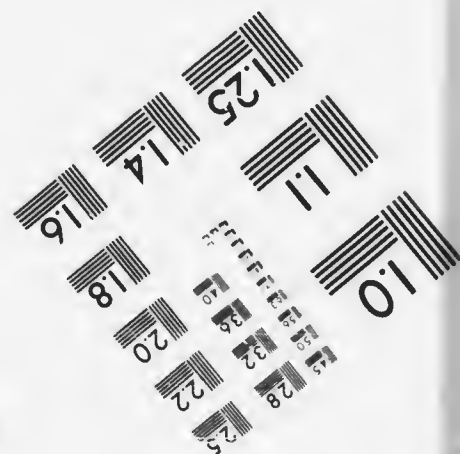
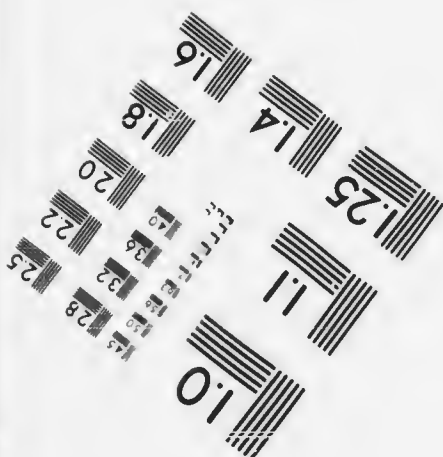
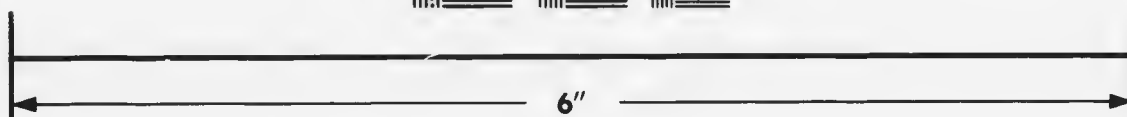
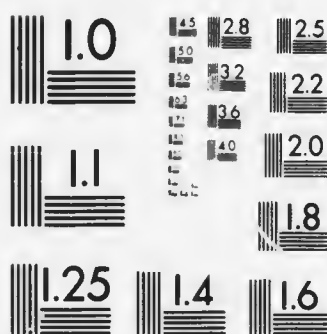


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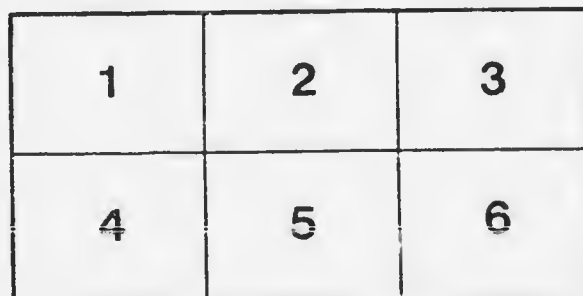
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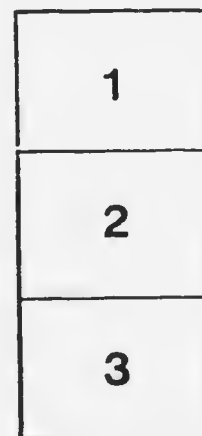
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57

TWENTY-FOUR

LETTERS

FROM

LABOURERS IN AMERICA

TO

THEIR FRIENDS IN ENGLAND.

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LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY EDWARD RAINFORD,  
RED LION PASSAGE, RED LION SQUARE.

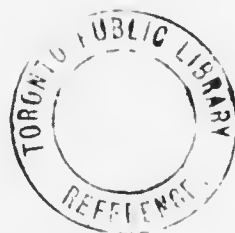
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1829.

*Price Sixpence.*

02567A

0274



JUN 8 1933

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PRINTED BY RICHARD TAYLOR,  
RED LION COURT, FLEET STREET.

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**SOME** of the parishes in the east of Sussex have adopted the practice of sending off annually, a part of their surplus population to America. The number of persons which has been sent from some districts is now very considerable; and a frequent interchange of letters between the two countries has been the natural consequence. There is probably no part of the world where the labourer enjoys so large a proportion of the produce of his labour, as in the United States. There are not many countries where the land in cultivation is so productive, as that of the western States of the Union; and where consequently the gross amount divided between the labourer and his employer is so large. No method of conveying the knowledge of these important facts to the working poor of England seems more effectual, than of publishing a fair specimen of the letters, written by labourers in that country to their friends of the same class here.

In order to accomplish this object in a manner as free from suspicion of partiality as possible, I sent out two persons in opposite directions, with orders to call at all the cottages where they had reason to think that letters had been lately received from America. The first 24 which came in have been printed, without any other alteration than a little improvement in the spelling, where it was so bad as to render the sense obscure. Some of the letters which were rejected, were, perhaps, better worth publishing, than those which have been here given; but to have made a selection, would have laid me open to the charge of concealing the truth.

The demand for labour at New York and Philadelphia is so



great, that the emigrants who arrive either in the spring or in the autumn, are certain to obtain immediate employment; but the spring is preferable on many accounts. The passage, on the average of the whole year, from Liverpool to New York, is 40 days; but the average of the passages made in March is only 37 days, and in April only 31.

The London packets touch at Portsmouth, and the length of this passage from Spithead to New York, is the same as from Liverpool; but they are frequently many days in getting round the Forelands:—

<i>The Expense.</i>		£	s.	d.
Children under 14 years of age:—	Passage	3	0	0
	Provisions	1	10	0
				<hr/> 4 10 0
Adults:— . . . . .	Passage	5	10	0
	Provisions	2	10	0
				<hr/> 8 0 0
				<hr/>

This is the wholesale price; for individuals it is more. It has been usual to give two pounds in money to the adults, and one pound for each child; to support them after landing, till they can find employment. To this must be added the expence of conveyance to the port where the embarkation takes place. Altogether, the amount is rarely so great, as the charge of maintaining them at home for a single year on the parish allowance. The greatest rate of the increase of population hitherto observed, under the most favourable circumstances, has been in America. It has there doubled every 20 years. If we admit that the number of the labouring poor in a parish in England, increase at the same rate (which is scarcely probable), it will be necessary to withdraw 1-20th part annually, to keep the number stationary, and prevent the supply of labour from exceeding the demand. An easy method is here afforded of improving the condition of the labourers who go abroad as well as that of those who remain at home, and of restricting the poor rate within limits not very difficult to calculate.

It is not impossible, that some persons may feel an objection to give so many valuable hands to the United States. Where such a feeling exists, British America may be substituted, and the large sum voted in the last session for public works in Canada, will produce a demand for labour there, which has not previously existed. But it must not be forgotten, that when once a parish has chosen a point, to which to send their emigrants, it is not very easy to change. Every successive party wishes to be near their friends, who have gone before. The increase of the population and power of the United States, must necessarily be so rapid, that the small degree in which it will be accelerated by the addition of our emigrants, can scarcely be of much importance. Of what moment can it be, whether they count 20 millions in the year 50 or in the year 51? Count them soon they must and will. But to renew the ties of brotherhood which have been broken, to cast off these petty jealousies and fears, to give and take freely what the wants of each nation demand, is true wisdom; and in no way are these desirable objects so likely to be obtained, as by the natural ties which will result from a connected system of emigration. But whether these hopes are destined to be realized or not, of one thing I am certain,—that no man can read the accounts contained in these letters, of the extraordinary liberality and kindness which our fellow countrymen in distress have experienced, without feeling his heart warm towards our friends on the other side the Atlantic.

BENJAMIN SMITH.

*Mountfield, near Robertsbridge.*

*February 26th, 1829.*



## LETTERS.

---

Queensbury, New Brunswick,  
Oct 15th, 1819.

Dear Father,

I ARRIVED in Saint John the 16th day of June, after a disagreeable passage. We were struck with lightning in a storm, in which we lost one of our sailors. When I came into the above place I saw no prospect of doing any thing there, and proceeded to Frederictons, and had many proposals made me there, but did not accept them. I am now situated 120 miles up the river St. John; the gentleman in whose employ I am has built me a house in which I now live. I am to have it, and 10 or 12 acres of land, rent free, for three years. I expect to be able to maintain my family on this, until I get land from Government. Every married man is entitled to 200 acres, and every single man 100. As to saying positively what labourers get, I could not; but they are paid according to what they can do. I got five pounds the first month, and my *diet*. I must now tell you we are not pestered with Revenue officers. We are a free people, free from rates and taxes. The following are the prices of provisions:—Flour, two pounds ten shillings per barrel of 196 pounds weight; butter, from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per pound; mutton and beef, from 5d. to 6d. per pound; all wearing apparel are as dear again as in *England*. St. John river is a very fine river, so that brigs of any size can come from St. John to Fredericton. But from Fid to here, which is thirty miles, it is shallower. A man may catch as many fish in an hour, as would do for him and his family for a day. Along the above river it is but thinly inhabited, and very few back settlements. There is plenty of land, but we want men to work it. You would really wonder to see so many thousands of acres of woody land idle, and *good land*. I had every idea of going to the States, but the accounts were so discouraging, that I would not go there. I assure you there are many coming from the States here. Tell my brothers

that I have no doubt after a while they would do well here, but I would not advise them to come now, for they little know the difficulties they would have to undergo, before they would get settled; but if they (or I) was once settled here there would be no fear but they would do well. Tell William Turner and Samuel Turner, that if they could come here and bring their sons, they could be settled, provided they had 60*l.*; or they could get land (cleared) on the half part of what they could raise, and oxen to plough it. Tell William Glover, that I can get a gentleman to send for him next spring, and to send me an answer if he is willing to come or not. My wife would be obliged to her brother if Apps would send or take a copy of this letter to her father. We are well, thank God, and it is the sincere wish of your friend, that I may see you all here, but not until I hear something before you come,

And am, dear Father:

Yours truly affectionate,

JOHN WATSON.

N.B. Direct to Mr. John Hustis, Queensbury County York, New Brunswick, British America.

My wife would be obliged to you, when you write, to send word how all her friends are.

*Mr. Stephen Watson, Sedlescomb,  
County of Sussex, England.*

---

Seneca, County of Ontario, State of New York,  
August 13th, 1820.

Dear Father,

WE left Brunswick on the 8th last March. The severity of the winter determined me to take this step. We proceeded up the river St. John towards Quebec. On our way we encountered great difficulties, arising from the cold, and the country being almost an entire wilderness through which we passed. From Quebec we proceeded up the river St. Laurence to Montreal; from thence to Kingston, and up the lake to Niagara, where we crossed over into the United States, and travelled east into the State of New York 100 miles to the English settlement (as it is here called), where I

now live, but do not intend to remain here long; the land is all taken up, and too dear for a person in my circumstances to buy. The Ohio is my ultimate object; there land may be had in plenty for a dollar and a quarter or 5s. 6d. sterling per acre. I arrived here about the middle of June, and have been for the principal part of the time since in the employ of a Mr. Watson, an Englishman from Northumberland, of whom I bought a cow, for which I paid him in work, besides supporting my family. An honest industrious man can maintain his family better by 3 days work here, then he can in England by 6. It is the universal custom here, for the employer to find the person employed in victuals. Grain is very low at present; wheat may be bought for 1s. 6d. sterling money per bushel, and the other kinds of grain proportionably low. Butchers meat of all kinds is exceedingly cheap; every farmer here has an orchard, in which the apples and peaches hang almost as thick as your hops. Clothing, is about the same here as in England; money is scarce at present, owing to there being no demand abroad for grain, but every thing else is in the utmost profusion; and I look forward with a confident and well-founded hope to the time, as not far distant, when I shall be a freeholder, and call no man by the degrading name of master. This you will possibly say is all idle rant;—*but no*, I am acquainted with many here who came to this country poor and penniless, who now possess fine freeholds of from 100 to 300 acres, fine houses, barns, and orchards, thriving flocks of cattle, sheep, &c. What others have done why may not I accomplish? This is in truth the land of hope; labour is a pleasurable exertion, because all its profits go to enrich yourself, and not another. As your letters to me may possibly not arrive before I depart to the Ohio, direct them to Robert Watson, to be by him forwarded to me.

Your dutiful Son,

JOHN WATSON.

*To Stephen Watson, Sedlescomb, near Battle,  
County of Sussex, Old England.*

---

Aurora, Dearborn County, Indiana State,  
June 15th, 1822.

Dear Father,

RECOLLECTING my promise to you not to write till I was perfectly settled, you would not expect a letter so soon as you might other-

wise have done. I now consider myself as so settled and though I have some time ago written a letter to you, yet it may have miscarried, and I not only think it right that you should be acquainted with my situation, but I wish that you with all our family and friends could be with us. We have suffered many hardships as the statement of our journey will show you ; but they were occasioned by my being a stranger to the country. You will recollect that I started with my wife and our children in the brig Wellington for St. John's, New Brunswick, where we arrived June 15th, 1819. after losing one of our mates by lightning and one seaman ; there we remain'd till March 15th, 1820. New Indiana the winter too severe to profit much by farming. I determined to leave it, at all hazards ; I therefore with my wife got a hand-sleigh, in which I placed the children, and drew them on the ice up the St. John's river about 360 miles, Mary and myself walking drawing the children after us. You must also recollect that 100 miles of this was not settled being all wood. We arrived at the head of St. John's river. We travelled on in the same manner across snow and ice to the great river St. Laurence, about 180 miles below Quebec ; there we found the country along the bank thickly settled. I then built myself a light waggon, and had all our family provisioned during the time of making the waggon for "I thank you ;" the good people who were French Canadians wishing us very much to stay with them. In this waggon our children were drawn by myself for upwards of 400 miles to Kingston, at the mouth of the lake Ontario. There (as every other place, we met with uncommon kindness) ; a gentleman quite a stranger not only sent us by the steamboat free of all expense to Fort George, but put 6 or 7 dollars in our pockets besides. From Fort George we crossed into the United States, and passed the summer at Geneva, Ontario County, New York State. Hearing a more favourable account of the state of Indiana, I once more started on a ramble, and travelling across the State of New York, I came to O'Lean Point on the Allegany river, which river, a very rapid one, I came down in a flat boat to Pittsburgh ; here I stayed two days, and passing on, after being detained by head winds, and the water being very low, landed at Aurora, situated at the mouth of Hogan Creek. Here I found myself a stranger, without friends, acquaintance, utensils of any kind, or *money*, having spent our last dollar a day or two before : added

to which myself and all our family were caught by illness for 6 or 8 weeks, without the power of doing any thing. But no sooner was our situation known, than we had plenty of provisions brought to us, and as our strength recovered I obtained work at digging, &c. My wife took in sewing, and by degrees we have worked it to that I have 2 cows, 2 calves, 9 pigs, and 1 calf expected in August. James is now at school, and I intend to send two in the winter. I have joined with a farmer in cropping: that is I received one-half of the produce, and had the team found me. I now am working for an English gentleman named Harris, who is building in Aurora, and owns four quarter sections up the Creek. Much good land can be bought far distant for 1 dollar and a  $\frac{1}{4}$  per acre, and improved land for not much more: indeed, so good is the prospect for a man who must live by industry, that I wish all my friends and acquaintance were here with me. I can safely say, I would not, nor would my Mary, return to England on any account whatever. We are now all in good health, and are very desirous of hearing from you. Direct to John Watson, Aurora, Dearborn County, Indiana State, United States. I wish you would also be very particular not to put the letter into the *post office*, as it will be so long in coming; but put it into the *letter-bag* of some ship bound to New York or Philadelphia. In the earnest desire of hearing from you,

I remain, yours,

JOHN WATSON.

The best port for you to come, would be Philadelphia or Baltimore.

*Mr. Stephen Watson, Parish of Sedlescomb,  
near Battle, Sussex, Old England.*

---

Aurora, Dearborn County, Indiana,  
April 26th, 1823.

Dear Father and Mother,

I NOW write with greater pleasure than I have ever yet done, as it is in answer to yours, dated February the 2nd, the only one I have received; the others I suppose must have gone to Canada, where you might think I was settled. It proved very gratifying to us to hear that you all enjoy such general good health, excepting



father Vaughan and sister, who could not have been expected to remain long, having been ill so long. Though your letter was written by several persons we cannot answer them separately, but must beg of you to read all to them. You should have mentioned who my brother James married; we suppose it must be Henry Freeland's sister. We would recommend all our acquaintance who are tired of paying tythes and taxes to come here, where tythes are unknown, and taxes hardly worth mentioning, compared to what they are with you. The only tax we have paid is 1 day's work on the road, and 50 cents, or 2s. 3d. for 1 yoke of oxen. You say England is in a very bad state, and farmers are got very low. We would say, let them come here: we were worth nothing when we landed at this place, and now we have 1 yoke of oxen, 1 cow, 9 hogs, and we intend having another cow. We are not much concerned about Michaelmas and Lady-Day here, for as many farms as we chose, we could have for paying  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the produce. We have just taken 10 acres upon these terms, and John is busily engaged in ploughing for corn; he wishes his uncle Edward was with him to help. Brother Stephen inquires if he could get employment; we answer that any person desirous of obtaining a living may do it, and that easily: if he comes let him bring all the *money* he can, and what clothing he has; but not to spend any *money* in buying unnecessary things in England; here the *money* will pay him much better than there, in land. Rabbits and pigeons, particularly the latter, are very abundant; and squirrels which are very fine eating. There are also great plenty of fish in the river, for those who take the trouble to catch them. Partridges are also very numerous, and wild turkeys. We bought 1 for 25 cents or 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. of your money, which lasted us for 4 meals. Meat we buy for 2 cents per pound. John often talks of his grandmother, and says we could keep her without working. Whilst this letter is writing, my wife is eating preserved peaches and bread, and washing them down with good whiskey and water. When our last letter was written, I mentioned I was working for Mr. Harris, an English gentleman; I am still working for them, and probably shall do for some time. You express a wish to know all our children: John, born April 22nd, 1809; James, October 18th, 1813; Naomi, February 7th, 1815; Henry, April 11th, 1818; Eliza Anne, born January 21st, 1821, in Langlev township, on Hogan Creek, Dearborn County, Indiana. Henry

is very well, generally in mischief like all other children, and received a kiss, as did all the others, from sister. All our friends who come, we would recommend to come in an *American ship*, and land either at Baltimore or Philadelphia; but we should advise them to start immediately after landing for the western States, as they afford a better prospect for poor people, or indeed any other, than the eastern or older States. Among many other advantages we enjoy in this country, we can make our own soap, candles, and sugars; which we make by tapping the maple tree, in the breaking of the frost, and boiling the water down, clearing it with eggs or milk. We wish very much to see brother William and Stephen: if they come they cannot be in a worse situation than we were when we landed, and for many months after: but then their prospects would be better than by remaining in England. Our brother William, sister Sarah, and our dear mother must not be hurt if we did not mention them in our last letter; it was not an intentional neglect, for our affections for them are as strong as ever, and very often do we wish they were here; for we think it would be much better for them, as well as William Glover, of whom we wish to hear,—nothing being said of him in your letter. Mary begs you will be particular in mentioning her relations in your next letter, which you must not be angry if we ask to be written closer, so as to contain more information; as the postage of letters is rather expensive; not that we grudge the money, but we think the sheet might be made to hold more.

And now, our dear Father and Mother, as it is not very likely that we shall meet on this side the grave, may it be our fervent prayer, that in the life to come, where there shall be no alloy, no griefs or difficulties, we may all unite; and there may you with all the blessed, salute your ever dutiful and affectionate children,

JOHN and MARY WATSON.

P.S. If Stephen comes, we wish him to bring some rye-grass, trefoil, *broom seed*, cabbage seeds, and all garden seeds. Be sure if he does come, or any others of our friends, to let us know as soon as possible. Mary has just made a bushel of soap, which cost me nothing but her attention and a little labour. Those animals called in your country Excisemen, are not known in this country, so that

we boil soap, make candles, gather hops, and many other things, without fear, which you *must not do*. We are under no fear about our children not having food: we have finer pork and fowls than you have, and plenty of them. Fowls are sold from 2s. 3d. to 3s. 4½d. *per Dozen*; pork at 1d. *per lb.*; eggs 1½d. for six dozen.

*Mr. Stephen Watson, Sen., Sedlescomb,  
near Battle, Sussex, Old England.*

Per first packet from } Paid to New York.  
New York to Liverpool.

Dear Father and Mother,

Aurora,  
March 9th, 1825.

It is now two years since we heard from you, excepting in a letter from brother Stephen, saying you were all well. We are longing to hear what you are all doing, the particulars of all the family: when you sent the letter, you did not say any thing about William and Sarah, neither who James and Ann was married to. I want to know what is become of William Glover, and whether he loves drink as well as he used to do; if he does, tell him there is plenty of whiskey here; if a man wants to kill himself, he need not be long about it, for he may get a gallon a day and his board; but I hope better things of him; I hope he has seen into the folly of it before this. We should be very glad to hear from all our friends: we think they would do a great deal better here than in England: we cannot think what makes so many of them go back, for we would not come back again for Mr. Tilden Smith's farm and all he has got. The poor home-sick things! were it not for their poor children, we would not care if they went to bed without supper all their lives. As for brother Stephen, we should like to know if he is gone back too; for we expected him this last winter, but have been disappointed; we are rather uneasy at not receiving a letter before this; if you know any thing about him, we should be glad if you would let us know. We are still farming, have got this season about 10 acres of very promising wheat, 7 acres of oats, 13 acres of corn, 1 acre for flax, between 1 and 2 acres for potatoes and other garden stuff. We have got a horse, a yoke of oxen, a pair

of young steers, a milch cow, and plenty of pigs and fowls. There are plenty of English people in and around our neighbourhood: we rent land of an English woman, (true enough, for *I* have written this letter). We feel ourselves at home among the people: we have regular preaching by the Methodists and Baptists, but no parsons to tythe us. We make our own soap and candles; we have just got between 40 and 50 yards of linen from the loom, from our last years flax. Land is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  per acre Congress price; but land near the Ohio is chiefly taken up, and higher priced. We live a mile from the river. Aurora is on the bank of the Ohio, so of course we are the same distance from it. We have another little daughter named Sarah Joanna; she was born the 29th of February, 1824; the other children are all well; John is grown very much lately, he is almost like a man; he has just been out a month, and earned himself a summer's suit of clothes, though he is employed at home on the farm. I let him have his wish; he sends his best respects to his grandmother. There is plenty of walnuts, hickory-nuts, wild grapes, plums, &c. in the woods; peaches grow in great abundance; the trees bear in 3 years from the stone. Apples, melons, pumpkins, and a variety of other fruits are very easily raised. Write soon, and direct to John Watson, Aurora, Dearborn County, Indiana. From your

affectionate Son and Daughter,

JOHN and MARY WATSON.

P.S. We should be very happy to see you; but as we do not expect to see you this side of Eternity, we beseech you to prepare for the awful day, when we must all give account of the deeds done in the body, it is the one thing needful; do not put it off till it is too late, but fly to the arms of a bleeding Redeemer, who is willing to save you.

*Mr. Stephen Watson, Sedlescomb, Battle.*

Dearborn County, Indiana,  
November 29th, 1828.

Dear Father and Mother,

WE gladly embrace this opportunity of writing to you, to say that we are all enjoying good health at present, and we sincerely

hope that at the perusal of these few lines you will be the same. We received your letter November 8th, which gave us great satisfaction that you are well, and we are glad to hear that some of you intend coming to America; and we greatly desire that you would all come to this rich fertile country; for we assure you that there is sufficient room for you all in this Palestine land; though we do not believe every part of America so good as where we live, and especially the part of America where brother Stephen lives; for we know by experience, that it is not half so good a country for a poor man to get a living, as where we are, though they are well satisfied where they live, and we believe their country far better than Old England. Yet we know that their country is not half so good a part of America as where we live. But they know no better, for they have not travelled through America to see the difference. But it is not so with us; for we travelled 2000 or 3000 miles through America before we settled ourselves; therefore we are better judges than they can be. Here you can rent land by giving one third of what is raised on the land; and a man can get 18 pounds of pork or beef for a day's work, or 3 pecks of wheat, and every other kind of provision cheap accordingly. Men who labour by the day get the above articles, and are boarded in time of doing the work. We are highly gratified to think of father and mother coming, and more so shall we be if you all will come. We advise you to come to New York, and up the river to Albany, where Stephen lives. There you can get information of the road to my house; but if so be that you are willing to come to us without coming by Stephen, we think it much the best for you to land at Baltimore, and come from there to Pittsburgh on the Ohio river, where you can get a passage in the steam-boat for a very few dollars to Aurora, within five miles of my house. It would be a great deal cheaper and nigher from Baltimore or Philadelphia than Albany, from either of the three ports. You must inquire for Pittsburgh on the Ohio river. We want you to fetch with you, early-york, sugar-loaf, curtle, savoy, and red-cabbage seeds; and trefoil, lucerne, and a little broom seed; and we wish you to tell James Bridges to come to America if he can, for we know that he can get a comfortable living with half the labour he has to do at home. Plenty of land can be bought within 20 miles of our house for one dollar and a quarter per acre. We advise you to come in an American ship;

and, finally, we think it too tedious to mention all the good things in America, but invite you to come and see for yourselves. So no more at present from your affectionate son and daughter,

JOHN and MARY WATSON.

Dear Father and Mother,

Albany,  
October 5th, 1823.

THIS comes with our kind love to you, and all brothers and sisters, and all friends, hoping to find you all in good health; for all our children have been ill with their insides with fresh food: and we are got to Albany safe. We was about 7 weeks on passage to New York. We stopt at New York a week, and then sail'd to Albany, which is 165 miles; and we was sea-sick about 16 days: and I went up to Utica, which is 96 miles, and I could not find the country any better up there than at Albany; so I returned back to my family again. And a gentleman has took Jane, and he is to keep and clothe, and to send her to school; and Thomas, Mr. William Fisher has taken. And John Gardiner has found his brothers; and James Gardiner is moved from where he was at first: and we see Richard Cutney at New York, and he was very well; and he talked of coming to England again, and to send a particular account what Thomas Roaf said when he got back to England. But not to make yourselves any ways uneasy about us ne'er the more for his coming back; for if we can't get a living, here is a poor-house, just the same as in England; and they will keep us till the spring, and then send us back to England: for there is thousands of Irish here. And if I can't support my family, I shall come back in the spring; for if a man can't support his family, they will send him back in the spring to England again: for I had not got half money enough to get up to my brother; so I wrote to him, and I have not had any answer as yet; but when I get an answer I will send to you again; and I can't give you any good account about coming as yet, for there is so many Irish keep coming every day, and they work so cheap, that it makes it bad for laboring people: and we live neighbours with James Fisher and Richard Fuller from Bodiani. And the ways of the people and the country is very different from what they are in England; and the land is not half so good; for when they clear land, as they call it, they chop the

wood off about 2 feet from the ground, and then plough a row between the stubs : and it is most the Indian corn in this part of the country. William's at work filling waggons with the stuff that comes out of the canal. I have 4 dollars per week. A dollar is 8 shillings of New York state money. People work very hard here ; for they work from sun-rising till sun-set : cattle the same. And beef is from 2 cents to 4 cents per pound ; and there is a hundred cents in a dollar. But the meat is not so fat as it is in England. Tobacco is from 1s. to 2s. per pound ; and clothing is about as it is in England : and shoes are about the same, but the leather is not so good. No nails, only sparrowbills about. Here, in summer, half the people go without shoes, stockings, and caps. And there is plenty of apples ; you may buy them from 1s. 8 cents to 3s. per bushel of this money ; and peaches very cheap. And tell my father and Henry Osborn I have not seen a Yohoo as yet : but if I come home in the spring I will bring them home some tobacco ; and tell my mother I will bring her some tea ; for we can get it for 2s. per pound this money. And we desire you to remember our loves to Levi Crouch and his wife ; and Stephen and Elizabeth give their love to Elizabeth's dear mother : and if we can't get a comfortable living here, we shall see her again in the spring. But Elizabeth likes this country very well as yet : and I should be glad if Edward would take this letter to Rye to Elizabeth's mother as soon as possible ; and for them to send us an answer about all things, as soon as they can. And we have got 2 young Shuts to live upon this winter : and to tell George Noakes to make himself contented where he is till I can give a more particular account of the country ; for if I can get a comfortable living here, I will send him word ; and if not, I shall come home in the spring. And tell Charles Jempson I drank tea with his sister in New York, and she is very well. And please to give our best respects to Mrs. Smith, and tell her we got over pretty well. So more at present from

Your dutiful son and daughter,

S. Watson.

STEPHEN and ELIZABETH WATSON.

Direct to me to be left at Thomas Selby's, South Market Street, No. 535, Albany, State of New York.

*For Mr. Stephen Watson, Sedlescomb,  
near Battle, Sussex, Old England.*



Albany,  
October 27th, 1823.

Dear Mother,

I WOULD have wrote before this, but could not write you pleasant news; as Stephen has been so unhappy in a strange country, but is now contented and doing well. He earns 8s. a day and his board. We meet with many friends. We have been fortunate in getting good places for our children: Jane is with a Quaker gentleman in Connecticut, who has taken her as his own; he will send her to school all winter. We were all sick for 16 days. We were rejoiced to see land once more. We met with many friends on board the vessel: Stephen received many presents from them. We had plenty provision, and sold a good deal when we landed. Jane was in the cabin all the way over; she waited on the ladies: they gave her 4 dollars for her services. It is impossible for us to get to brother John, as he is 1400 miles from Albany: it would be very expensive; as we can do better here. I wish you to get Stephen's mother to write, and let me know if you received my letter. You may tell George Noakes we will write to him soon, and tell him all the particulars. If you please you may send this letter to Stephen's mother, and this will answer for both. Naomi is gone to live with Mr. Moulton at Utica, and likes the place well: James is going to the same place. Stephen is sorry that he did not bring you along; you could do much better here:—for washing 4s. a day, and other work accordingly. I never was so happy in my life as I am now: I never wish to go back to England. Do not grieve for me: if we never meet in this world, we will meet in the world to come, to part no more. Look to the Lord for comfort, is the wish of your affectionate daughter,

Mary Green.

ELIZABETH WATSON.

N.B. Stephen saws with Richard Fuller. We live in the house with them. We have a good house. I have a good oven, and all things convenient. I would be glad to hear from you all as soon as possible. The law is the same here for the poor as there. I must conclude with my love to all.

Mary Green.

ELIZABETH WATSON.

Direct to me at Mr. Thomas Selsby, South Market Street,  
No. 535, Albany State, New York.



Honoured Father and Mother,

Albany,  
March 29th, 1824.

WE received your letter on the 23rd instant, and are happy to hear you are all in good health, as it leaves us. I have to inform you that I have had a good winter's work at sawing, and have no reason to complain of America. I don't wish to persuade any person to come to this country; but I am doing better here than I was in England. A man by industry can get a good living here. I was soon discouraged when I first came over; but now I am more used to the ways and customs of the people, I like it better. My wife likes the country much. My family are all in good health; Jane likes her place very much; she lives with Captain Champlin, who sends her to school to learn to read and write: she wrote a letter some time ago, which was written quite well for her. Thomas and Naomi are both living with a Mr. Moulton: and Naomi says she does not want to come home again. You must not be in any trouble about me, nor mind what Mr. Roffe says about it; for he did not stay to try the place: he did not do any work while he was here. He was offered 8 guineas, or 21 dollars, for 3 weeks' work, to dry hops, but was afraid he should not be paid; but the man who did do it got his pay, for I have seen him since. I make no doubt if George Noakes comes, he can get a living for his family. I desire to be remembered to Robert, Edward, and Samuel Fisher: tell them their brothers and sisters are all well. We both desire to be remembered to my wife's mother. I have had one letter from my brother, and he wishes me to come up to him; but as I am doing so well, I think of staying here at present. Give our loves to all our brothers and sisters; and ask William if he thinks there is any salt in America. If you was here I could get you a quart of gin for a shilling. Betty says if old Stephen was here he should have one good drunken frolic. I have seen a good many old acquaintance in Albany. Henry Soan and his wife are now at my house. There are so many English people here, that it seems much like home. We don't begrudge any one the pleasure we left behind us, for we are a good deal better off: the laws of this country are as good as in England; the poor are well taken care of: there is a large house in this place for the accommodation of the old and infirm, that are not able to work. We can get our children educated

better than we could at your place. The Free School here is on the Lancastrian system, it has 400 scholars; both rich and poor, who pay according to their abilities; some pay 1 dollar a quarter, and some not more than a shilling sterling: the scholars are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, &c. &c.

We remain,

Your dutiful children,

STEPHEN and ELIZABETH WATSON.

*To Mr. Stephen Watson, Seddlescomb,  
near Battle, Sussex, Great Britain.*

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My Dear Grandparents,

Albany,  
October 27th, 1825.

PARTLY in compliance with your request to know about America, and partly for my paternal solicitude for you, I again resume the pen. We are all well in health, and we hope you are enjoying the same blessing. It would be very agreeable for me to see my English friends, but I don't wish to return to England again. I like America much the best: it is a very plentiful country. A person may get a very good living here if they are industrious. My father is doing very well, and is very well satisfied to stay in this country. He has got a cow of his own, and nine hogs. My mother has been lately confined of a daughter; she is very hearty; her name is Sarah Anne. Little Myram is a very pretty child; we think very much of her: I think she is indulged too much in having her own way. Thomas and Naomi are living out. Thomas is living in the country with Mr. Fisher. I have spent two years out to the eastward, with the captain I came over with; I took much comfort and consolation with them in the two years. But now I am returned home to my parents. I like living in Albany better than I did to the east. I have been very fortunate; I have got good clothes, and I can dress as well as any lady in Seddlescomb. I can enjoy a silk and white frock, and crape frock and crape veil and Morocco shoes, without a parish grumbling about it. If you are not dressed well here, you are not respected. The girls here that go out to doing house-work, dress as well as any

lady in Sedlescomb. I don't think of going to Meeting with leather shoes on: we wear Morocco and Prunella. Altogether Leghorn hats are worn here very much; straw bonnets are very fine and handsome: I have got one cost about twenty-four shillings. I had a present of a very handsome, long, kersymere shawl, by Captain Champlin; he brought it me from London; it cost about forty-eight shillings. You cannot tell the poor from the rich here; they are dressed as good as the other: you can get things just as well as you can in England. We have wrote to uncle John, but have received no answer: father wants you to write us word whether he has written to you since you received our letter. We want uncle William to come over to America very much; and if he comes, to bring some ferrets with him, for they have none here. If you come on board a ship that has got cabin passengers in it, you can get plenty of fresh meat for them. Dear uncle, you must be sure and come, and bring all your working tools with you. I was surprised to hear of my uncle Edward's marriage; but I hope he has got a good wife, and I wish them both well and a happy journey through life. Give my love to all my uncles and aunts and cousins, and all inquiring friends. I think my young acquaintance have forgotten me; I never hear any thing about them in your letters: tell them I think about them very often. Give my love to Harriot Crouch, and send me word whether she is married yet: tell her I want to know. Give my respects to my beloved grandmother in Rye with much affection. Brogil sends his love to her; he says he can remember her mother. And father wishes to be remembered to her, as their beloved mother. Mother says she wishes she had brought her with us; she has thought more about her since we have been in America, than ever she did in her life before: have not found many trials in coming to America. Don't be discouraged now because some come back. Don't do as Mr. Roof did, step on shore, and before you know any thing about the place, go right back again. Any respectable person may get a good living by industry: it is a good place for young people; they can get good wages for their work. Naomi gets 18 shillings a month, and I get 24. I was lothe to leave my English friends, but thank God we are all much better situated here: it was the best thing that ever father did for his family to take them to America. Tell aunt and uncle William they must

not be discouraged about coming, but be sure and come if the parish will send them. We don't live but a very little way off from New York. It is a very pleasant sail up to Albany; there are many pretty places going up the river too. Albany is about as large as Rye. There are many English people here: the Fishers and Fullers, that come from Ewhurst. James Gardiner has lately got a child. William and John came down from Utica in the stage-coach to our house, and drank tea with us: very well clothed, and plenty of money, and very well satisfied in America; they have plenty of employment. They did not leave any word in particular to send to England. John said he wanted to write home, but did not like to get any one to write it: he was going to tell me what to send in my letter, but he went away in a hurry, and had not time. We expect them back to see us this winter. The people here are very good about education, much more so than they are in England. Mother and father wishes to be remembered to you, dear grandmother and grandfather, and to all other friends. I hope you will not be offended at my writing to you so soon: we hope you will write to us as soon as you get this letter, and send word whether uncle is a coming or not. I was sorry to hear, the parish said they would not send any more. Father has had a very good summer's work, a sawing; he is now at work in the malt-house for this winter. We have got a very good house to live in, and well furnished; better than we had it in England. Please to excuse this writing, as I am a new beginner: it is a great pleasure for me to write to you; for the anticipation of ever seeing you again is totally relinquished from my mind. I have nothing more at present to say to you in particular. Adieu. Adieu.

I am, with particular respect,

Dear Grandparents,

Your very affectionate grand-daughter,

MARY JANE WATSON.

To Absent Friends:—

When in scenes of distant joy  
You move with footsteps free,  
Soft to your heart this gentle stream  
Shall say, remember me. MARY JANE WATSON.

STEPHEN and SARAH WATSON, Footland.

*Mr. Stephen Watson, Sedlescomb, near  
Battle, Sussex, Old England.*

Albany,  
April 11th, 1826.

My Dear Grandmother,

WE received your letter on the 10th of April, and was very glad to hear from you. We are all well in health, and hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing. We received a letter from uncle John on the 7th of this month, requesting us to write immediately to you, to tell you not to write to him till he writes to you; for he has gone from Aurora to Mississippi, and thinks of settling on the Mississippi river. He stated as follows in his letter:—

“ Dear Brother,

We wish you to write to England immediately, and let father and mother know that we received their letter, dated July, in the beginning of this month: it must have laid a long while in the post-office. They wanted to know particularly about Morgan. Tell them we have never heard nor seen any thing of him since we parted in York State. Tell William we are astonished at him doubting the truths of our letters: we can assure him, the letters don't get altered before they reach him. America is as good as we have stated before; and he would find it so if he had heart enough to come. When he has, he can easily get victuals to eat: we have no lack of good food. They may have a good opportunity of knowing all about us this next summer; as one of our neighbours is going to England, on business: it is the same person we rented land of these last two years. She is a widow, and knows all our affairs: you may depend on her honesty; she can tell you pretty much as if we was there ourselves. She does not expect to be there before July or August: she will write to father when she gets there. And if he will take the trouble to go to Yorkshire, he will have good entertainment, free of expense, except coach-fare: we should be uncommonly glad if father could spare money enough to go.” This ends the copy of uncle John's letter.

Tell aunt Gardiner, John was down to Albany about two weeks ago from Utica. He said, James had been very sick, near two months, but was got better, and able to work. William is down the canal to work, a sawing. John is gone down again this spring: he came up to Albany the beginning of January. James has got a good place, at a hundred dollars a year; and his house-rent and fire-wood found him, and as much cider as he wants to

drink : and he is doing very well. James has dranked very much since he has been in this country. John and William have been very sober and industrious ; and a great help to James, both in sickness and in health. Tell aunt she need not be in any trouble about her sons, for they are doing very well. Tell her she would not know John if she was to see him ; for he is altered both in speech, looks, and dress : he is very polite. Dorcas has got five children, the oldest girl is living out. I will write to James as soon as I can. John left directions where to write to James, but we have lost it : they live in Henkimen village, this side of Utica. Mrs. Hannah wishes grandmother would go to Mr. Fuller's, and tell them she thinks it very strange she don't hear from them : she has not had a letter for this two years. They are very well, and doing well. Give my love to Thomas and grandmother at Rye, and ask her if she will come over here if I come over for her. I was very glad to hear that she was doing pretty well : if I could only see her once more, I would give all that I have in possession. Father and mother sends their kind love to grandmother at Rye, and they wish they had brought her with them. Mother hopes you will look to grandmother, for she has nobody to take care of her. Mother and father send their kind love to you and grandfather, and aunt and uncle Lawrence, tell them we wish they was here. Our love to aunt and unele Freeland : tell them,—will not promise them,—I think if I can get a chance with the captain I came over with, I shall come back to England to visit them all in a year or two. Mother and father wished to be remembered to all their sisters and brother, and to Mrs. Crouch and Mrs. Bryant. Give my love to Harriot Parks, and tell her I should like to see her and her son. Aunt Mary has sent a letter to her brother John, and has received no answer. I told you in the last letter, that Albany was about as large as Rye ; but they tell me it is three times as large, and very pleasant. Father says he has no reason to complain of America all the time he can get as good living as he gets now ; for he is happier than ever he was in his life : he has been sawing all winter with Mr. Fuller ; they have as much as they can do. He said he never will leave Albany while he can do as well as he does now. Father said, you said if he came to America he could not get back again ; but we could come back very well. Father wishes to be remem-

bered to all enquiring friends, but cannot mention every one's name. I have no more at present; so remember me to be your

Affectionate grand-daughter,

MARY JANE WATSON.

*Mr. Stephen Watson, Sedlescomb, near  
Battle, Sussex, Great Britain.*

Albany,  
December 27th, 1827.

My Dear Grandmother,

IT is a very snowy unpleasant day. I took a walk up to mother, and retired to write to you a few lines, which is a pleasure to me, and expect it will be pleasing to you. I was married on the 13th of November last, to a man in good circumstances; and I am very comfortably situated. We neglected writing, because we expected a letter from uncle John. We have received a letter from him; as I will give you a copy on the remainder of this sheet. We are enjoying a very good state of health, and hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing. Thomas, Naomi, and Eleanor, send their love to you, and would be very glad to see you. Uncle John wants us to go up to Indiana, but mother is not willing: she has got acquaintance here: and says she will stay here. Father and mother sends their love and lasting affection to you, and would be very happy to see you; but fear they will not this side of the grave. But I hope you may all be prepared for to meet in a better world. James Parkes and his wife Harriot Grove arrived in Albany a little before I was married; they saw me married. They lived with mother a little while; and now they are moved over the river, in a place called Greenbush, about two miles from us, where they can have a good winter's work: they have got things comfortable in their house to use, and both seem contented. My dear grandmother! Oh that I could see you once more. We often regret that we did not bring you along with us: we did not know what we should come to. I have not forgot your past kindness to me. I must conclude with wishing you well, and all our kind loves to you and enquiring friends. Farewell. Adieu.

From your affectionate  
and ever grateful grandchild,  
MARY JANE COULSON.



To Grandmother at Rye :—

When in scenes of distant joy  
You rove with footsteps free,  
Soft to your heart this gentle stream  
Shall say, remember me. JANE COULSON.

To Footland. STEPHEN and ELIZABETH WATSON.

My Esteemed Grandparents,

I WILL send you the particulars of uncle John's letter, hoping it will find you enjoying a good state of health and peace of mind. He writes to father as follows:—

State of Indiana, Dearborn County,  
October 12, 1827.

"WE gladly embrace this opportunity of informing you, that we are all well at present; and it is our sincere prayers, that at the perusal of these few lines you and yours may be found enjoying the same blessing. Dear brother and sister, remember in your last letter we was going to move down the river: we also did move as low as the falls of Ohio; where we continued one year and six months, in which time we by our industry and good economy, we earned two hundred and twenty dollars, beside maintaining our family. And not being satisfied with the country, about the falls, we removed from thence to Aurora last August, where we formerly lived; and have now purchased a tract of land, 75 acres, a comfortable dwelling-house, and a very good orchard of apples and peaches; where I expect to settle. I must conclude: papers spoils me."—I cannot give you so long a copy as should wish, but I have no more room to write. Father and mother send their love to you and all my uncles and aunts. I conclude with my love to you. I hope you will answer this letter immediately, and send us word how you are. Give grandmother at Rye this letter if you please.

I am your affectionate,

JANE COULSON.

*Mr. Stephen Watson, Sedlescomb,  
near Battle, Sussex, England.*

New York,

December 8th, 1827.

Dear Father,

THIS comes with our kind love to you, hoping to find you all in good health, as it leaves us in good health, except one of my thumbs



and one finger, which is so bad that I cannot hold my pen ; it is with difficulty that I can write, but I shall make it plain enough for you to understand it. I hurt my hand with a large piece of timber : this is the first day that I have been able to work with it ; but tomorrow is Sunday. I think I shall be able to work on Monday. I am learning the carpentering trade. I have 5s. per day (N.B. you reckon all our New York shillings equal to an English 6d). Journeymen's wages are about 12s. per day ; some that take their work in lots earn 16s. per day. You would be surprized to see provisions so cheap ; we buy the best of meat for 4d. per pound, which is not more than 2d. English money. The labouring people live by the best of provisions ; there is no such thing as a poor industrious man in New York : we live more on the best of every thing here, because we have it so very cheap. I must now give some account of our voyage. We had a long voyage, wind very much against us ; and we were all seasick about one week. James and his 2 children was very dangerously ill, and our Lois with the bowel complaint. Lois died : all the rest got pretty well before we got here. Hester Lois died the 28th September, and was buried the same evening : it was a very fine day, and a dead calm ; nothing else particular, but rather short of provisions till we got here on the 2nd November. One of Martha's children was ill before we got here, and both the others since ; but are all better : they live in Brooklyn, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the city of New York, across the water, in the same place that John Eldridge and Offins live. Philip is apprentice to a tin-worker in the city ; Henry is apprentice to a hatter, about 30 miles from New York ; Joseph is gone with James to Albany ; Josiah has got a place as hostler about 7 miles from the city ; I live at No. 295, Hudson Street, not more than 5 or 6 rods from Mr. Selmes ; they are great friends to us : we borrow anything that we want to use of them. Mr. Selmes is getting a good living, keeping cows and selling milk ; he has been a friend to me ; he offered me money if I wanted ; he got me a house to live, a place to work, and some to start. I have took some wages and paid him ; and I shall get a very good living, and learn my trade. Mr. Neve is living about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile from us, and doing well. We have seen Mrs. Milgate that was Mercy Clark ; she sends her love to you, and hopes you will see her father before you come, if you think of coming in the spring. If you come you must bring plenty of flour to sea ; and not let Mr. Beck buy a parcel of salt beef 3 years old, as

he did for us, and sea-biscuits not fit for hogs to eat. You will want beef that is just salted, and a good ham of bacon. Do not buy any clothes, or any thing else; but bring your money and buy things here. I am sure no person can gain a farthing by buying things in England and bringing them to America. I am sure you will be surprized to see such a quantity of every thing. You would like the spirit of liberty that the people of this country possess; here are some of the best laws in this country of any country in the world; every man here thinks himself as much as the greatest man in the State of New York. Workmen here are not afraid of their masters; they all seem as equals. Mr. Selmes sends his best respects to you, and would be very glad to see you. You must excuse my bad writing, for I cannot mend my pen till my hand gets well. So no more from your undutiful son and daughter,

JOHN and HESTER PARKS.

Tell Charles to come if he possibly can in the spring. I cannot say how times are in the country; I have not been there.

*To Mr. James Parks, Ewhurst near  
Northiam, Sussex County, England.*

Dear Father,

Greenbush,  
March 16th, 1828.

IT is with the greatest degree of pleasure that I take my pen in hand to tell that we are all in good health; in a fine country, where I have plenty of work at my trade, and well paid for doing it. The cause I did not write to you before, was I wanted to see the ways of the country a little first; and as I wrote to Harriot, father, I thought you knew we were got here safe; also I expected some of the rest had wrote to you. I have had two letters from them, but they did not say whether they had wrote to you. Stephen Furner, John, Joseph, Henry, Philip, I believe are all where they was when I wrote before. Josiah has left his place at the tavern, and lives in New York; and works at lime-burning, and is doing pretty well. I have left Albany; I live across the River Hudson from Albany at a place called Greenbush. Greenbush is a village about like Burwash town. Albany is a very elegant city, stands on a rising ground on the banks of the

Hudson River; is a surprising place for trade. There commences the greatest canal I suppose that this world produces; which goes above 300 miles into the western country, and was all dug by hand. Before this was dug, great many farmers had to carry their corn and grain 2 and 300 miles to market with waggons; but now they can bring it into the canal, and then it goes to market for a trifle, by the canal-boats. The Hudson River is most beautiful; every little way there is little islands in it, some 10, some 20, some 40, 50 and 100 acres in an island; all cultivated, and houses on them: there's about 20 steam-boats up and down it, and 3 or 4 times as many sloops. We have had the mildest winter so far that was ever known, though some very cold weather. I believe America is the finest part of the world any man can get into: here's no complaining we can't get a living; and it's a very foolish notion in England that the Americans don't live so well as the English. Tell Thomas Avann to come to America; and tell him to leave his strap what he wears when he has nothing to eat in England, for some other half-starved slave. Tell Miriam there's no sending children to bed without a supper, or husbands to work without dinners in their bags, in this country. See if you can't make Americanites of the Wimbletots Company. Thank God I am not old \*\*\*, nor yet \*\*\*\*'s slave: it is an erroneous notion of you English, that if a man cannot through any misfortune maintain his family, that they may starve;—it's an abominable lie. We have poor-laws and poor-taxes: the tax in this town (for this country is divided into townships instead of parishes) amounts to about 30 or 40 dollars per year for the whole town; and there's more people than in Ewhurst. We have no gypsies, swing-kettles, pikies, tramps, beggars, &c.; they are not allowed to be about. In this country labourers do not go to work without knowing what they are a going to have before they begin work. Farmers by no means carry the sway in this country; but the meanest. And come by all means: come out of that worse than Egyptian bondage; and knowing the evils, persuade Harriot's friends and brothers to try to come. Check them of their 1s. 6d. per day for me; and tell them here is plenty of wood-cutting in this country. I cannot but persuade them and you, tell Levi and wife to try to come with you. You had best come away as soon as possible; as the latter part of the summer is not so well to come. And when you come, send me a letter as soon as you know you are coming, and

let me know what the name of the ship is, and when it will sail, and what the Captain's name is if you can ; and then perhaps I shall come to New York to meet you. Direct to me, James Parks, to be left at Heppingstall and Scot, Little State Street, Albany ; as I do not know how long I shall be in Greenbush, and they will help it to me. If you come, what money you have bring in gold, and not go to buying of dollars in England ; as you can have a premium on gold here. I shall now tell you a little of our money. The only copper money we have is cents, about the size of a halfpenny. Our silver is sixpences, shillings, Pistoreens, that 1s. 6d. each,  $\frac{1}{4}$  dollars,  $\frac{1}{2}$  dollars and dollars ; 100 cents is one dollar ; 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  of English in New York will buy 4 dollars 75 cents. I get 21 dollars a month, but most other trades get more ; and I mean to have more when my time is up, at the 1st of May. Carpenters get about 10 or 12 shillings a day ; bricklayers about the same as brick-makers. Tell Edward, Fisher gets very high wages : some will get 40 dollars per month, and board ; day-labourers get about 1 dollar per day, and in busy time in summer get their board into it. When you come, Harriot wants you to bring her 6 or 8 yards of lace, and 3 or 4 yards of net, for caps ; pretty good if you can. Be sure and don't let that infernal rogue lay in your provisions, nor any body else ; but see it all put up yourself. Dont bring a great deal of beef ; and what you do, get a cask and salt it down yourself ; for we had beef 2 years old not fit for a dog ; our tea was not half tea ; our oatmeal was half ground peas ; our split peas, gray peas ; our biscuits was the worst that could be got. Be sure to bring plenty of flour, some dried ham, and other bacon, plenty of potatoes, plenty of butter, sugar, tea, coffee, oatmeal, patent grots, rice, salt, pepper, vinegar, a few bottles of port wine to make sap, if you are ill. Take care your biscu'ts are good : be sure to bring plenty of flour and rice ; don't be afraid of bringing too much, nor few. But you can sell what you don't want, but dont sell too soon. Great many in our vessel would give 3 times the value of a thing before they got over. Take ginger with you for your sap ; plenty of rush candles : we had not near enough. Joseph is quite well ; he has sold his nail'd half-boots to be put in the Museum in Albany. Harriot and children are quite well : remember us to all that inquire after us ; and tell the others that we expect we are more missed than wanted. We measure that by our own yards. I know that I come away a little in debt, but if I had

stopt it would have been worse; I hope I shall settle up before a great time with them, which is my intention. I want you to bring me a dozen of collar needles, most of them small ones. I have heard from uncle York last week. He is in Upper Canady; has a good farm of 200 acres, lives within 28 miles of a good market, and is doing well. William York is in Albany. Eleanor sends her love to you; she is married; has one little girl. Since I begun this letter I have taken a shop in Albany, but be not gone baek to live yet, but go over the Hudson River, night and morning, in a little boat. Joseph Bos has let me have 200 dollars to set up with: he is a Yorkshire man and a Methodist, and brother to Eleanor York's husband. He says he longs to see the old fellow from England: he is pretty rich, and getting money very fast. He says he is sure there is no business in this country a man can't save money at. I think it agrees with Harriot, for she is as fat as a pig. Tell Wimbletot folks once more to try to come: we are very anxious to hear from you. Harriot sends her love to her father, mother, sisters and brothers. I fear they not got much love for me since I have took Harriot away; but I'll send them a plenty of mine since they let her come. Tell Thomas Avann to try to come, again and again. Ameriea for ever for me. So no more from

Your son and daughter,

JAMES and HARRIOT PARKS.

I direct to be left at the + for fear you should be moved.

*Mr. James Parks, to be left at Mr. Benjamin Boots's,  
Wheelwright, Staple Cross, in the Parish of Ewhurst,  
near Northiam, in the County of Sussex, Old England,  
Great Brittain.*

Dear Father and Mother,

Greenbush,  
November 19th, 1828.

IT's with pleasure that I take my pen in hand to send a few lines; but it would be more a pleasure to see you here: but let's hope you will get here in time. You want to know what we are all

about; I tell you as well as I can. Stephen is about 200 miles west of Albany; they wrote to me some time ago; they was all well and hearty then, and thought they should do pretty well there: Boss\* thought of getting them a cow. I live where I did, in Greenbush village, opposite side of the River Hudson from Albany. My trade has been very dull this summer, but's some better now. I got me a good cow, give 13 dollars for her; I killed a good little hog last week; have got two more fattening. Charles Crouch lives with us; he has got a real little bantam cock and hen; he gave four shillings for them. John, I believe, lives about 4 miles from York; at work at farming-work: was well the last I heard of him. Josiah lives about 20 miles west of Albany, learning to be a blacksmith; gets 8 dollars per month and board: he was at my house about 4 weeks ago; was quite well. Joseph is where he was in Albany: he says mother was so afraid he would not make out very well in America without her; and now he is afraid you wont do very well there without him. I guess you would scarce know him; he is grown this year, and dresses like a gentleman; looks better than ever you see him: and I believe he is giving his heart to the Lord, and striving to please him. He has joined the Methodist society in Albany, and is a teacher in the: Sunday-school. Henry is in Long Island, opposite York, learning to be a hatter; was well the last I heard of him. Philip I don't know whether he is in York with his old Boss or not; for he has had some notion of going to live where Henry does, to learn that trade: it is not so bad to get places for boys here as in England. Daniel and Stephen could earn their own living if you had them here. I give you my thoughts of England and America in the following lines of my own make:—Stay in England who will; I'll never return till your tyrants are kind, or most greatly reformed: but to such as would live independent of man, the advice I would give is come here if you can. Advice I have just said, not persuasion at all, lest the place you should hate, and the blame on poor Jemmy should fall.—Try all you can possibly to get here in the spring. Try to get away as soon as possible, as to get here before the hot weather if you can; and by so doing you will avoid danger by ice, which begins to get loose from the north, and float about the first of May. If you come, all

\* Boss is an American word for master or employer; taken from the Dutch in the State of New York, I believe.

of you take physic before you start: and when you go to sea, mind and take care of yourselves at first; for I almost lost my life through neglect at first. If you find your insides bound up, take gentle physic directly; if on the opposite, then take a little something for that immediately. Mind your provision is good for your passage; for ours was not fit to board a dog over. I have a hope that I will see you again in this world; if I should not, if we are found faithful in Christ, we are assured that we will meet in a better country than America. So no more at present from yours, &c.,

JAMES and HARRIOT PARKS.

Bring Harriot some lace for caps.

Brooklyn,  
January 14th, 1823.

Dear Father and Mother,

I NOW take the pen to say a little of what has passed since we left England. We had a long voyage; we had head winds nearly all the way, and sometimes rough weather; in consequence of which, we were out of such provisions as we could eat, being sick: and our pork and beef and biscuits were a disgrace to Mr. Chapman; and we chose to eat potatoes alone, and leave the black looking beef alone. Little Stephen caught a great cold, and was so ill, that when we arrived we were obliged to remain, for he could not be dressed; and Mr. Offins was so kind as to take us in till we got a place to live in. But I should have said we arrived on the 2nd of November: we hired a room, and my husband bought a saw and went sawing wood and doing any thing, and we thought we should get through the winter pretty well; but when we had been here about three weeks, husband was taken ill; we were not aware that it was anything but a cold; it proved to be the typhus fever, and it is now six weeks since he was taken, but he is now mending very fast. We have had no parish to apply to for relief; but you would be astonished at the friends we have found, or rather, that have found us: for people that were quite strangers, have called to know if a sick Englishman lived here; and one kind gentleman sent for a doctor; and another good old methodist gave me leave to go to the grocer's for any thing in his name, and others were equally kind; in short I should never



thought to find such friends among strangers; they seem to feel a great pleasure in doing us good: and we have to thank them, and to praise the Lord for all his mercies. I am as well as usual, and the children are growing fat. You may have heard that James and Joseph went directly to Albany; and James works at his trade. Joseph has got a good place at a currier's. John is at work as carpenter, for the winter; his Boss gives him 5s. a day, our money, which is a little more than 2s. 6d. English money. Josiah is at New York at work, as lime-burner. Henry is 30 miles up the country as apprentice to a hatter; he sent us word he likes it. Philip is in New York at one Mr. Hogbins, formerly an apprentice to Mr. Burgess. Battle, he is not bound, he has only agreed for the winter; he has a good place in one sense, but his master thinks like Mr. Offins; but he says he has no objection to Philip doing and thinking like his father. Philip likes his place, and he earns a little for himself, and that gives him encouragement; he was here to-day, for I wash and mend for him. Uncle David is at New York, I don't know what he is doing; but Sam has plenty of work; and the girls have all been at service, that they might be no burthen to them; but Harriot is come home again. Mrs. Hayter, formerly H. Neve, has been to see us; and she says that Anne might get a very good place here. They tell us that winter is a dead time in America; but we have found it as well and better than we expected. We can get good flour for 11d. English money; good beef for 2d. or 3d. do., and mutton the same price; pork about 4d.; sugar, very good, 5d., butter and cheese is not much cheaper than in England; clothing is rather dear, especially woollen; worsted stockings are dear, and you can't get good balls of worsted here. We have heard that Captain Griswell, that takes this letter, is a very good captain; and about the beginning of March expects to set sail from London; and we thought if you could suit to come, it would be well. We don't wish you to come with such a company as we did:—from the captain to the lowest sailor they were abominable wicked; and there was no order, but swearing, cursing, and drinking, &c. When you come, don't let Mr. Chapman lay in provisions; but be sure have plenty of flour, oatmeal, rice, and sugar; and if you can, it would be well to have some home-made bacon; and see your biscuits and have them good. Please to bring me a pair of new gigs, for they wear such things here. We have not been able to meet society as yet; and through affliction, we are



almost deprived of any outward means; but we trust our faces are Zion-ward; and we beg an interest in prayers. And we must conclude.

STEPHEN and MARTHA TURNER.

*To Mr. James Parks, Sen., Cripes Corner,  
Ewhurst, near Battle, Sussex, England.*

New Hereford,  
June 30th, 1828.

Dear Father and Mother,

I NOW take the opportunity of writing to you since our long journey. But am very sorry to tell you, that we had the misfortune to loose both our little boys; Edward died 29th April, and William 5th May; the younger died with bowel complaint; the other with the rash-fever and sore throat. We were very much hurt to have them buried in a watery grave: we mourned their loss; night and day they were not out of our minds. We had a minister on board, who prayed with us twice a day: he was a great comfort to us, on the account of loosing our poor little children. He said, The Lord gave, and taketh away; and blessed be the name of the Lord. We should make ourselves contented if we had our poor little children here with us: we kept our children 24 hours. There were 6 children and one woman died in the vessel. Master Bran lost his wife. Mrs. Coshman, from Bodiam, lost her 2 only children. My sister Mary and her 2 children are living at Olbourn, about 80 miles from us. Little Caroline and father is living with us; and our 3 brothers are living within a mile of us. Brother James was very ill coming over, with the same complaint that William had. We were very sick for 3 weeks, coming over: John was very hearty, and so was father. We were afraid we should loose little Caroline; but the children and we are hearty at this time. Sarah and Caroline are often speaking of going to see their grandmother. Mary's children were all well, except little John; he was bad with a great cold. We have no more to say at present concerning our family. I have got a house and employ. I have 4s. a day and my board; and in harvest and haying I am to have 6s. or 7s. a day and my board. We get wheat for 7s. per bushel, of our money; that is about 3s. 7d. of your money; meat is about 3d. per pound;

butter from 5*d.* to 6*d.*; sugar about the same as in England; shoes and clothes about the same as it is with you; tea is from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* of your money; tobacco is about 9*d.* per pound, of your money; good whisky about 1*s.* 1*d.* per gallon; that is 2*s.* of our money. I went and got a gallon the day I wrote this letter: brandy and rum is very cheap and good. If you feel disposed to come, I should like you to it. We send our kind love to our brothers and sisters; and if they are disposed to come, I should like them to it, for here is plenty to eat and drink, and plenty of work. We work long days from sunrise to sunset: a person must not think of coming here to get a living without working; and they despise drunkards: but if a person keeps steady, he is respected much more than in England; he is admitted at the table with the farmer. I have not heard any person find fault or grumble; but they appear to be satisfied with what we do: we generally work by the day. If you think of coming, or any of my brothers, I shall be glad for you to send me word as soon as you can. I desire to be remembered to my uncle and aunt Steed, and uncle and aunt Veness. I wish you to send or bring the direction of my brother William, and send word if you have heard from him. Father sends his love to his brothers, Boxell and John Willard, and his brothers Samuel and James Davis, and to his sister Mary Veness. I wish to be remembered to all enquiring friends, and if any wish to see this letter, let them do so. We don't know where any family is except John Crouch; he is with his brother, about 90 miles from us. We are at a place called New Hereford, about 270 miles from New York. We join in love to you all.

And believe us to be

Your affectionate son and daughter,

JOHN and HARRIOT VENESS.

*To Mr. John Veness, Mountfield,  
near Battle, Sussex, England.*

P. S. John Davis desires to be remembered to Mr. John Smith, at Whatlington; tell him he saw his brother and sister Bumstead, and they were very well. If Jane and Anne and John like to come, there is plenty of places for them.

New Hartford,  
November 16th, 1828.

Dear Father and Mother,

I ONCE more take the pleasure of writing to you, hoping this will find you all in good health, as this leaves all of us at this time: was sorry to hear of mother being so unwell. You said it was a great pleasure in receiving a letter from us; and be ashured it was as great one, receiving one from you. The death of my brother was affecting to us; but was glad his master had the kindness to inform you. Mary has been here and I told her: she is living about 4 miles from us; is well, and so are the children. Mary was much surprised when we told her, as you know death has an affectionate feeling over us all; but we must all pay the debt sooner or later. You want to know all particulars about our passage over to America. We was from the 14th April we set sail from London, and on the 17th May we landed in New York; as to the usage we had was good, and we have no complaint whatever to make, as we had plenty to eat and drink. As to the affliction of losing our dear children, you will be better able to judge than we can describe; but, alas! death seperated us on the billious ocean, which you, dear friends, must know would be great affliction to us all. My wife feels much better than might be expected, through such a scene of trouble as she has had. Sarah and Caroline talk much about their grandmother and grandfather. We have all plenty of employ, and wages good, according to the price of other things. I get about 2s. your money a day and my board. I will give you the price of produce in America. Wheat is worth 9s. your money, and this is a great price for this country; it is in general about 4s. 6d., your money; Indian corn is 2s. 6d., your money, per bushel; rice is 2s. 6d. a bushel; pork is 3d. per pound; beef is 2½d. per pound; mutton the same,—you will think this very low: butter is 6d. to 7d. a pound; tea from 3s. to 4s., your money; sugar 5d. to 6d. a pound. I think I can make a comfortable living for my family and self if I have good health. I think of going on a farm next April, on shares; the man finds the land, corn, and fire-wood, and I shall do all the labour, and have half what I raise: this is a way you know nothing about; but it is one much practised in America. You want to know if

I like America better than England : I must say I do ; for I think I can make a better living a good deal. And when I go to work for a man, I sit at the table with the family ; and Jack is as good as his master. I should be glad to see father and mother in America and such as I have you would be hearty welcome to : but I shall advise you not to come before May, if you should come. So no more from your son and daughter,

JOHN and HARRIOT VENESS.

Please to give our love to uncles and aunts, and all enquiring friends. Father Davis is living with me, and gets plenty of employ, and has had pretty good health ; but he had the misfortune to cut his leg, which was sore a long time.

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Dear Sons and Daughter,

MY kind love to you all, likewise John's and James's and Henry's. You will want to know how we are getting along. I am living with John Veness, and work out. John my son has a most excellent place, and gets about 11s. or 12s., your money, per week ; likes his place. James is hired out till the first of April ; works on a farm ; he has 17. per month, your money, and he is well liked. And Henry has a good place, and he says, he never wants to come back to England. Henry gets his living and clothes, and three months schooling, till the first of April ; and then he will have a new bargain to make. Harriot and her husband give their kind love you all. We should feel glad to to see you all in America, as there is a good living to be got, easier than in England, should we have our healths ; and without health, over in England or America, we should be poorly off ; so we trust in Providence. I want to know what you all are doing, and where you are living : please to send me word as soon as possible. Give my kind love to my brother, and sister and all enquiring friends.

I remain your affectionate father,

WILLIAM DAVIS.

I think if Thomas Veness was in America, he would do much better than he can in England ; as a man can get places for his

children, and get wages too : so a man with a large family has a good chance. Mary Veness to all her friends, desires her love and respects.

*Mr. John Veness, Robertsbridge,  
Mountfield, Sussex, England.*

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Clinton,  
December 6th, 1828.

Dear Friends,

I SUPPOSE by this time you are quite anxious to hear from me and my children : we are all in good health. I am very sorry that I could not write to you before ; but many circumstances have prevented. When I landed in New York, I met a gentleman, who took me and Harriot and John to Auburn, about 300 miles from New York ; I lived in his family nearly six months. I was then 100 miles from my brother-in-law and Caroline. I left Auburn because I was so far from my friends, and felt unhappy. I left John in Auburn, in a very good place ; he has been to see me to-day, and says he likes his place very much, and wishes to return. After I left Auburn, I lived about four miles from my brother-in-law, in a pleasant place, and have for my wages, one dollar a week. I wish two or three of your girls and my sister were here : I hope you will not make yourselves unhappy about me, for I have had very good luck since I have been in this country. Brother Thomas parted from me at Albany, and has never written to me. I enquired about him of Mr. Cruich ; he said that he was in service and doing very well : I suppose he is between 1 and 200 miles from me. In April I expect to nurse Harriot, and to live with them ; as brother intends going on a farm, and wishes me to live with them. I sometimes think how far I am separated from you, and this makes me feel unhappy ; but I know I am better off here than I should be there. Remember me to my sister Phila, and George : tell them I hope to see them in America ; it would be much more pleasant for me were they here. The worst is, the voyage over the ocean ; I and my three children enjoyed good health coming over, excepting the sea-sickness, which lasted a fortnight ; it did not hurt the children at all hardly. Harriot is now living with sister Harriot ; I heard from them to-day ; they were all well. I would not return to England to live ;

though I should like to see you. Mr. Davis is living with brother; he called here last Sabbath: his boys have all good places, and are doing well. I hope when you receive this letter you will send to my dear mother: I often feel very unhappy in thinking that I never shall see her; yet I hope it will please God to spare our lives, to see each other once more in this world. I hope, my dear mother, you will not make yourself unhappy about me, for I am doing well; and though I wish very much to see you again, yet I do not wish to return, to stay. How is your's and father's health, and my little brother's? remember me to him, and to father. How is sister's boy? does he ever think of his friends in America? I suppose you would like to know something about this country: it is very pleasant; provisions are cheaper than in England; beef and mutton are much cheaper. What we heard about the country is pretty much true. A man can get 6s. a day for work and his board: there is work a plenty for those that wish. Since I have been here, I have heard the very unpleasant news of the death of my husband. I felt very much grieved when I heard this: but I know I should not feel very unhappy; for had he lived, it was quite uncertain if I should ever see him again; we were so far separated, and his business was such. After you have read this, you may send it to mother Veness. I send much love to her, and father also: my little boy John felt very bad that you did not mention him in the letter you sent to me. How is William? does he not often think of his absent mother? and sometimes wish himself with her? I was in hopes to hear that my mother was better, and that she was well. I hope she will get able to come to America with father and William in the spring: tell William, John is a good boy, and is liked in the places where he has lived. America is a fine place for good boys; if they wish to get good places they must be good themselves. I wish to know how much the gentlemen in the parish give you for the support of William. If you should conclude to come to America in the spring, you will send me word; and I will do what I can to help William, after you get in New York, up in the country. I make myself happy about him, because I know he is well off; but I should like to see him and you all very much. Remember me to all our neighbours, to Martha Mephram: I want very much to write to her. Remember me

also to Sarah, William, Richard, and Thomas Davis. When you receive this, I want you to write to me; for I long to hear from you all: the least thing will interest me. I wish some of my neighbours would write: news from absent friends is very desirable. I did not find the land and country very different from England. Do write very soon to me: with much love to you all, I close.

Your affectionate daughter and sister,

MARY VENESS.

*Mr. Hezekiah Harvey, Mountfield,  
near Robertsbridge, Sussex, England.*

Hudson State, New York,  
July 6th, 1828.

Dear Parents,

I NOW sit me down to write to you, to let you know that we are all safe arrived to America, and are all much better than we have been; thank a merciful God for it. I often look back on the scenes that we have passed through. While we were passing over the water our sufferings were great; but that God that is loving to all them that trust in him, has brought us through. I will not grieve your hearts with all our sufferings, for my paper will not hold it. Little Mary was very ill with the fever that so many died with,—7 children and one woman;—to hear their cries and moans, it was very bad. I was so ill myself, that I was forced to crawl out of my bed, and lay on the floor while John made the bed. If you know of any coming here, tell them never to come where the vessel is so full; for we was shut down in darkness for a fortnight, till so many died; then the hatch was opened. I will not grieve your poor hearts with more about what we poor creatures suffered. I cannot tell you what day of the month we landed into New York; but we was about 33 days coming over, which was a good passage called. We landed on Saturday; on Sunday we found the chapel, and went twicc,—a large chapel, and very full. After preaching, the people came round to know what part we was from, and give John a paper to carry to a gentleman, who gave us 12 dollars, and a letter to carry to an English gentleman in Hudson, for work; and he set them on, and there they work still. John gets 7s. a day. James get 7s. Richard and Daniel work at the factory, and get 2s. each a day. Thomas is gone to



live with that gentleman that we took the letter to,—a very good place; he is class-leader of the church of the city of Hudson, and gets 10s. a week and board. Harriot lives in the city of Hudson, with an old gentleman and lady of the same church,—a very good place. We lived in the same city 4 weeks, but they had 5 miles to go to their work, and could not come home but once a week, so we are moved to their work: we live close by a large river, so I can look out of my sash-window right into the river. A very fruitful place; for apples, cherries, raspberries, grapes, plumbs, growing any where, any one may get them without money, what they please. Dear mother, I fear you will be troubled to read that side, it is put so thick; for my paper is not half big enough, to say all that I want to say: but this I can say, that we want for nothing; bless God for it; for we can buy a leg of mutton every day, and green peas or French beans brought to the door: and we have got in 32 gallons of cider for 14s. I wish you was all here to help drink it. Tell my dear sister if she was here, she might earn 8s. or 10s. a day; for they charge so much for work: I was forced to give 12s. for a cambric bonnet for Harriot. And now I must tell you a little what friends we met with when landed in to Hudson; such friends as we never found in England; but it was chiefly from that people that love and fear God. We had so much meat brought us, that we could not eat while it was good; a whole quarter of a calf at once; so we had 2 or 3 quarters in a little time, and 7 stone of beef. One old gentleman come and brought us a waggon load of wood, and 2 chucks of bacon; some sent flour, some bread, some cheese, some soap, some candles, some chairs, some bedsteads. One class-leader sent us 3s. worth of tin ware and many other things; so we can truly say, godliness is profitable unto all things. We are in a land of plenty, and above all, where we can hear the sound of the Gospel. The gentleman that we work for, has preaching in his own parlours, till he can build a chapel; it is begun not a quarter of a mile from where we live:—and may poor sinners be brought to Christ; for here is many that are drinking in of sin, like the ox the water. And now, my dear sister, I must say something to thee. I hope these few lines will find you all well as we are at present; thank God for it. William told us to be sure to let him know how it was here; and if we liked the place he would come: so you must let him know



all about it; and if he likes to come, no fear but what he will do well: but I know you cannot let him come without you. I want you all here if you could go through the hardships of coming over. When you get here you may do well: I only wish I had come before. Give my love to Elizabeth, and tell her if she wants fine clothes, she is to come here; it would be the making of her. Dear sister, I should be glad if you would be so kind to write to John's brother, Thomas Thorpe, at the Priory, Hastings, and let him know the concerns of this letter. The flowers are much here as yours: provision is not very cheap; flour is 1s. 7d. a gallon of this money, about 10d. of yours; butter is 1s., your money 6d.; meat from 2d. to 6d., your's 1d. to 3d.; sugar 10d. to 1s., yours 5d. and 6d. Tell father I wish I could send him 9 or 10 pound of tobacco; for it is 1s. a pound: I chaws rarely. Dear sister, I hope you will write to us as soon as possible: please to direct to Mrs. John Thorpe, Hudson Printing Factory, County of Columbia, in the State of New York, in America. Please to copy this letter out before you show it to any one, it is wrote so bad. Give my love to all enquiring friends. Send me all the news you can; so no more at present from your absent son and daughter,

J. and E. THORPE.

The spirits of brandy is 3s. 6d. a gallon; and rum is cheaper. The weather is very hot here; and a great deal of thunder, very sharp. Pray for us, and we will do the same for you; so now, dear friends, farewell till I see you. We landed into New York the 19th May.

*Mr. Thomas Cooke, Cripscorner, Sedlescomb,  
Sussex, near Robertsbridge, England.*

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Dear Father and Mother,

July 7th, 1828.

I WRITE these few lines to you, hoping this may find you in a good state of health, as it leaves us all at present. I hope you will not be uneasy about me; for I am better off here than I was in England: for I have a good house and garden, 90 rods of ground, and some fruit trees, for 25 dollars per year. I live in a good neighbourhood as any one wishes to live in. The best of this country-people, they are so friendly with one another; for they

think of a poor man in this country, that keeps himself honest and sober, much more than they do in England : so I hope you will not be uneasy about me, for I have not suffered for any thing yet. I have neighbours here like father and mother to us. Now I shall give you an account of my passage. I left Liverpool on the 20th of April, and landed at New York the 20th of May. There I took a boat and rowed to Albany, for 1*l.* 2*s.* in our money ; then I went beyond there : I might have gone by water. I am not 180 miles from New York, and about 4000 miles from you. We had as good a ship, captain, and sailors, as any one wishes to come with ; we had only 18 hours rough sea. Now you may think, as I did, that it could not be as people wrote word, that every thing was cheap, and labour was high. I will tell you the price of goods : wheat 8*s.* per bushel ; all other grain 4*s.* per bushel ; beef and mutton 2 or 3 cents per pound ; veal 3 cents ; pork 8 cents ; sugar 10 to 12 cents ; tea 5 cents per pound ; spirits 3*s.* 6*d.* per gallon. If a farmer has 100 acres of land, he has to pay only from 10 to 12 dollars a year tax ; and that is all he has to pay : that is the reason they pay well for labour. Now this is a good country to come into. If Richard and Thomas was to come into this country, it would be the making of them : they might get from 8 to 10 dollars a month, washing and mending. One that takes his work, has from 4*s.* to 5*s.* and 8*s.* ; if a man can do all sorts of work you have this pay, and your grub found in the house : work here is different from what it is where you are ; we work from sunrise to sunset. I have 2 shops a mile and a half from me ; 2 meetings a mile off ; one Church of England, and a water-mill, a mile from my house. Single passengers may come from Liverpool to New York for 4*l.* 10*s.*,—30*s.* for provisions. A dollar in your country is 4*s.* 6*d.*, but here it is 8*s.* I bought a pig for 5*s.* in this money. I can buy as much for one of these shillings, as you can for one of yours. I live near Crouch ; I have not seen him. I will thank you to write back as soon as you can. Our Plœbe and John are quite well. John bows about the house, and says Moom, moom. I and Mary give our best love to you all. Amen.

JOHN HARDEN.

Direct to Milton Town, State of New York.

*To Mr. James Foster, Robertsbridge,  
Sussex, England.*

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

one, and much more friendly. I have found plenty of good friends here, such as I never found in England,—only one. As it respects this world's goods, and in the regard to Christian priviledges, I enjoy myself much more than I did in England. For we have preaching twice on the Sabbath-day, and prayer-meeting in the week; and all within but a mile of my house. I forgot to tell you that I had built a framed house upon the land which I had bought. Now, I think if you can or do credit what I write, as it is truth, that it will suffice you. But among the conveniences of America, there is some ill-conveniences: first we have 2 or 3 miles to carry our grist to the mill; and 4 miles to go up to the store, which you call a shop; and when we get there, perhaps cannot get all we want; for where I live is a new country, and being so far from the sea, where the goods come on shore, they are very often out of goods. Another thing is, we have no brewhouse near; so we cannot get any yeast to bake with; so we are obliged to make risings; and if we do not use them just at the right time, we sometimes make heavy bread. And the roads are very bad; but with all the ill-conveniences, I bless God for sending me to America. Josia has had the fever-ague for 8 or 9 weeks; but we hope he has got rid of it. But them that I thought to find my best friends is not so. And all that wish to know the truth of America, let them help pay for the letters, because they cost a great deal: but let old Joker see them. Henry and his wife and 2 children are all well; he has just lost a little boy; he is gone into eternity about 7 months old. He gives his kind love to you all. Remember us to all our brothers and sisters; and let them know how we all are, and how we are geting on: and as soon as you get this letter, write to let us know whether you will come to America or not; as I shall leave it to your own judgment about it. And if you judge right, I think you will come if you can; and if you come, you will do well to go to Benjamin Smith, Esq., and get him to intercede for you, as he was my best friend. And you will want 1*l.* 10*s.* to get up where I am, both young and old. And if you come, besure to get the gentlemen to let you lay in your own provision; and not let that rogue C—— get it for you. And get plenty of flour; plenty of hams of bacon; sugar, cheese, butter, plums; and the first of bread. Plenty of all this, and tea plenty; and bake a part of flour into hard bread as your mother did. And when you get to the

Quarantine ground, have a letter wrote to send by the first steam-packet you see; to let me know when you shall be at Seracuse. The best way for you to come, is to come up to Albany in a tow-boat: when you get to Seracuse, call for entertainment at the sign of the Farmers' Accommodation; and if we get your letter will meet you there; and if not, come on to the town of Hastings, in the county of Oswego, and there you will find us out. And direct your letters, Thomas Boots, Hastings, County of Oswego, States of New York, North America. So no more at present from your

Ever tender and loving parents,

THOMAS BOOTS. HANNAH BOOTS.

Be sure if you come, come away in March if you can; for the sooner you come in the spring, the better.

*Mr. James Boots, Jun., Robertsbridge,  
Sussex, Old England.*

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