

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 with a good many very faces: it 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 days 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 liked 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 Mc. Kinstry's, 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.

Letter from Mr. Oliver Green to John Plimpton Green
April 10, 1836
[John P. Green Mss. – A.L.S.]

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 throuth [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.

~ He began back to the first ^{discovery} of America and Landing of our
Fore-Father, thence to the settlement of Mass^{achusetts} — and so on down
to Stratford and Southbridge. He gave us a history of all our ancestors
such as our Great-Grand-Father Great-Grand Father down to the present
day. You requested some information in your last letter concerning

Gen Sumner but I have neglected making any enquiries concerning
him as he has been at Amherst pretty much of the time. But I can
refer you to Matthew L. Gould who is in Messrs Davis's store who will
tell you all about him. ~~I~~ I must tell you that we are a growing
city-like for there has 3 or 4 ~~buildings~~ buildings caught fire the last
week. One, Mr Silas M. Kimstrop's house was burnt to the ground on
Thursday it having took fire from shavings in his shop.

He did not get much assistance not having 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 and the
roof but was extinguished with a few spails of matter but some one
seeing it from town gave 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 Bake-house and Fin
and Fin-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 untidy piece of writing for I cannot
practice so much as I ought, and must beg of you also to keep this
to yourself and your alone. Please give my best love and

respect to your Father and Mary Julia Sarah & the
Sister Mrs — but accept this with much love
From

Wm

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 equires [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 McKinstrys [sic] house was burnt to the ground on Thursday it haveing [sic] took fire from shaving in his shop.

He did not get much assistance not haveing [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

Received 19
April by

Mr. John Green
Worcester
Mass

Care W. St. Green Esq



Received by Esq
Boston 19 April 1836
from Boston Office

[*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