

Constantia,
December 2nd, 1828.

Dear Children,

I NOW write for the third time since I left old England. I wrote a letter, dated October 8th; and finding that it would have 4 weeks to lay, I was afraid you would not have it: and as I told you I would write the truth, if I was forced to beg my bread from door to door, so I now proceed. Dear children, I write to let you know that we are all in good health, excepting your mother; and she is now just put to bed of another son, and she is as well as can be expected. And now as it respects what I have got in America: I have got $12\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land, about half improved, and the rest in the state of nature, and 2 cows of my own; but if I had not had a good friend in England, I could not have bought it. We can buy good land for 18s. per acre: but buying of land is not one quarter part, for the land is as full of trees as your woods are of stubs; and they are from 4 to 10 rods long, and from 1 to 5 feet through them. You may buy land here from 18s. to 9l. in English money; and it will bring from 20 to 40 bushels of wheat per acre, and corn from 20 to 50 bushels per acre, and rye from 20 to 40 ditto. You may buy beef for $1\frac{3}{4}d.$ per pound; and mutton the same; Irish butter 7d. per pound; cheese 3d.; tea 4s. 6d.; sugar 7d. per pound; candles 7d.; soap 7d.; and wheat 4s. 6d. per bushel; corn and rye 2s. per bushel. And I get 2s. 4d. a day and my board; and have as much meat to eat, 3 times a day, as I like to eat. But clothing is dear: shoes 8s.; half boots 16s.; calico from 8d. to 1s. 4d.; stockings 2s. 9d. to 3s. 6d.; flannel 4s. per yard; superfine cloth from, 4s. 6d. to 1l.: now all this is counted in English money. We get 4s. per day in summer, and our board; and if you count the difference of the money, you will soon find it out. 8s. in our money is 4s. 6d. in your money. And among the good things of America, we have good laws, as good as they are in England, and much better attended to. For if a man comes to America with a family, and falls sick or lame within 6 months, the county must take care of them; if they have been here 6 months, then the town, which you call a parish, must keep them. So people need not fear of suffering; and people are a great deal more friendly here than they are, or can be, in England: because they have it not in their power as they have here; for we are all as