



Shirley Village, Mass.
January 10th 1886.

Very Dear & Beloved Ministry.

It seems a very long time since I wrote you last, and for sometime I have been wishing to do so - but have waited in hopes to have a more cheering report to make. With regard to the Christmas openings - There seemed to be nothing very essential to make mention of. so far as came to me by hearing, or by report. At Harvard there seems to be a very good inspiration - and a happygoing influence prevails when I find opportunity to go there - possibly I do not get the full understanding of all the under currents - But am comforted in going there occasionally -

At Shirley though there are a few struggling to keep the way, there are many obstructions, that it seems impossible to remove - Some of them you have been made acquainted with - and I would gladly pass over the mention of them. I must however tell you, that the financial affairs are getting into a serious condition - As for a month past I have had to depend on the kind feelings of the Bank Officers who have consented to honor my checks. I have not -

as yet imposed on their generosity to a greater
 amount than from 90 to 100 dollars in excess of deposits.
 But there are a number of bills that need attention,
 perhaps to the amount of ^{\$}200- with the constantly
 recurring pay days and current expenses - It does at
 times seem too much to bear patiently or otherwise.
 I have struggled hard to keep up - and shall try to do
 so - Yet there is a limit to human endurance!
 Do not intend this to be considered as complaining -
 But as a strictly true statement of existing conditions.
 Applesauce has had very limited sale indeed - and
 we have a larger stock of Brooms unsold than for a
 long time. On the first of January - there was One
 Hundred & seventy six dollars due me, by Mr. Piel the Missing
 Brans. president - Principal and interest due that day - on a
 Mortgage Note of between 8 & 9 ^{\$}000 - 150 to be paid on each succeeding
 1st of January, ^{the 1st Jan 1884.} On examination I found that the Mortgage had
 not been recorded - and I sent it to be recorded - Do not know
 yet if it will hold or not - If not, there is another way in which
 that can be secured eventually - but that does not help present
 emergencies - Then again, in the Trade Scales made for
 the the Jarwell Farm - with our New Hampshire posture -
 of which the above was a consideration in fact - There was

a Mortgage on the [#]Harwell Farm of 2,500.00 which is all the Farm would bring to day - and with this McNeil gave a guarantee, that it should be paid in twelve months from the time the Deeds were exchanged - This it appears was not done, I had some correspondence with him on the subject, and not a great while ago went to see him on the subject, He was gone away - and knowing the other matter was so soon to be due let it lay till then - Hoping to get both matters fixed at the same time - On Dec 30th I learned that the night before, He had gone to Canada - or at least started for there, After turning the Funds & Securities of the Bank, to the extent of some [#]200,000 or thereabouts - Another party signed the guarantee with him, But he is deeply involved with him in other matters, and it is doubtful if we get much out of it - The Mortgage has been transferred twice - The present holder will foreclose in the Spring probably - says he shall - So unless we can get something from (Bucall) the other signer - we shall only have the satisfaction of knowing that we shall ^{not} have to take care of the farm - & escape paying taxes on it.

A further complication, lies in the fact, that in good faith
 thus Mr. Neil and Bulall were men to be relied upon & abundantly
 able to do as they agreed - that we gave a Quit-Claim Deed of about
 ten acres - of the place - The Mortgagee says however he will
 not make any trouble for us in that regard - But will release that
 part for a consideration - So perhaps we may not be distressed a
 great deal on that account - You will readily see dear Ministry
 How that with all the foregoing, and all the rest of my cares -
 and being so little used to matters of litigation - and with so
 little able or reliable counsel - I have to drink a bitter cup -
 Had I the means to spare I should have felt that I must
 come and see you - I had three English Sovereigns - a present
 to me personally, with a request that I would not pass them
 away unless, me or mine should need bread - Flour was
 called for, & I went & bought 3 Barrels of flour therewith &
 a little balance with them, 57¢ on each barrel - or 4.84 + 57 - 5.35 -
 the price per barrel. I am deeply grieved to write you as I have -
 But cannot go on in the dark - and want to get as near
 God as I can - for I feel my time is short - and I have
 little else to look too but - his love and mercy -

Had I not known that Eldress Eliza had written your order
 I should have felt it my duty to write earlier -

Asking your forgiveness for what of human weakness may
 be apparent in all this, and hoping still to be held in
 prayerful remembrance, not for my own sake alone, but for
 Zion's sake.

Believe me to be your Humble Child
 The Ministry sisters unite with me in kindest love
 Ministry of Mt. Lebanon,
 New York -
 John Whiteley

I ought to have stated that my stock
 of Broom Corn is nearly exhausted - all
 of it seized upon

Shirley Village, Mass. February 1st 1886.

Dearlly Beloved Bro. Benjamin.

On Saturday Evening I received your letter to Eldress Eliza. in which you request that I should write you in regard to loss by Clinton Bank. &c I could much better do justice to the matter in a conversation face to face. But will endeavour to be as brief and explicit as possible.

Three years ago Leander and others got up a trade with Mr. Neil, in which our property in Marlboro, Jaffrey & Dublin, New Hampshire was sold - and in part payment therefor we were to take what is called the "Harwell Farm" - in Lancaster - adjoining our own - subject to a Mortgage of 2500.00 - Mr. Neil & C. H. Bacule signing a guarantee that said Mortgage should be discharged within one year - The papers were in Bro. Leanders hands during that time - And it had passed from my mind that there was an incumbrance on it - Last April - A neighbor wanted a strip of about 10 acres off our corner, which would convene him very much - and we felt would be no loss to us - This led to a search of the papers, and the discovery of the Mortgage on it - I immediately wrote Mr. Neil to ascertain if it had been discharged - He answered it had not, and wanted a little more time - Feeling

so much confidence in Mr. Neils ability to do as
 he agreed, (as seemingly every body else did) the matter was
 not pressed as it should have been, I wrote him again
 however, expressing a desire that it might be attended to -
 And afterwards went to see him, but did not find him at-
 home - And concluded that I would leave it - till the 1st of
 January - when he should have paid [#]164.00 - on another
 transaction. a payment on a wood lot for which we have
 a Mortgage - Not recorded however, but which I now think
 we may secure - There is considerable of a long story to this - which
 was [#]850.00 originally - [#]243 had been paid to Seander in Cattle -
 the [#]164 being for interest and part of principal due Jan 1st - There
 are three other instalments due Jan 1st - 1884. - 1888. & 1889. of
[#]150.00 each with interest - The Mortgage & note being given by
 another party - Mr. Neil assuming payment - The other party is
 holden, and I think will pay - But the Huswell Farm is
 already advertised to be sold on February 25th at 2. P. M.
 The Mortgage is for twenty five hundred dollars, and there
 is 2 years interest due besides - which will amount - in all
 to more than the farm will sell for at this time - So
 that all we shall get - out of it will be six acres that were
 deeded seperately without incumbrance - And this will be
 more than offset - by the Money to be returned, ^{to the man} who bought

the strip before mentioned - He paid ~~218.00~~ [#] 218.00
 we gave him a quit-claim deed - and promised that if
 all did not go right, we would make him right -
 He has put his case into the hands of a Lawyer, by
 unfriendly counsel - without seeing me - And what the
 result may be I cannot tell - Am to go with him to
 see his Lawyer tomorrow if all be well - and try to
 arrange the matter - He will at least want his [#] 218.00.
 the interest on it - since April last - Lawyers fees and
 may be try to get some damage - He talks very smoothly
 now - But there is no dependance on uncertainties -
 I have about one dollar in charge to meet it - and
 all other expenses - set that at lowest.

	250.00
Am owing one workman at the North family	120.00
" " one " at the Church "	40.00
" " The Wachuset Bank over drawn checks to pay other workmen & other expenses by favor of the President Harrier	131.07
Family Physician unaltered bill of 42.00 Jun 1 st 1885 and what he may have charged since 13 months say	80.00
Mr. S. Shoemaker & Co for swift sure on hand.	142.50
Carried over -	\$ 763.57

Our stock of Cattle was very low last fall and
~~we~~ had a chance to buy quite a stock to be
 paid for in the Spring - These we have on hand mostly
 now - with their growth - being mostly young Steers -
 and on them is due

	\$ 696.98
Brought over	— 763.57
	<u>— 1460.55</u>

There may be some other little items - but not -
 much - some little freight - Cobles - & Harness makers etc - saw bricks
 We have tried hard to sell our Fitchburg Farm through the
 Real Estate Agents - Did have a small chance of selling the
 forfeited farm - But not - so to save anything - Also the
 Brice Tavern lot - (so called) but as yet nothing concluded -
 These we wanted to sell to take up Saunders notes - of
 which there are about \$4000.00 still due and on
 which I have to pay interest of course - There will be
 Sixty dollars due on one of them this month - 1000.00
 The Apple Sauce trade has been very slow indeed thus
 far this season - Not half what we have usually had,
 I think - So that some little farm products and the
 Brooms have been my main dependence for everything
 . On the other hand we have some 15,000 of pine boards seasoned -
 for sale - perhaps 4,000.00 worth of Staves just sawed, but on
 which we may not realize anything before next winter when we
 want Buckets - . I see no way to relieve myself - only to mortgage
 the Fitchburg Farm - On which I think the Bank would loan me