April 15th, 1836

Respected friend and comrade,

I feel as if I could no longer resist the calls of duty in so long neglecting to write to a kind friend. I will therefore try to write a few words trusting you will forgive me for the delay. You may wish some information respecting this neglect, but I think it will be useless as you know my situation is such that I cannot have much leisure for writing.

How have you been this long, strong, awful, delightful, dreadful, beautiful, cold winter? We have just got through with a good many rainy storms; it was rather a hard task for me this winter to keep good enough eat for the fire besides making in the mill, but as the days have returned it will be rather easier for me. Daniel and myself have halfed Saturday and Sunday evenings very pleasantly this winter in attending the singing school and for a few Sabbaths past we have prevailed on us to sit in the sacrist which I liked very much (as we have a good organist and Organist), although I felt rather frightened at first. I have not now talked but once since his return as he is now living at Mr. Black's. Mr. Reayt's who says he behaves very well and is very steady. We are once more deprived of the privilege of visiting evenings which I and heartily glad of as it gives more time for reading and recreation. I went the other day to hear Mr. B. P. Crofts lecture and I think it was quite interesting as it was quite an interesting subject.
April 10th 1836

Respected friend and Cousin

I feel as if I could no longer resist the calls of duty in so long neglecting to write to a kind friend. I will therefore try to write a few words trusting you will forgive me for the delay. You may wish some information respecting this neglect but I think it will be useless as you know my situation is such that I cannot have much leisure for writing. How have you been this long, strong, awful, delightful, dreadful, beautiful, cold, winter[.] We have just got through [through?] with a good many wry faces. it [sic] was rather a hard task for me this winter to keep wood enough cut for the fire besides working in the mill, but as the boys have returned it will be rather easier for me. Daniel and myself have passed Saturday and Sunday evenings very pleasantly this winter in attending the singing-school and for a few Sabbaths passed: have prevailed on us to sit in the seats which I like very much (as we have a good Organ and Organist) although I felt rather speckled at first. I have not seen Father but once since his return as he is now living at Mr. John Mckintrys [sic] who says he behaves very well and is very steady. We are once more deprived of the privilege of working evenings which I am heartily glad of as it gives me more time for reading and recreation. I went the other eve to hear Mr. Moses Plimpton’s Lecture and I think it was quite interesting as it was quite an interesting subject.
The legend back to the first discovery of America and founding of our Fore-Fathers, hence to the settlement of Nip — and so on down to St. John’s and Southbridge. The genealogy of all our ancestors such as our Great-Great-Great-Great-Great-Fathers down to the present day. You requested some information in your last letter concerning

Mr. Barrow, but I have neglected making any inquiries concerning him as he has been at Ambert for a long time. But I can refer you to Thomas I. Lewis who is in Marshall so you will tell him all about him. I must tell you that we are a growing city-like for there has very seldom buildings caught fire the last week. One Mr. Johns Mr. Chilton’s house was built to the ground on Wednesday it having taken fire from shavings in his shop.

He did not get much assistance not having only one engine for the engines from town was set in a swamp bank and going up the hill. Then was also a house and our village caught fire and the work was extinguished with a few pails of water but someone seeing it from town gave the alarm to it now was very town that the Colonial Energy was on fire but was all out when the engines arrived. And a little more city got for we have Bakers, bakers, and five merchants and I think we shall have a Bank soon.

These are great calculations concerning the school at Ambert as you going this summer. How is Boston Andrew have you heard from late. Cousin John coming to take a walk. Please answer these questions and your request which I hope will be soon.

I shall send the first opportunity. Therein I must close by asking you to forgive and excuse this awful piece of writing for I am not much as I ought, and must beg of you also to keep this to yourself and you alone. Please give my last love and respects to your Father and Mrs. Juliairam. Etc.

John — And accept this with much love

From
He began back to the first discovery of America and Landing of our Fore-Fathers, thence to the settlement of Mass---- and so on down to Sturbridge and Southbridge. He gave us a history of all our ancestors such as our Great-Grand-Fathers Great-Grand Father down to the present day. You requested some information in your last letter concerning [Ms. illegible] Sumner but I have neglected making any enquires concerning him as he has been at Amherst pretty much of the time. But I can refer you to Nathan L[.] Newell who is in Merrill Davises [sic] store who will tell you all about him. I must tell you that we are a growing city – like for there has 3 or 4 buildings caught fire the last week. One, Mr Silas McKinstry [sic] house was burnt to the ground on Thursday it having [sic] took fire from shaving in his shop. He did not get much assistance not having [sic] only one engine for the engine from town was set in a snow-bank in going up the hill. There was also a house in our village caught fire on the roof but was extinguished with a few pails of water but some one seeing it from Town give the alarm so it was soon over Town that the Columbian Factory was on fire but was all out when the engines arrived. And a little more city yet for we have a Bake-house and Tin-merchant and I believe we shall have a Bank soon. What are your calculations concerning the school at Amherst are you going this summer. How is Cousin Andrew have you heard from of late. Is Cousin Julia coming to take a [School?]. Please answer these questions in your next which I hope will be soon[.] I shall send this the first opportunity[.] Therefore I must close by asking you to forgive and excuse this awful piece of writing for I cannot practice so much as I ought, and must beg of you also to keep this to yourself and you alone[.] Please give my best love and respect to your Father and Mary Julia Samuel Oliver Lydia Meltiah[.] And accept this with much Love

From
Oliver
[From:] Cousin Oliver  
[Addressed:] Mr. John Green  
Worcester  
Mass  
[Endorsed:] Received By Esq Bottom 19 Apr 1836 from Cousin Oliver  

Transcribed by James J. Copeland, F. Michael Angelo, Emily S. Dunster