

West Jordan, Feb. the 4th, 1869

Dear Husband,

I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that we are all well and I hope these few lines find you enjoying the same blessing. I received your welcome letter today which I was very anxious to get. I have never been longer than two weeks getting a letter from you and that is quite as long as I want to wait. I was glad to hear that you had got one from me. I hope you will get them more regular now. I am so thankful that you enjoy such good health and I pray God to continue his blessings to you. I am glad to hear that you had a good dinner on New Years day, and that you enjoy yourselves as well as what you do. I say go ahead and have all the fun you can, it will pass off the time and make it seem shorter.

Give my best respects to Sister Bennion, and I hope that I may be able to repay her some day for her kindness to you. It is quite a relief to me to know that you can get some one to do your washing. I shall be glad to be neighbor to her and (sic) I would rather be there with you now if it could (p. 42) have been so.

Father Cutler died the 28 of January about 8 o'clock in the evening. It was nearly a week that they thought he would not live one day after another. Agnes took it very hard at first, but he suffered so much that they was glad to see him out of his misery. He died very hard. It was on Thursday evening he died and they kept him until Sunday afternoon. There was a large funeral and there would have been a good many more, but it was a very stormy day. Mother went to see him several times. I expect, My Dear, you will think that I had ought to have gone to see him, but I did not for the reason I have had a good appetite and been very well all the time but I have been quite lame for over a month and it has been slippery walking the most of the time. I wanted to go very much but I had no chance to ride over and I think the safest place for me is in the house at present. Betsy Gardner has a son born on the 29th. On Eddy's birthday, and Sarah Haun has a son, also Emma Van Etan a son, and I believe they are all getting along very well. I suppose there would not have been much difference between Maggie Smith and Sarah, but she miscarried, a son, sometime ago. The Bishop and family (p. 43) are well. He has not taken his young wife yet, but expects to before long. He has called on the young folks again to go and get their endowments in about three weeks. Maggie says she wishes you were here to go with her. She is well and sends her love to you. Mother has gone to the city to stay a few days. She is in better spirits and seems more like herself. James is up north yet, we have not heard what he is working at. William has gone to Cedar Valley with two or three others to burn coal. Joseph was here about two weeks ago. He was on his way to the railroad, also Bro. Hackett. I have since heard that Joseph has taken Father's team and he has sent Frank with him. They were all well when I heard from them last. Joseph told me to send his love to you, and says he wants you take up some land for him for he intends to go back with you in the fall. He has left Enoch and his wife with Mary while he is away.

About two weeks ago, William and some other had been on a rabbit hunt and when they returned one of the boys slipped a rope over Thomas's mare's head and took her to water, and another tied her up in the stable without looking how the rope was around her neck. So in the morning they found her dead, choked to death. (p. 44) I have enquired about our horses but I cannot hear of them, but they all say they will do well enough so far for the horses all look well this winter. Our stock that is here are doing very well.

Bro. Pixton has taken another wife, one of the Silocks girls. I have heard that his other wife has left him. She has not been home since before Christmas. Bro. Pixton is giving his wedding party to-night in their school house.

Feb. the 5th. We are all well this morning and it is a beautiful day just like spring. It has been thawing for four or five days. The snow is nearly all gone, and it is very muddy. We have had a mild winter, but some think we will have pretty cold weather yet, and a late spring.

We expect William Clayton out here on Ward meeting Sunday to preach upon Celestial Marriage. They are preaching upon polygamy very strong all the time. (p. 45) so you and John better hurry home as soon as you can so as to get some of the girls in the notion to have you before you start back again. . . . .

From Your ever Affectionate Wife,

Mirinda Bateman.

(MSS, pp. 446-450)