
R. W. Wells

P.S. I forbore saying ^{any} thing respecting the health of the ^{family} under the impression that the Bishop would accompany this with a letter from himself. I now learn that he will defer writing for some days - the family are in the enjoyment of excellent health except the Bishop, who sustained an injury from a fall from his horse. he has suffered considerable pain from it, but is now getting ^{it} so as to be able to walk with me over his farm.

Free P. Chan & P. M. G. dea M. G.

13 of Oct -

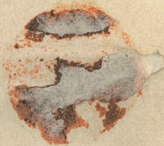
To Mrs. Rachael Denison

Care of S. J. Denison

Royallton,

Vermont.

Mr. W. C. 1834



Good