

CERESCO JULY 8TH, 1849

MY DEAR BROTHER WILLIAM:

LAST TUESDAY I RECEIVED YOUR MOST WELCOME LETTER AND WITH THE GREATEST PLEASURE, I NOW ANSWER IT. I SHOULD HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU MANY TIMES BEFORE THIS, HAD I NOT KNOWN YOU SAW AND PASSED ALL LETTERS WE SENT HOME AND HOPE TOOK PART TO YOURSELF. THIS LAST FORTNIGHT WE HAVE HAD VERY HOT WEATHER. THIS AFTERNOON WE ARE REFRESHED WITH SHOWERS. I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM THE SCHOOLHOUSE WHERE I HAVE HEARD TODAY TWO DISCOURSES FROM MR. VAN AMRINGE. ONE WAS AN ILLUSTRATION OF PROPHESES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AND ACCODATIONS. THIS AFTERNOON HE SPOKE OF THE PRESENT STATE OF EUROPE AND HOW THE EVILS THERE EXISTING MIGHT AND SHOULD BE AVOIDED IN THIS COUNTRY. HE IS A GREAT ASSOCIATIONIST AND LAND REFORMER. HE INTENDS TO REMAIN THIS NEXT YEAR AND WILL PREACH FOR US OR SOMEWHERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD EVERY SABBETH. WE ARE VERY GLAD YOU LIKE YOUR NEW SITUATION. WE THINK YOUR SALARY VERY GOOD BESIDES IT GIVES YOU A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THAT PART OF THE COUNTRY. HOW FAR ARE YOU FROM AUGUSTUS. DO YOU NOT SOMETIMES SEE HIM? WE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM HIM ABOUT A FORTNIGHT AGO WHICH HARRIOT WILL ANSWER SOON. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT WE CAN HAVE SAID IN OUR LAST LETTERS TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION AT HOME THAT WE WERE DISCONTENTED FOR WE ARE VERY PLEASANTLY SITUATED AND HAVE STILL A GOOD FLOW OF SPIRITS. WE NOW INHABIT A SMALL COTTAGE CONSISTING OF ONE GOOD SIZED ROOM, 1 1/2 X 10, AND A SMALL UNFURNISHED ROOM ADJOINING WHICH WE USE AS DRESSING AND BATHING ROOM, A RUSTIC PIAZZA FRONTS OUR DOMICILE WITH A SMALL ENCLOSED GARDEN OR YARD. A CREEK, WHICH HAS THUS FAR BEEN WELL SUPPLIED WITH WATER, IS WITHIN TEN FOOT OF US. WE HAVE ALL CONVENIENCES NECESSARY. OUR FURNITURE IS NOT VERY ELABORATE THOUGH SUFFICIENT, TWO LOUNGES, ONE WITH BACK AND ARMS, THE OTHER WITHOUT, STUFFED WITH HAY AND HANDSOMELY COVERED WITH PATCH, ANSWERS THE PURPOSE OF BEDS. OUR TRUNKS ARE ALL COVERED AND A COUPLE OF CHAIRS, LOANED BY MRS. CHASE, ARE SCATTERED ABOUT THE ROOM, A PINE TABLE FOR WHICH WE PAID ONE DOLLAR, COMPOSE THE FURNITURE. WE HAVE BEEN LOCATED HERE ABOUT THREE WEEKS, BUT ONE EVENING HAS PASSED WITHOUT COMPANY. WE HAVE ALSO MANY VISITORS BY DAY. OLD BACHELORS STILL RESORT TO OUR ROOM AND PRONOUNCE OUR LOUNGES THE MOST COMFORTABLE SEATS ON THE DOMAIN. STRAWBERRIES THIS SEASON HAVE BEEN VERY ABUNDANT. THE HILLS AROUND US HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY COVERED WITH THEM. FOR THREE WEEKS, FIFTY QUARTS A DAY HAVE BEEN GATHERED BY PERSONS IN THE DOMAIN. MUCH OF OUR LEASURE HAS BEEN PASSED STRAWBERRYING. WE HAVE HAD AS MANY AS WE COULD EAT AND HAVE DRIED SOME FOR NEXT WINTER'S USE. WE HAVE SOME THOUGHT OF PASSING NEXT WINTER WITH IDA IN ST. LOUIS. SHE IS SO DESIROUS OF SEEING US, IF SO WE SHALL PROBABLY COMMENCE HOUSEKEEPING. IDA AND HARRIOT TEACH IN A SCHOOL AND I ENGAGE AS CHEIF COOK. WE ARE EXPECTING A LETTER FROM HER DAILY AND FEEL VERY ANXIOUS ON HER ACCOUNT FOR THE COLERIC IS STILL INCREASING THERE. 150 CASES A DAY, IS IT NOT DREADFUL? WE HEAR MOST ALL BUSINESS IS SUSPENDED. I BELIEVE IDA HAS GIVEN UP HER SCHOOL FOR THE PRESENT. SHE MAY THINK IT MOST PRUDENT TO RETURN HOME. SHOULD SHE, I THINK WE SHALL REMAIN HERE ANOTHER WINTER. THE ASSOCIATION WILL THEN BE NEWLY ORGANIZED, THE CHARTER ALTERED BY THE NEXT SESSION OF THE LEGISEATURE, THE TOWN LAID OUT IN LOTS AND ALL WHO CHOOSE ERECT HOUSES FOR THEMSELVES. ABOUT A MONTH AGO THE KITCHEN DEPARTMENT AND DINING ROOM WERE RENTED TO A MR. SMITH, ONE OF THE MEMBERS. HE CHARGES 75 CENTS A WEEK FOR BOARD. MOST OF THE FAMILIES THINKING THEY COULD NOT AFFORD THIS EXHORBITANT PRICE PREFERRED TO SUFFER THE INCONVENIENCE OF COOKING FOR THEMSELVES THEREFORE RETURNED TO COOK AND SMOTHER IN THEIR OWN ROOMS. HARRIOT AND I ALSO TOOK THE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHANGE AND BOARD IN A PRIVATE FAMILY FOR 50 CTS. A WEEK AND HAVE MUCH BETTER PROVISIONS THAN AT THE PUBLIC TABLE. MANY HAVE URGED US TO RETURN TO IT AND PERHAPS WE MAY, ONE OF THESE DAYS. WE PASSED THE FOURTH OF THE MONTH VERY RATIONALLY, THERE WAS A TEMPERANCE CELEBRATION AT LIBERTY PRAIRIE ABOUT TEN MILES DISTANT. TWO LARGE WAGONS FULL OF CHILDREN AND A FEW MEMBERS WENT. WE DECLINED AN INVITATION TO GO WITH THEM. ANOTHER WAGON FULL OF YOUNG PEOPLE WENT TO GREEN LAKE, WE PASSED THE MORNING QUIETLY AT HOME, DINED AT MR. SMITHS AND IN THE AFT. WENT WITH MR. COOPER TO GATHER STRAWBERRIES, RETURNED WITH 1/2 QTS WHICH WE SUGARED AND CREAMED. MR. MASON PASSED THE EVENING WITH US. THERE WAS TO BE A BALL IN THE EVENING BUT OUR MUSICIANS WERE OTHERWISE ENGAGED THEREFORE IT WAS POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEXT EVENING. I ASSISTED IN DECKING THE DINING ROOM WITH GARLANDS OF BAKLEAVES AND FLOWERS FOR THE GREAT OCCASION. MANY STRANGERS WERE HERE FROM THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGE AND COUNTRY. A SUMPTUOUS ENTERTAINMENT WAS PREPARED AND ALL ENJOYED THEMSELVES. I DID NOT ATTEND. WE RECEIVED A LONG LETTER FROM HANNAH ON LAST FRIDAY, THEY WERE ALL WELL AT HOME. ALEXANDER WAS IN NEW ORLEANS AND IS PROBABLY AT HOME BY THIS TIME, NOT SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR SEARCH FOR DOUGLASS. I SUPPOSE YOU HEAR FREQUENTLY FROM HOME AND GATHER ALL THE NEWS.

I ALSO RECEIVED A LETTER FROM LUCRETIA LYMAN, WHICH WAS VERY INTERESTING.

JULY 13TH - - - I INTENDED TO SEND THIS LAST MAIL FOR WE HAVE BUT TWO A WEEK BUT WAS INTERRUPTED BY VISITORS AND HOT WEATHER. THE THREE LAST DAYS THE THERMOMETER HAS RANGED FROM 95° TO 105° AND IT WAS MORE THAN WE COULD DO TO KEEP COOL OR ANY WAY COMFORTABLE. HARRIOT HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THE POST OFFICE. NO LETTER FROM ISA. I WISH SHE WOULD WRITE FOR I AM REALLY ANXIOUS ABOUT HER. MAY HEAVEN PROTECT US IN HEALTH, MAY NONE OF US FALL A VICTIM TO THE FEARFUL RAVAGES OF THE COLERIC. WE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM AUGUSTUS ABOUT A MONTH AGO. HARRIOT INTENDS ANSWERING IT THIS WEEK. MOST OF OUR TIME IS NOW OCCUPIED IN SEWING. WE TAKE A LONG WALK MOST EVERY DAY AND PASS SOME TIME IN READING. I HAVE TODAY BEEN INVITED TO INSTRUCT SOME OF THE LARGEST CHILDREN AS THERE HAS BEEN NO SCHOOL THE LAST MONTH. I HAVE THE INVITATION UNDER CONSIDERATION. IF I CAN GET ENOUGH TO PAY MY EXPENSES IN THAT DEPARTMENT, I THINK I SHALL ACCEPT FOR THEREIN I CAN BE VERY USEFULL. WE HAVE HAD FOUR CALLERS SINCE I HAVE BEEN WRITING THIS PAGE. HARRIOT HAS HAD SEVERAL VERY PLEASANT RIDES THIS SUMMER. SHE SENDS HER LOVE TO YOU. DO WRITE AGAIN TO US.

YOUR AFF. SISTER

CHARLOTTE

TO - - WM. APPLETON HAVEN
CHAMPLAIN
CLINTON COUNTY, N. Y.