

*Endorsed "Mrs. Hannah Peters, Eramosa."*

HAMILTON GAOL, Dec. 30th, 1837.

Dear Wife & Children;—

I send these few lines to inform you that I am in good health but troubled with a tickling Cough. I should be very glad to hear that you are all well and as much Reconciled to your present circumstances and separation as myself. I expect you would like to know something of the situation of myself and my companions, who has been lodged in Malone's Hotel (this is the Jailor's name) and methinks the Dear Children are often wishing to know what kind of a place Father is in, and in order to satisfy their innocent curiosity Shall endeavour to give a short account of my present Residence, and the number of our Family, which at present amounts to 45 in this part of the House, containing two rooms each about as large as our shop, these are well lighted and ventilated and 12 feet between the floors. We have also a spacious Hall of 8 or 10 feet wide, by 26 long, the Hall door is made of good oak six inches thick, and the windows well secured with Iron grates, so we have no fear of thieves or Robbers, And to conclude this hasty sketch shall just mention that it is the best House in the Town. We expect ten of our number to remove into another part of the house tomorrow morning. The high Sheriff visits us every day when at home and has certainly shown us much kindness. He has been with us this evening and Intimated that it is probable that a special Commission will be appointed to examine into the nature of the charges said to be against us. We hope that this will be the case for we have no desire to see Toronto at her Majesty's expense; and if we must be under confinement we have no reason to expect better treatment at any other place and should we remove we are afraid that it will be much worse. I forgot to mention that there is a Respectable Phisian or Doctor who comes and offers his services which has been sometimes much needed. Our company consists of one ex-member of Parliament, three Doctors, and five that either is now or has been school masters. We have made some Bylaws which is calculated to promote health, comfort and cleanliness which you will see if there is room in this letter. I wish in this place to acknowledge Mr. Malone's kindness unto us and if ever it should be in my power I should be very ungrateful if I did not make some suitable return.

Dec. 31. The Jailor has favored us last night with the Hamilton Gazette which contains the Speech of the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the Provincial Parliament and also MacKenzie's Proclamation and as near as I can see without Spectacles the coming week is likely to be the most eventful one that has been known since 1812. And I must confess that there is a gloomy prospect for us as it Respects our examination; for nothing can be done at present owing to the excitement which prevails at this eventful Period. I have heard your William is with you at present. If it true I want him to get 2 new straps for the Harness and unless the leather is very heavy they ought to be double and any business which is necessary to be done from home I want it to be done with the Mare. And if it should happen that I am detained here which is very likely at present I would like him to get John Kennedy or John McKerlie or any of the Neighbours to fetch Wheat or Barley to Dundas but as my note is not

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