

Worcester Dec. 20th 1839

To Mr John P. Green Miss Lucy M Green, Miss Mary B. Green
& the last though not last esteemed Miss Lydia B. Green.

Johns very well written letter, came to hand on the 27th of
not dated, but, as it was mostly written, & came so very oppor-
-tunely, that, as this day, was a stormy wet, day, after a
wind blow, last night, I thought I would devote a few hours
to write him a short answer, and a few lines to all of you
letting you know of the abundance we have, (not of cash, as that
is much in the vocative) but of more, which is now drifted off
the last night, with former additions, to the depth of ten, or twelve
feet. We have a comfortable supply of fuel at the door enough
in the house, & either at the present, way thing is, as comfortably
taken care of, as could be expected in this unpleasant case than
it is now thawing, & we hope the drifts will be somewhat
broken in a few hours. Our assistant in the room of Mrs Within
(the late Miss Helen) is quite a pleasant married lady, of nearly
quite twenty, very well looking, & well behaved, does her work, as
nearly to suit, as is possible for any one to come to the very
superior accomplishment, of the late Helen Murphy name the
dear Mrs Withins. I am pleased to hear the lectures are so
instructive, as usual, & have no doubt they will be duly
appreciated by the Doct. who is in the pursuit of a thorough
knowledge of Medical science - I was pleased to hear that the Doct.
was getting acquainted with the Do. friend of the family Mr. Hedges
who appears like a very worthy gentleman, and one whom
we might expect that he would derive much information
from. Doct. you had better look out for the other ^{Hedges, or you} with the other ^{Henry of}
another Doct. has done, in season, a good Hedges is a fine security
for the enjoyment of future repose. John mentions something of
the boys making Hutchinsons names by ^{Mr H.} who is Mrs H. is it
Mrs Hale. a little bit of the initials, & some of the names at length, would
serve an old man, some study. I am much pleased to hear that the
school increases, and is flourishing, as any thing that affords them
a good living, & makes it happy for them does the same for me, &
this happiness is mine. Hope that you will all succeed, beyond
what you expect, the beginning of your career, and nothing
like honest, industrious with close attention to duty, with a
persevering intention of doing any thing that you understand,
and required abilities will allow millions prevent you from
being respectable, if not very rich. I cannot, but hope that every
exertion will be made to gratify your desire to repay
Smith for her kindness towards you all, and that eventually
the business will repay you all handsomely for your exertions,
and remunerate her for her friendly aid. I am very sorry
to hear of the ill health of cousin Timothy, and hope that by using
proper remedies that they will be successful, in restoring him
to health, & the usefulness which is so necessary for himself, &
family, as well, as friends. I am much pleased to hear, that you
men are all well, and able to attend to your several duties,
which I hope nothing will ever prevent you from pursuing until
you

Letter from W[illia]m E. Green, Samuel F. Green, Oliver Bourn Green, Martin Green, Julia E. Green, to John P. Green, Lucy M. Green, Mary R. Green, Lydia P. Green

December 28, 1839

[John P. Green Mss. – A.L.S.]


Worcester Dec[embe]r 28th 1839

To Mr. John P. Green Miss Lucy M Green, Miss Mary R. Green & the last though not less esteemed Miss Lydia P Green.

Johns [sic] very well written letter, came to hand on the 27th is not dated, but, as it was neatly written, & came so very opportunely, that, as this day, was a stormy wet, day, after a hard blow, last night, I thought I would devote a few hours to write him a short answer, and a few lines to all of you letting you know of the abundance we possess (not of cash, as that is much in the vocative) but of snow, which is now drifted up the last night, with former additions, to the depth of ten, or twenty feet. We have a comfortable supply of fuel at the door enough in the barn, & celler [sic] at the present, every thing is, as comfortably taken care of, as could be expected in this unpleasant weather. it [sic] is now thawing, & we hope the drifts will be somewhat lowered in a few hours. Our assistant in the room of Miss Wilkins (the late Miss Hellen) is quite a pleasant married lady, of nearly as quite twenty, very well looking, & well behaved, does her work, as nearly to suit, as is possibly [sic] for any one to come to the very superior accomplishments of the late Hellen Murphy now the Amiable Mrs. Wilkins. I am pleased to hear the lectures are as instructional, as usual, & have no doubt they will be duly appreciated by the Doc[to]r who is in the pursuit of a thorough - knowledge of Medical science - I was pleased to hear that the Doc[to]r was getting acquainted with the old friend of the family Mr. H[*Ms. illegible*] who appears like a very worthy gentleman, and one whom we might expect that he would desire much information from. Doc[to]r you had better look out for the other Hedge[?] as your brother Doc[to]r has done, in season, a good Hedge with the shelter it may afford a fine security for the enjoyment of future repose. John mentions something of the boys reading Hutchinsons [sic] memoirs by Mrs. H. who is Mrs H. is it Mrs. Hale. a [sic] little less of the initials & more of the names at length, would save an old man, some study. I am much pleased to hear that the school [*Ms. illegible*], and is flourishing, as any thing that affords them a good living, & makes it happy for them does the same for [*Ms. illegible*] their happiness is mine. I hope that you will all succeed beyond what you expected, the begin[n]ing of your career, and nothing like honest, endeavours with close attention to duty, with a persevering intention of doing every thing that your natural, and acquired abilities will allow will never prevent you from being respectable, if not very rich. I cannot, but hope that every exertion will be made to grattify [sic] your desire to repay Mrs. Smith for her kindness towards you all, and that eventually the business will repay you all handsomely for your exertions, and remunerate her for her friendly aid. I am very sorry to hear of the ill health of cousin Timothy, and hope that by using proper remedies that they will be successfull [sic], in restoring him to health, & the usefullness [sic] which is necessary for himself, & family, as well, as friends. I am much pleased to hear, that you were now all well, and able to attend to your several duties which I hope nothing will arise to prevent you from farming untill [sic] you

thoroughly master of your profession and accomplishments. You wish
for cloth for coats &c. I wish you had written me whether Cousin
Mantha had made you any advances for an outside coat or what
was the prospect. I have no money nor any means of getting any this
season of the year and a dollar buys longer to me than formerly
a thousand did, it is an article much talked of here but little seen
money wanting and few if any have. Andrew is suffering for an
outside coat, & other cloaths, & as for myself I wear the same to keep
the rest company. Julia takes great pains with her who threads & mends
they make very good progress better than formerly, as they seem much engaged.
I hope that Andrew will get a good place soon, as he seems anxious to
engage again in business. I believe he never will like to live in the country
to be a thorough farmer. "Santa Claus" made many presents of divers value
which were unanimously disposed of the catkins & cones, the hicks, & the hands & were
again treasured up for a further display of the benevolence of the old gentleman
at some future day. as Julia, Samuel, Oliver, & Martin the remainder will hope
for a share in this year you may expect they will make it a long letter
I have nothing new or interesting to write you excepting that
William N. Green Esq. on last Sabbath was published to everybody who
I do not know but shall I hope in due season, if the papers inform
or publish the marriages for the next year. If any thing turns
up favorable for another season, or for a few weeks I will
write you again. I am as ever your affectionate father &
friend hoping you may all enjoy that happiness which merit &
virtuous exertions ever deserve

Worcester December 28th 1839

Dear Sisters & Brother
I shall send my Journal by some private opportunity - It is
very stormy to day - we (Andrew, Martin, & I) broke out the lane with the jumper
then we came home and went down again - we got the horse and black sleigh from Mr
Geer's - we had a good race coming home - Andrew drove the horse and sleigh & Oliver
& I rode on the jumper we kept ahead and left over once - then we tried to break out the road
that leads to the other farm the horse got stuck in the first drift we came at - and we had
to dig him out - We have a dinner and supper together to day about 4 o'clock - we
are just going out to dinner - we had a thanksgiving pudding - After dinner
Oliver & I went down town on the jumper thro. main street twice - we had a
few snowballs, one hit O. side of the head - It snowed a good deal, most of
the day -  - Father has told you about all the news I suppose - I don't
think I put a plenty of commas in his letter but on periods I believe, or if any
they were scarce - Lydia, I thank you for your kind offer of presents from
your library, but I think you had better keep all your books so that you may
have some to read when you go to housekeeping which will be interesting for your
children to read - Why don't you write us oftener? we should forget almost all about
you if you did not hold a firm place in our affections - I have been reading to day
about Queen Anne - very interesting she was born Feb 4th 1664 - The English revolution
in 1688 by which James was dethroned and William Third and Mary 2^d were placed
in his stead after their deaths Anne ascended the throne in 1702 - tho. she
was very economical there was a vast amount of money expended in her reign
more perhaps than in any of the reigns of her predecessors - William has been
published to a Miss Sarah M. Staples I believe - I am sure her name is
Staples - and I believe her Christian name is (Christ M.) - Mr Brown has
given notice that he is to open a drawing school, I do not know but that
I shall attend - Accept love from your brother Saml. Green

Dear Sisters and Brother
all the news but I must get something stale or new Mr Russell
has left about a week ago got discovered I believe I might say
takes the school next term or not till the 15th of Jan when
the vacation will be ended and we shall go regular once more
and pretty strait too as he is pretty severe. We have been fixing
up things a little and made a jumper on which I and I went
the street this afternoon and did the boys & girls all went through and

Worcester Mass 28th

for not a little back
you the best of
you return to look
for not a little back
you the best of
you return to look

may be persuaded to
I don't know but that
I shall attend

thoroughly master of [sic] your profession and accomplishments. John wishes for cloth for Pantaloons. I wish you had written me whether cousin Martha had made you any advances for an ou[t]side coat or what was the prospect. I have no money nor any means of getting any this season of the year and a dollar looks larger to me than formerly a thousand did, it is an article much talked of here & but little seen many wanting and few of any have. Andrew is suffering for an outside coat, & other cloaths [sic], & as for myself I wear the old ones to keep the rest company. Julia takes great pains with her [Ms. illegible] & I believe they make every good progress better than formerly, as they seem much engaged. I hope that Andrew will get a good place soon, as he seems anxious to engage again in business. I believe he never will like to live in the country to be a thorough farmer. "Santa Clause" [sic] made many presents of [Ms. illegible] value which were [Ms. illegible] disposed of the valuables I [Ms. illegible], the books shifted hands & were again [Ms. illegible] up for a further display of the benevolence of the old gentleman at some future day. as [sic] Julia, Samuel, Oliver, Martin & the [Ms. illegible] will hope for a chance in this you may expect they will make it a long letter[.] I have nothing more or interesting to write you excepting that William N. Green Esq. on last Sabbath was published to somebody who I do not know but shall I hope in due season, if the papers inform or publish the marriages for the next year. If any thing turns up favorable for another reason, or for a few weeks I will write you again. I am as ever your affectionate father, & friend hoping [sic] you may all enjoy that happiness which merit & virtuous extions [actions?] ever deserve[.]

/signed/ W[illia]m E. Green

Worcester December 28th 1839

Dear Sisters & Brother,

I shall pen my journal by some private opportunity - It is very stormy to day - we (Andrew, Martin, & I) broke out the lane with the jumper then we came home and went down again - We got the horse and black sleigh from Mr. Geer's - we had a good race coming home - Andrew drove the horse and sleigh & Oliver M. & I rode on the jumper, we kept ahead and lept over once - then we tried to break out the roads that leads to the other farm the horse got stuck in the first drift we come at - and we had to dig him out - We have a dinner and supper to gether [sic] to day about 4 o'clock - we are just going out to dinner - we had a thanksgiving pudding - After dinner Oliver & I went down town on the jumper thro[ugh] main street twice - we had a few snowballs, one hit a side of the head - It snowed a good deal, most of the day - [picture of jumper drawn] - Father has told you about all the news I suppose - John I think put a plenty of commas in his letter but no periods, I believe, or if any they were scarce - Lydia, I thank you for your kind offer of presents from your library, but I think you had better keep all your books so that you may have some ~~books~~ when you go to housekeeping which will be interesting for your children to read - Why don[']t you write us oftener? we [sic] should forget about all about you if you did not hold a firm place in our affections - I have been reading to day about Queen Anne - very interesting - She was born Feb[ruar]y 6th 1664 - The English revolution in 1688 by which James was dethroned and William Third and Mary 2 were placed in his stead after their deaths Anne ascended the throne in 1702 - tho[ugh] she was very economical there was a vast amount of money expended in her reign more perhaps than in ~~any~~ of the reigns of her predecessors - William has been published to a Miss. Sarah M. Staples I believe - I am sure her name is Staples - and I believe her Christian name is (Sarah M.) - Mr. Brown has given notice that he is to open a drawing school, I do not know but that I shall attend - Accept love from your brother Sam[ue]l F. Green

Worcester Mass 28th Dec[ember]

Dear Sisters and Brother

I suppose Pa and Sam have told you all the news but I must get something stale or new Mr. Russell ~~has~~ left about a week ago got diseased I believe I [Ms. illegible] Esq takes the school next term or not till the 15th of Jan. when the vac[a]tion will be ended and We shall go regular once more and pretty strait too as he is pretty severe. We have been fixing the street this after noon and did the everyday errands all Sam and I went through and

[Written sideways in margin]: We sent a little packet to you by [Ms. illegible] let us know when you get it - we sent it by Rebecca [Ms. illegible] to have it - forwarded to you the first opportunity to you sister Lydia she need not send the [Ms. illegible] cushion I thought it was at home - and I wished to know where to look for it as I thought she told me she left it a checked bag one day before ~~she left~~.

We got the horse home from Geers today so we shant want for stock but for hay
As to Greek I have not got a lesson since John went away though I may
begin it next quater Julia and Andrew will want the rest of this sheet
so I must square up with love to all and much for yourself
I am much obliged to you Lydia for the books Of Humblemen
but had rather you would give them yourself
or not at all had better get you a library

Dear Sisters and Brother,

I wish to put in a few lines to help fill up this
sheet in answer to the many you have written me. etc Samuel and Oliver have
a vacation Wally and I wade through the snow together to school only when
Pa is so kind as to carry us till Lydia that Andrew and Samuel made a
yump and jumped down to the street through the drifts. I wish you all
a happy New Year and I would like to send you a gift if I could. I would
give you a book to look in and see you all. It is near bed time and with much
I will bid you all good night. From your affectionate brother

Martin Green

may be provided to
next quater. The
make a good school
or he tried to
the danger of
I long for
from the
with
you filled
of the
-st. etc.
with me
to you and
for P.P.
at B sends
to call.
with us
of little
it must be dis
expressed. get
large sheet
at all will be
to

left - for me to fill and shall
say a few words to you by
way of remembrance and also to suggest a few things for your improve
ment in the way of letter writing not that I think myself superior to you
either in chirography or composition but you know dear John that we can
behold just in our brother's eye when we have a brain in our own as well as
the eye will apply in letter writing as in other things. Your dear
while I am conscious I have the beam nevertheless as I can
will pardon me if I point it out to you. In the first place learn to clap
your subjects a little as for instance if you are speaking of the storm or the weather
all you have to say about it is one place and speak of the quantity of snow in connection
with it. Then speaking of polished say all you wish on that subject and close it and
do allude to it again with other things for in this way you make a mystery. Pardon
me John if I tell you that your letter indeed me of - I will not tell you for fear you will
think me too ungenerous after the evident exertion you made to improve. Your letter
was as it regards penmanship very finely and neatly done and it gave that
B. particularly pleasure to see her exertions on your behalf were not useless. but
that hot of exertion for improvement was beginning to expand and it all hope to see
it enlarge and we trust that the breeze of criticism which has blown upon it
will not nip it, but that the sunshine of good resolution accompanied with the kind
desire of your friends to did its expansion will cause it to expand. &c. You spoke
of Dr. Lambrey from Pittsfield. You said Tell come Paddy I have doct -
You did not say where it for what. Begin a sentence and do not leave it till
you say something of it and then when you have done put a period and begin
next subject with a capital letter. You said Mary does not think it best for
to come on. you did say whom. Begin me dear John. I have told you these things
for your improvement and I trust you will receive it as such. We were all pleased
at the manner improved in your letter. I do with Andrew would make money
exertions for improvement but I will not say anything as I may say too much. But
I do desire to have him improve his precious time to more advantage and aid me
by setting a better example for the boys in money things. It is my prayer that the trials
which I experience in many respects as to regards the conduct of some may be
for my advantage in making me more patient and helping me to overcome my own
pettish and ungovernable disposition. Ask all to urge Andrew to improve. And B sends
much love to you and says do try and heed all your efforts for improvement. She
says Doct. Green says the lectures will grow more interesting as you advance. She
is just recovering from a sick headache. I have not been very well for a week
last but Aunt B went down and consulted with Doct. Green and since he has
followed his prescriptions. I am some better. Ask the girls to desire Oliver to improve
it is decided in his way and does not mind what is said on the subject as much as I
do. He will be chief for his own good. He does not study Greek but I hope

we got the horse home from Geer's to day so we shant want for stock but for hay[.] As to the Greek I have not got a lesson since John went away though I may begin it next quarter – Julia and Andrew will want the rest of this sheet so I must square up with love to all and much for yourselves[.] PS I am much obliged to you Lydia for the books but had rather you would give them yourself or not at all had better get you a library[.]

/signed/ O Bourn Green

Dear Sisters and Brother,

I wish to put in a few lines to help fill up this sheet in answer to the many you have written me. As Samuel and Oliver have a vacation Willy and I wade through the snow together to school only when Pa is so kind as to carry us. Tell Lydia that Andrew and Samuel made a jumper and jumped down to the street through the drifts. I wish you ~~an~~ a Happy new Year and I would like to send you a gift if I could. I would give much to look in and see you all. It is near bed time and with much love I will bid you all good night.

From your affectionate brother
Martin Green

Dear John

I have a space left – for me to fill and shall most gladly avail myself of it to say a few words to you, by way of remembrance and also to suggest a few things for your improvement in the way of a letter writing not that I think myself superior to you either at chirography or composition but you know dear John that we can [Ms. torn] in our brothers eye even when we have a beam in our own “~~as well in~~ a [Ms. torn] will apply in letter writing as in other things. Your dear [Ms. torn] while I am conscious[?] I have the beam nevertheless as I came [Ms. torn] will [Ms. torn] me if I posit it out to you. In the first place learn to class [Ms. torn] your subjects a little as for instance if you all speaking of the storm on the [Ms. torn] all you have to say about it is one place and speak of the quality of snow in [Ms. torn] with it. Then speaking of politics say all you wish on that subject and close it out then allude to it again with other things for in this way you make a [Ms. illegible]. Pardon me John of I tell you what your letter reminded me of and will not tell you for fear you all think me too ingenuous after the evident exertion you made to improve. Your letter was as it regards penmanship very finely and neatly done and it gave Aunt B. particularly [sic] pleasure to see her exertions on your behalf were not useless, but that that had of exertion for improvement was beginning to expand and we all hope to see it enlarge ~~and~~ we trust that the breeze of criticism which has blown upon it will not miss it, but that the [Ms. illegible] of a good resolution accompanied with the kindness of your friends to [?] did its extension will cause it to expand & c [etc.]. You speak of Dr. Somebody from Pittsfield. You said tell cousin Patty I have [Ms. illegible] - You did not say where or for what. Begin a sentence and do not leave it - till you say something of it and then when you have done put a period and begin your next subject with a capital letter. You said Mary does not think it is best for him to come on. You did say whom. [Ms. section illegible]. I have told you these things for your improvement and I think you will receive it as such. We were all pleased at the [Ms. illegible] improvement in your letter. I do wish Andrew would make more exertions for improvement but I will not say anything as I may say too much. But I do desire to have him improve his precious time to more advantage and aid more by setting a better example for the boys in many things. It is my prayer that these trials which I experience is every respects as it regards the [Ms. illegible] of some way be for my advantage in making me more patient and helping me to overcome my own fitful and [Ms. illegible] disposition. Ask all to urge Andrew to improve. Aunt B sends much love to you and says do try and heed all your efforts for improvement she says Doct. Green says the lectures will grow more interesting as you advance. She is just recovering from a sick headache. I have not been very well for a week past but Aunt B went down and consulted with Doct. Green and since I have followed his prescriptions, I am some better, Ask the girls to direct Oliver to improve he is decided in his way and does not heed what is said on the subject as much as I wish he did for his own good. He does not study Greek but I hope he [Written sideways]: may be persuaded to next quarter. He can make a good scholar if he tries. Love to the dear girls and tell them I long for an engaging [sic] word from them. We get along well with evening school[.] I have filled my share of R. I. paper & I must close. With much love to you and all from J.E.G. Aunt B sends love to all. Write us another good letter soon do not be discouraged. get [sic] a large sheet & all write to gether [sic] -

Monday Morn. Dec. 30. 29

John my atlas will be acceptable when you can forward it. I have not time to write you more than to say I have not heard from you nearly a week. I wish Lucy would write me a letter giving all the minutae of what is going on in New York. I should much like to be in New York or New Orleans but the want of brass prevents. I should have made provision before I left you. We have been blocked up with snow for several times so that we could not get out for some days. Yesterday we were unable to go to church the first time since I have been at home. The accounts from my

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family. have heard nothing
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Wm

Care of Prof. Green
John J. Green Esq
New York

PAID

N.Y.

Dear
John
Green
New York

John
Green
New York

expected place, and not flattering. This is something of a disappointment. I assure you, but nevertheless. - If I don't succeed in getting a place in N.Y. I shall either go to sea or take Williams farm. I think I intend joining a German class held at the antiquarian, conducted by a young man. News are scarce here. I would be obliged to you if you will forward me a New York newspaper. It would be quite a treat to me. William is published for marriage with a Mrs Staples from Northborough. I believe of a very respectable family. Will you duty write me. My best love to all the family. J.R.G. especially. Respects to Mr D.A.P. & E. have you seen any thing of my friend Mr Johnson. I had not heard

a word from him

Monday Mor[in]g Dec[embe]r 30 [18]39

We had the pleasure of hearing from John a few days since but of the family have heard nothing since nearly a week I wish Lucy would write me a letter giving all the minutae of what is going on in New York. I should much like to be in New Y[ork] on New Years but the want of dress prevents. I should have made provision before I left you. We have been blocked up with snow for several times so that we could not get out for some days. Yesterday we were unable to go to church the first time since I have been at home. The accounts from my expected place are not flattering. this [sic] is something of a dissapointment [sic]. I assure you. but [sic] nevertheless – If I don't succeed in getting a place in N.Y. I shall either go to sea or take William's farm, I think. I intend joining a German Class held at the antiquarian, conducted by a young Dane. News are scarce here. I would be obliged to you if you will forward me a New York newspaper – it would be quite a treat to me. William is published for marriage with a Miss Staples from Northbrough. I believe of a very respectable family. Will you Lucy write me. My best love to all the family. F.R.G.'s especially. Respects to Mr. Da. & E. have you seen anything of my friend Mr. Johnson. I have not heard [Written sideways]: a word from him.

[Written sideways]: John my atlas will be acceptable when you can forward it[.] Don't be in any haste for it might get here sometime this season In haste y[ou]r brother A.H. Green

[Addressed:] John P. Green Esq.
Care of Miss Green & Mitchell 73 Cedar Street
New York
N.Y.

Transcribed by Emily S. Dunster