Mother's Last Public Gift in Watervliet, Jany. 21, 1821

This family appears at present to be visited with a considerable degree of suffering and affliction. You have, in general, very heavy and severe colds; but this need not deprive you of the profession and enjoyment of the gifts of God, for outward affliction will not deprive a soul of the comforts and blessings of the gospel.

You must all labor to keep order, for it is your protection. The orders of God seem hard to a carnal mind; but I should say there are not many, if any, here present, so young but that they may see and feel the necessity of keeping good order. To my sense believers are held together in union by a golden chain. This chain is composed of the gifts and orders of God, and every order adds a link in the chain; and if you break any of these orders, you break this chain and are exposed to be led astray; but while you are careful to keep the gifts and orders of God, you are surrounded with this golden chain, and are secure from evil: you are on safe ground, and nothing can injure you, unless by disobedience you break a link in this chain, and expose yourself to the enemy without; for the enemy cannot come within, to injure you.

We may see the necessity of order and union by viewing the kingdoms of this world; for if they had not a kind of natural union and order, they could not stand; but would soon tumble to pieces, and destroy each other, till there would not be a man left on earth. And this I think may serve as a suitable comparison between the kingdom of Christ and the kingdoms of this world.

How miserable a person must feel without friends; all people want union and friendship, and if we cannot conduct in such a manner as to gain friends, we find a hard travel indeed. Union is more valuable than all earthly things; and you ought always to be careful to support a just union and relation together, in the gospel.

You ought to be very careful how you speak to each other; speak kind and loving to one another according to the simplicity of the gospel, and neither give nor take offense.

I do not feel to speak much at this time, but I hope you will remember what I have said, and if you observe it you will certainly be under a blessing.