

Madison March 22^d 1841

Dear Cousin.

After so long neglecting to answer your kind letter which was received by Cousin Sidney I feel obliged to commence this scribble with an ^{apology} or better saying an excuse. The only excuse we would offer is a constant employment where health would permit and constantly looking for a better opportunity. But I think in future the lesson will be remembered that "Procrastination is the thief of time". It would be a great pleasure to tell you for distant cousin all about our dear friends that would be interesting, but probably you have heard by more faithful friends all that is worth repeating. In our little family nothing of late has occurred, excepting the death of our aged Grand-pa which happened the 9th of January last. Nothing occurred to him new but nature seemed to wear out. He was confined to his bed but a short time his failure was gradual from his fit until the moment of dissolution. This made quite a vacancy in our family as he was always here sitting in his arm chair. But he has gone as all must sooner or later and it is of but little consequence to us where the

message of death is permitted to call for us of
we can say in the language of the poet "welcome
death thou end of grief" ²³ Let this dear cousin be our
constant theme to prepare for this great change
which at the farthest can be but as it were a
moment. After Grandpa's death Grandma conclu-
ded it was better^{er} for her to go and live with aunt
Simmons at Hamilton. Our people offered her a home
with us but she said aunt was alone only her little
girl and it was most reasonable she should go with
her; you may well imagine we were lonely when
she left; but our loss in some measure is made
up as uncle Peck now occupies their part of the
house. But our habitation is so altered since
you left Madison that it would be difficult for
one to recognise it. It was rebuilt a year ago last
summer; the wing was taken away and the back
part entirely rebuilt and enlarged on the back side
so that we have a kitchen and other rooms in the
old part of the house. Perhaps you would like to
know how I have spent my time since you left.
It has been mostly in attending school; the sum-
mer we built we were all very busy; the next
winter my health was miserable, but improved in
the ^{spring} so as to permit me to teach school the next
season, since my time has been mostly taken up
in attending school at my favorite Seminary in
Clinton. But you are about to get our beloved

Mr Kellogg from us. I think the people of Salisbury
will become very much attached to him after
becoming acquainted, for he is one of the best men
in this world we think. Brother Williams is in
East Hamilton attending store for Mr Charles Green
has been there about one year. Julia and Mary
is at home very well and quite busy. Par is
buying a large quantity of bees and thinks he
make more money in that way than any other at
present. I should be very happy to visit your
home and take a ramble over your meadows and
gather wild flowers for my herbarium. I can form
but faint ideas of that delightful country but think
it must be very pleasant. Your roads must be
delightful in the summer; when I visit you
I shall anticipate a long long ride may I not. But
But may we expect a visit from you soon perhaps
you can not spend the time better: There are many
friends here who would without hesitation be much
pleased with a long visit but perhaps you are
attending school and spending your time in ^{gaining} useful
knowledge which probably is better. Your cousin
Mrs Rhodes is very sick is not expected to survive
long, her husband is absent at the south spending
the winter for his health is expected home soon.

We had an excellent address from Professor Eaton
last morning on the death of our beloved president
he thought we as a people had lost a man whose

equal could hardly be found in this country.
 But the approach of midnight warns me that I must
 draw to a close. please give my love to all our dear friends
 tell Sarah that I have long looked for a letter from her
 but have not received one. Do write soon and not wait for an
 opportunity to send by private conveyance once the postage would
 be an agreeable sum to pay do not use me as I have you but
 forget and forgive. I could say many things to you were
 you here but it is very hard for me to put it on paper.
 Harriet Martineau so I am your unworthy cousin H.

Mr. Franklin Thompson
 Salisbury
 Wroxtonbury
 All

Received of
 Rev. Mr. Thompson

May 22/1841

Julia sends her love
 to all and says
 to Sarah she has
 looked long for a
 letter from her
 but has none -
 appointed so yet
 If you could oblige
 us with a paper of
 house and with
 the name attached
 should very much
 oblige us as we have
 quite an assortment
 and need to increase
 it yours &c. H.