

My dear Sister Mary

I suppose you are now far from us sailing

upon the vast ocean sometimes delighted at new scenes open to your view
after I think weary of your noisy ever-rocking home and longing
for a resting place on solid land and possibly sending now and then
thought or two back on the friends you have left. But I have no doubt you
rejoice in the prospect of doing much good in that far distant part of our land
to which the Providence of God has directed you and that you will be kept in
peace trusting in him who has the elements at his control. & how much I think
of you probably you have had a very different winter from ours it has been
very cold here a great deal of snow we have had sleighing for 2-3 months
It has been very healthy here this winter but very few deaths I feel the effect
of the long winter which you know never suited me. I have not heard from
you since the 16 Dec. I feel very anxious to hear from our dear parents I sometimes
feel to regret that I did not go home with them but they did not seem anxious
about it and indeed Father was so confident that he should sell and come out
this next summer that he did not feel it would be best for us to go and stay
a short time and I could not think of going unless I knew something how Edward
felt about it But if I could have seen you a few weeks! I did almost hope
you would not go to Oregon until spring but come and spend some time here
where Good Ministers are so much needed but you probably had better coun-
sellors than I should have been & dear sister I never knew myself until the past year
how not what a selfish self righteous faithless being I have been & could I see you &
and tell all that I have discovered that is evil in my heart and rendered my past life
more worthless you would be filled with surprise and pity. But I fear we shall never
meet again in this life But if through atoms blood of Jesus we are permitted to
meet in Heaven how will we swell the clusters of praise to him who died to redeem us.

Saturday 7/8 - I am sorry to say you are right you often write me & tell me to do your part
Company to do my will & go home & my wife is very anxious to get back to my comfort my wife seems
But I must tell you what has been done in this place since you heard from us I did not
write you as I should have done had I supposed you were going so soon ^{Bro} Edward wrote to me
that he thought you would not start till January so I waited expecting a letter from you
to save one of the family so that I could know your arrangement in season to write again
but you know how it was and I will not dwell upon it. You know the difficulties which
led to a division of the church here Mr. Hoyt's time as the minister of the whole who
the middle of Nov. The Congregational part had then the privilege of setting a man ^{as}
and sent to Cleveland for the Rev John Avery who has labored for several years in the
state of N.Y. and Ohio and also in this state and Illinois with very great success as a ^{Calvinist} ^{Evangelist}
He was requested to come and supply the pulpit for a few months but when he came
and saw the state of things he felt he could be of no use here unless the people would
settle up their difficulties and unite in efforts for a Revival of Religion. Mr. Hoyt and nearly
all who now call themselves Presbyterians stood aloof from him and the greatest part would not at
first hear him but as they afterwards acknowledged felt very much prejudiced against him. Mr. H.
went to work preaching the naked truths of the gospel sparing no one but showing all their sins
He labored some time before he could get Mr. Hoyt to do anything but at length he was bid
to see himself and came and made the most humble acknowledgments to the church and to
the world as well as to individuals. His wife confessed her wrong feelings and doing and one after
another the different members of the church under the convincing power of the truth came
in and confessed their faults one to another and prayed one for another at a protracted meeting
which commenced which lasted 8 weeks preaching every evening and meetings for preaching
or conference 4 and sometimes 5 days in the week beside the Sabbath. I need hardly tell
you that the result has been the conversion of many souls. I should like to give
you an account of many individual cases of conversion both of those who made a
profession and found it would not endure the test when the plain truths of the
Bible were applied and those who have been opposers and Infidels many of these have
been subjects of the work also many youths and children I will name a few whom you
will recollect Mr. Austin who stood out in opposition till nearly the last of the meetings ^{I mean the protracted meeting; we still have frequent meetings} Mr. Parsons
who married Mrs L. Clarke's sister Mrs ^{Hays} who lived opposite to Dr. F. before the new church was erected his
case has been one of the most interesting and affecting as he has been a notorious sinner and never had

My dear sister now & always preserving me & all the rest of the Corp of Friends & Friends & Friends many of them P.P. Friends or Friends of God & my own friendship being lost of course of course I am not very religious influence known around him had never read the Bible but said to Dr. Wm when he invited him to go and hear Mr. Avery he would rather help tan and feather birds, he is now one of the most lovely Christians I ever saw he intends to be a Standard Bearer for the Saviour as he has been for in Court. I see Mrs. Goss' the married one his Br. and Judge Webster's Brother-in-Law Dr. Axtell and Mrs. ^{the former wife of} Axtell's wife of the widow of W. Austin who died while you was here they are soon to be married the Dr. has built a large ^{house} Brick House near the old Church N. Hannah Trask and her Brother Robert Chapman who came here with his mother & she is still here (by the way Mr. Bush's youngest child died in Nov.) ^(mother) of young men from New England who are very promising one at least will study for the ministry. Elizabeth Hoyt and John. H. and ^{to do about} we are not here a great many other I might name but are not sure that you would know them.

But the reconversions in the church have been to me the most striking thing we unexpectation many cases Mr. Avery unlike many Presivalists begins with the church putting down false ^{hypocrites} breaking up the fallen ground and clearing away the thorns and stumbling blocks making each one feel our individual responsibility and ^{to do about} here you will readily believe he had a great work to do about it. It seemed for awhile as tho there had never been any thing done in the church but quarrelling as one and another would confess the wrong failing he had been guilty of and the tear of penitence would flow profusely. Col. Burtonius who led 80 young towards Mexico last year few of them lived to get here and though but 25 lived to return confessed his sense of guilt and abhorrence of the course he took which he felt himself the murderer of those young men. It would take many sheets of paper to relate all I would like to see Mr. Bush Mr. Pease Judge Webster and many others think they have been converted and it is delightful to hear them talk. Dr. Trask was so bitter toward Br. Wm and others that at first he would not leave Mr. Avery but was completely broken down and in a meeting of the church for conference and prayer Dr. and Mrs. Trask gave each other the hand of fellowship and love and with streaming eyes forgave each other. Now what do you ask have you done with your slaves? well you know how we stood before the Revival & have been in the habit of going to F. ever since Father and mother were here but C. and G. had no communication but as the Truth was poured out like Lava we all felt that we must understand each other and take up every stumbling out of the way lest we should hinder the Chord of Salvation or be crushed beneath it C. went to Wm and told them her ground of complaint the most of it dates back so far that you cannot tell it. She found she had been mistaken in many things especially as to G.'s feelings the fact is G. has an unfeeling imagination which I think with strong will and strong prejudice has made her a great deal of trouble and other too not that others have not been to blame we all have been to blame myself especially

the attorney boarded at Wm^r and I think it was a great blessing unlike Mr Bushard his private life corresponds with his preaching he is a holy man an hourly Christian under his influence Carbudos Christian graces have been drawn out and she says she never knew the clarity of the gospel before Mr and Mrs Tomlinson at first could not bear him and for some time could not bear such hard sayings but at last they yielded and came out decidedly and Mrs T now shines as a Christian her noble mind has taken an upward direction and she is as earnest for the truth as she was a few months ago for fashion. To give you an idea of the work here would be impossible ^{and} when Mr A commenced preaching and for some time before we had room enough in the Church and usually much to spare for some time before it was filled as completely as possible with seats in the aisles ^{and} on the porch filled with those who could not find seats and on some occasions scores and even hundreds have gone away who could not obtain admittance and still there has been the least of what we call ^{any} excitement - the most order that I ever knew where such a mass of human beings were literally wedged in together. There has been considerable of a Revival in the Methodist and Baptist Churches Mr Stone and the other Ministers refused to co-operate with us the many of their people attended and were converted Mr Gray and his wife have spent much time in this place during the meetings they have since spent some time in Salisbury where Mr A. is now laboring.

But I must stop I shall not have room to say a word to your Husband & you cannot think how glad I was to receive your miniature yours is a perfect as any I ever saw every one who knew you recognises it. Mr Post and his wife were here 2 weeks ago they had their taken and I suppose you will receive one but I will such things ever get to you I feel almost as tho I was writing to an inhabitant of another sphere. I have not much faith and hope.

And now dear Brothers I will with pleasure say a few words to you to assure you of my confidence and the deepest interest I feel for you. The husband of dear Mary cannot be an object of indifference to me tho I may never see you. But dear brother as a minister of Jesus and especially a missionary I feel there is more than I can express to claim the respect the confidence and affection of all especially of those who are allied to ~~you~~ by ties which time or distance cannot sever. I hope we shall yet become acquainted by letter and then feel the sympathy of friends tho very far distant. I think daily of your perils and exposures but trust that He who controls the winds and waves will carry you safely to your expected port and enable you to work in His vineyard with great success. How much depends on the faithfulness of ministers. It has been strikingly illustrated in this place God owns the faithful preaching of the truth by his servants and sustains them in it. Mr A. says 'a minister has no right to stand in the pulpit and show off his literature his beautiful style his eloquence but his business is to convert souls, whatever will tend to his great object is incumbent upon him.' I don't feel dear Brother that such views are new to you but I love to dwell upon what seems to me the highest object of our existence & you will be gladdened by the success of your labors in the cause of Christ. Will you not write often and tell us all your prospects your difficulties your joys your trials and successes. I rejoice that Oregon has so many advantages to warrant the hope that it will soon become a very interesting part of our nation I hope the rage for California Gold will not retard its progress in wisdom gold is better than Gold. I rejoice that while so many are passing thro every danger and ^{home} accepting every wretched to obtain the former; you are engaged in the work of carrying the latter to those who so much need it may you both long be spared to enrich the world with that priceless treasure. We expect you will write from San Francisco we shall feel intensely anxious to be