

Among the family records were found some letters written at an early date to his brother in the State of New York, and to his father, who had settled early in New Brunswick. He writes in good spirits, as the following will testify:—

No. 1.

St. Catharines, Upper Canada, July 16, 1800.

Mr. Nehemiah Merritt, St. John. New Brunswick.

To the care of Messrs. Brace & Morrison, New York.

Dear Brother,—I have just received a letter from you by Mr. Mead, dated the 3rd of May. I expect the letter has been 200 miles beyond me, and now just come to hand. Mr. Mead has behaved very ill, or else you would have heard from me by the time you mention, the first of August.

I trust this will meet you at New York.

I am happy to hear that our good father, David Merritt and family, are well. Write to them, from wherever you receive this and let them know that my family, as well as my brother William's, are all well, and that we are doing well, in the farming way.

William has got fine wheat, rye, corn and everything else, and that in great abundance.

Perhaps this is one of the finest countries in the world, for a farmer that will be industrious. I should not be surprised if the greater part of your country people were to come on here. You would be astonished to see the people from all parts of the States, by land and by water, 250 wagons at a time, with their families, on the road—something like an army on the move.

The goodness of the land is beyond all description. The best crops this season I ever saw. Provisions plenty, but money very scarce—little or none.

Should you think it worth your while to bring in a small cargo of spirits, Port and Sherry wine, a box of Bohea and Green Tea, some Brandy, a few loaves of sugar and any other thing you may think proper, but should the season be late when you get to Schenectady, I should think it prudent to leave them with Captain Walton, and I will send our sleighs for them.

On the other hand, should you incline to come by land, buy a good horse or mare, saddle and bridle, out of some of the livery stables in New York, for at this season of the year they are very cheap. Come up to King Street (Long Island) and you will find Nehemiah Sherwood, Joshua Lyon or some other persons; give invitations for them all to come and see this country.

Keep the post road to Niagara, and when you cross over on the British side, enquire for me. and any one will tell you where I live.