

Mother's Last Public Gift in Watervliet, Jan'y. 24, 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 possession 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 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 yourselves 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 one to another according to the sim-

plicity of the gospel, ~~You ought to be very careful to~~ and nei-
ther give nor take offence.

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.

Matthew Foxcroft's last Article.
Gift of W. A. M. 1821.