

Stratford Nov 26th 1855

Dear Father

I have been looking for a line from you to let me know how you all do & how the potato-digging, ploughing &c. prospers. I suppose you have foeldering to see to now. Has Solomon returned? If not, who have you to depend on to take care of cows, horses, sheep, colts &c? We were at Royatton one week & then came to Stratford & have been here three weeks to-morrow so that it is four weeks to-day since we left your house.

I am much better than when I left Weybridge so that I read one sermon yesterday here as they have no Minister & perhaps I may try to read another next Sabbath if I am no worse.

I have laid my case before the church at Royatton & left it to their choice either to dismiss me, or to hire a supply for a few months, which they will do I do not yet know. I cannot take the care of a people this winter; perhaps I may preach here or somewhere on the Sabbath at least a part of the time & so partly pay my way. I advised the Royatton people to hire a supply rather than try to get along without regular preaching. Of course I relinquish the salary to pay another

man. So that now for the first time for 18 years
I am without any salary, but God has provided
for us & I hope we feel thankful to Him &
also to our friends, who have not been slow
to minister to our necessities & comfort.

We ^{are} very thankful to you & Sylvia for all you
did for us, which was not a little, & may
you have a better reward than we can
bestow.

I do not distrust Providence, my
anxiety now is, not for a livelihood, but
for health to labor again; & I strongly
hope by the blessing of God to be able
again to go on in the work of the Minis-
try as I once did. And I hope this disci-
pline will not be lost upon me. May for
me & mine. We hope to have a line from
you before long. You must be very busy
if Solomon is still absent. Our love
to you & Sylvia & all our dear friends.

Mother Smith is feeble, & I fear may not
live untill Spring. The rest of our friends
are well.

Yours affectionately

E. B. Drake

Rozatton Oct 1st 1856

Dear Father

When I left your house I thought I should have written you long before this. We reached home that evening about 9 o'clock. I have been very busy since - thinking often that I sh^d have a little leisure so that I c^d write & tell you that we got home well. The next Monday after I returned I mowed the 2^d time my meadow & after trying for 10 days to dry it without sunshine I put it in the barn. I concluded I c^d sympathize with hay-makers in cloudy weather. Tuesday night we had a powerful rain - almost a proset in the morning. Last Sabbath four were added to our Church by profession. Since I came home we have been trying to conclude a case of discipline in the church which has been a ball thing. Some are dissatisfied with the manner in which we have now disposed of it; & whether it is to make further trouble I do not know. When brethren get to talking against each other & distrusting each other - they are often very severe & unreasonable. I do not like war among brethren above all wars - & if it cannot be followed by peace I shall be

tempted to run away from it. Still I woud not
be the hirling that fleeth when he seeth the wolf
coming. But I am not a man of war.

I had a letter from Solomon dated Aug. 18. but reached
here the day before I returned & I think was not
^{mailed} till into Sept. He was having ~~some~~ a mowing machine
& wanted to put up a hundred tons - half cut his wheat
- had he thought 150 bushels & as many out & hoped to have
from 8 to 10 hundred bushels of Corn. He wants I shod
get a good gun & go out there hunting - he says the Quail
prairie chickens, deer, Elk, Buffalo &c are plenty - but
I believe I cannot go this Fall. An Ainsworth family
from here were lost most of them with baggage & a
thousand dollars in money on a burning Steamer on
Lake Michigan last week. So that I dont want you
to go out there hunting. Old Mr Ainsworth is among
the lost. We are exposed everywhere but not so much
at home & on land.

206

I do not intend to write much but only to let you know
how we got home & wish you to write & let us know
when you & Sylvia will come & make us that visit.

Our united & best regards to yourself & S & all our
friends. We wish you health, prosperity & the grace of
God

Yours

E. B. Drake

Rozalton Feb. 2^d 1837

Dear Father

I find by looking that you wrote me last October & probably I have not written you since - and I begin to think I shall not hear from you or from any one at Weybridge unless I write. I have often thought of you this cold weather & wondered how you stood it; for we who are younger ought to be active and about froze up. I never knew such extreme cold & so many cold days in succession. Jan. 24th in the morning was the coldest time I probably ever saw. My thermometer was below forty where mercury freezes & Spirit thermometers in the vicinity indicated from 45 to 51 degrees according to difference of exposure. Can you do your chores such cold weather? I was thinking this morning that you

used to say that half the winter for fodder-
ing was gone Feb 1st but I am ^{sure} not
but it was the middle of the month.
At any rate my fodder is half gone
& more. I suppose there is hay enough
that was the talk in the Fall & very little
if any has been sold to go to market.
less than for many years: & grain is
cheaper. oats are 40 cents - corn 80 - Rye
75. We had a great snow storm Sat-
day - more snow fell than at any one
time before - I sh^d think 14 or 15 inches,
but there was no wind like the storm
before. It has been fine sleighing here
so far - not snow enough to hinder & yet
enough for good running.
Have you heard from Solomon since October?
- I have not although I hoped to & I fear
he is froze up.
I suppose Isaac will have to go & contemplate
the ruins at Montpelier till ^{he} come down
here to see if this is not a good place
for a State House or at any rate see us.

We are about as usual in health
for 4 or 5 weeks I have not been quite
as well, yet have preached every Sabbath,
but sh^d have ^{been} glad to have rest & no
doubt I sh^d have recovered sooner. I am
nearly as well as before I hope.

We have no very good news to report
of spiritual things - nothing marked presents
itself this winter & I fear no spiritual har-
vest will be gathered. I cannot make
any extra effort in my present state, but
we greatly need a revival. God can car-
ry one on without me or any other one
whose help He does not see fit to use, but
if He pass us by - no good will come whosoever
may labor. How do you prosper in W?
How suddenly Mr Hurlburt left us -
& ministered at least ought to regard the
admonition. He called to see me at Brattle-
boro the day I was taken sick - he was
well - now he is gone & I still linger. The
sick live & the well die. But "we a little
longer wait - but how little we can know."

How is your health this winter? Do you feel
your own colds? Our mails were never so irreg-
ular as they have been for two routes past.
No cars passed here on Saturday & for 2 or 3
days we have been without mails.

Our people made us a donation visit
- a very pleasant one - & not without profit
to us.

We enjoyed the visit of our sisters here very
much & we wish Delana woud give^{us} "a little
more news about them since their return.
And we wish you father woud write us as
soon as you conveniently can. We do
not hear from Weybridge very often, not
as often by a long difference as we shoud
be glad to. What are all our relatives
doing this cold winter? Please give our
love to them all. We shoud like to see
some of them here this winter. Love to
Sylvia & yourself from each of us.

Your affectionate Son

C. B. Drake



Roylton Dec. 30. 1861

My Dear Father

I see by the above date that the year is almost ended, but I wish to write you once more this year. It is a solemn thought that the years are so rapidly carrying ^{us} on to Eternity but if we are doing our work well it is no matter how soon it is finished - I come short greatly, & every way, & the review of the year makes it very vivid; but nevertheless time does not pause for me to mend mistakes - on, on, ever on we move.

I hope you are comfortably well this cold weather for we have had two or three frosty mornings. I think I stand the cold a little better this winter. although I do not venture far from home. Home is the best

place for a cold fellow in the winter. We have just had a Missionary Convention. I will not describe it, but refer you to the Chronicle. Dr. Perkins was our guest; a very pleasant man & has done a great work under God for the Arcturians. He said that he called on you when he was on a visit to Mr. Lorenis & inquired after your wellfare. We had a line from Mrs. Shaw a week ago - they were all well. It seems from your letter that Sotomon means to come home as soon as he can - although it may be some time before he can bring it about. I am very glad that such is his purpose. I think that we shall all be glad to see him.

Our prayer meetings continue quite interesting, still nothing marked like the manifest working of the Spirit to awaken & convert, which we greatly need.

How do you all do this winter? What makes the fires in the morning? I am very glad Aunt S. can be with you this winter - I hope she is pretty well. Sister Sylvia I suppose is too busy feeding chickens & seeing to every thing else - to write & so we excuse her for we know how it is - after all we should like a line from her but not one written after ten o'clock - that is too bad - give us ever so many before sun rise - but none after ten. Generally we are in bed by ten - but we do not rise until day break and so we have a good long night and shall wear out soon enough at that. Louise attends school & if we can get her off before nine, it is all we aim at these short mornings. The sleighing is quite good now - we had a great wind last week & piled ^{the snow} ~~it~~ up badly & left bare places. There is an average supply of fodder

200
in this vicinity I believe. People
are now skidding up their wood
for if they wait until the last of
winter the snow is often so deep
& hard that it is double the
work to get into the woods.

We spent Thanksgiving at home this
year. Oh we had not done ~~for~~ for
five years before, & found it quite
pleasant. for we could talk about
you, & other friends, & think of
you, which was some satisfaction.
We want to hear as often as you
can write for we have no other
Weybridge correspondent now as I
know of. Wife & Louisa send love
to you & Sophia & Aunt & all at
Mr Lark's & all our kindred - and
you may put mine in. May the
Lord keep & comfort you & permit us
to hear that you are comfortably
well -

C. B. Drake

Vt., July & Dec. 1861
2 letters x 20

(40)

Royatton July 15th 1861

Dear Father,

I have been hoping to hear from you for a long time but still I do not think it strange that you do not write; but rather wonder that you can write as much as you do. Sylvia I suppose is very busy so that she can not write. It seems now a long time since we have had any communications from Weybridge. I saw Mr Correns at Rutland & through him learned something of our friends. We have been intending to cross the Mountain about the 1st of Aug. & still intend to do so, if nothing special occurs to prevent. I did hope to go to the Sea-shore

this Summer but have given up the expectation. We are all in usual health. I think I am as well, & I hope stronger than last year.

Farmers are haying for a week, but it has been showery & not good hay-weather. Grass is better than for several years. Corn is not the most promising, but there may be a fair crop. Other grains look unusually well. There is no promise of Apples. No cherries no plums - but Strawberries & raspberries are plenty. So God is very good & we are abundantly & mercifully provided for.

There is nothing special among us; the War is the chief thing cared for or read about now. Our ladies have just fitted out a quota of Hospital beds & garments for the materials of which they

raised about \$70. -; the boy was started on its way, last week for the 3^d Vermont Regiment. The Government furnish doctors & Medicines - but not beds & other conveniences for sick & wounded Soldiers; & I am glad the people have a mind to do it.

Yesterday, it rained very moderately most of the day - the ground is now well supplied with water - our Springs are fuller than for some years at this season. I think it must be a good year for your clay soil which requires so much rain; I suppose you will have hay enough this year & will want your Stock back to eat it. Farmers here think the prices of every thing low - Stock & all. So they are compared with three years ago. But if we remember the depression of business in

It is this weak body shrinks from the
grave & clings to this life - But transfer
be unto God who giveth us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ"

He who keeps us through life will
not forsake us at the hour of death
If we trust in him - what I need
very much is to annihilate self & be
willing to trust everything to Christ -
& not go about trying to establish
any righteousness of my own, I believe
I do try to leave it all there and
with his help I hope to do so

It is late dear Grandfather & I must
say good night I should like to hear
from you whenever you feel able
& find it convenient - we are all
as well as usual,

yours affectionally
Belona
George wishes to be remembered



Sunday Eve -
Christmas / 59 -

My own dear George,

I wish you were here that I might talk to you and tell you how much we thank you for your beautiful gifts - I had not once thought of a Christmas from you, for it seemed as though you had had no time to think of or prepare one - We were out nearly all the day yesterday, I for the first time since you left - and when I came

at one time in our church - it was filled - aises & all & many stood up. Now the young men, or boys rather are melting away! He was only 18. Such boys are too immature to endure camp life. Of about 20 dead soldiers from this town only two have been shot, so far as I know. I think the times are discouraging but the worst of the whole is the political & personal selfishness of the north & of the contractors & officers & soldiers. Give us a united, patriotic north & army, with a wise and earnest leadership & the war would end in six months & secession would be expelled. But it must be a patriotism which can stand bullets, & hunger, & nakedness, & mud, without being faint-hearted - not a boyish poetry which wilts & vanishes under

~~under~~ the natural & inevitable hardships of camp-life. If the north has not this love of country, which can be pierced with balls, - famished with hunger, burned with fevers, and yet remain a living principle - a pure, unquenchable flame, then she is not worthy to have a country & let her know it & feel its disgrace! Oh the selfishness of politicians, & office-holders, in the army & out of it - & of contractors together with the profaneness & intemperance prevalent. It makes us sick at heart. But the Lord reigns. There are true patriots & good officers & soldiers, & if God has a country here to be kept for Christ & for freedom - it will be done & I do, & must think that it will be done; by His help & for his glory.

We were very glad indeed to see
 Lucretia & Marion; & wish some
 others of our Weybridge friends
 would make a venture of crossing
 the Mountain. If I thought
 it would do any good I should urge
 Mr Shaw to come over & bring
 a good load. I wish he would.
 Snow is plenty here now - fall
 3 feet in the woods. I hear
 the small pox is at Bethel, &
 many were exposed before they
 knew it, & people around are
 largely excited. We hope to hear
 from you again. I suppose you
 have many letters to write.
 I hope you will keep clear
 of colds which are afflicting
 so many. We all join in
 love to you & all - May the Lord
 keep & bless you

C. B. Drake

Roylton Nov. 11. 1862

My Dear Father,

As Louisa is writing to her Aunt I thought I would just slip in a line to you - not that I have any great thing to say - but to tell you how much we think of you and are glad to hear often of your welfare. Louisa saw Mr Cook at Montpelier & he told her about you & then came Sylvia's letter & now we want to hear again all the more. Our first snow came Friday eve & then again Sunday about two inches. I doubt whether it will all disappear from the hills. I had not got in all my garden sauce, but it wont hurt it. We need much rain before winter - Springs are low.

I do not know what Louisa has written but I conclude she will tell the news if there is any. I went to Springfield in Oct. & then I had about a half an acre of corn to husk, & had other things which must be done, so that the snow was a little too soon for me. But I have got my fall work about closed up. I saw Mr Woolly & wife at Springfield - he looks in very comfortable health (and his wife also) - made many inquiries about you & Weybridge friends. I told him a journey to Weybridge was do him good and the people too.

If you can write us a line some time we should be very glad of half a sheet. Tell Mr Shaw to harness up & come over on one of these snows. it is not best to work all the time - love to all - C. B. Drake

Royallton Aug. 2^d 1865-

Dear Father,

We were very glad to hear from you again through Orleana, & hope we may soon be favored so again. We are glad to hear thus of the welfare of all our friends at Weybridge. And especially glad were we to hear that you walk over to Mr. Lake's, and are so smart. I think that little mallet of yours was not used in vain to keep the life in your muscles. We are about as usual except myself - I am considerably below par - but think I shall be better by Fall, if not before. I am doctoring my old

throat ~~the~~ Complaint; & that
is better, & I think I shall be
better otherwise. We have been
here two months & have for some
time been eating peas & cucum-
bers of our own planting. & Corn
now up when we came had
ears of considerable size. Corn
& Potatoes look uncommonly
well. Haying is mostly done &
Oats begin to ripen. It has been
a fine season here so far for every
kind of crop. Farmers finish hay-
ing in half the time it took be-
fore they used so much horse power.
They have a Mower called the
Clipper - said to beat all the others.
I have not seen it - nor do I

Know where it is made. By the
way - the new way of boring wells
has been tried here with success.
They cannot bore into solid rock,
but every where else. They furnish
a well all except a pump on
top for \$1.00 per foot - charging
nothing for places they dig without
finding water. I thought of your
yards & wished the thing tried around
your barns. Perhaps the Borers have
already made you a visit - probably
they will. Your country is better for
the operation than this. The only
trouble is the rock. & man here
has a fine well right before his
door who has been very much
troubled for water before. For although

every farm house here has running water, yet often small village lots are dry. I am trying to keep the weeds from going to seed in my garden & corn & on the whole am succeeding very well. Things never looked better as I remember. How do you all do - we often think of you all & shod like to look in upon you.

I shod probably go over to Commencement if I was strong - but as I am, it wud be neither wise, nor pleasant. Our best love to yourself & Aunt Sylvia, & sister Sylvia, & Mr & Mrs Shaw - Brother Isaac & all our Weybridge friends - We hope your amanensis will soon be at work - yours &c C. B. Drake

Stafford Nov. 21st 1867

Dear Father,

As Louisa is writing
I will all a line - We got along
well - had a fine visit at Brauda
- reached Bethel Tuesday night &
Royalton next morning - found
our house all right with a
fire in the stove in anticipation
of our coming; for arrived at
the time I had named in my
letter to Mr. Clark - everything
was so natural as if we had
not been gone a week that I
felt at home immediately.
We were pressed with invitation
to dine - after dinner came
on to Stafford & found Mrs. Berrell
& Sophia much better - but

Father

"Smith is worse than I feared
& yet better than I feared as to
strength - he is about everywhere,
& yet is all upset, & out of his
head - thinks every thing is go-
ing to ruin - the stock is going
to perish for want of hay & the
family for lack of food; it is
real to him while there is an
abundance in the house & barn.
He had too much care for his strength.
What the result will be I cannot
guess. I fear he will sink under
it - but he may come up.
We often think of you all & your
unwearied kindness to us -
may the Lord reward you richly.
Love to all - yours C. B. Drake
want to hear soon at Roxton.

Rogaltou Sept. 28th 1868

Dear Father,

You will probably think
we write pretty often & oftener
than we have any thing to say,
but writing to you ^{even} what may
be called small talk, has the
effect to bring you up before
us, as if we were seeing
you & speaking to you, & so
is as near a visit with you
as we can have unless it be
a letter from you which woud
be all the better. We are all
as well as usual & have reason
to be thankful for it. It is more
healthy about us I think.

We have had much rain in
ten days & I think if you
have had as much your hard
clay is softened an inch deep
to horses on the road. Most of
our roads can be travelled as
easily as before the rain. The
rain for several days has been
gentle & gone into the ground
& some Springs feel it. It has
been a wet time to dry rye, corn,
corn & Indian wheat. The latter
is much raised here & is a
valuable grain for stock. We
have had two or three frosts - but
are still trying to ripen to-
matoes by covering them.

We have had a full supply since
we came home & my wife thinks
she has canned more than usual
but we have quantities of green
ones yet. We enjoy Mr Caldwell's
preaching very much. but the
congregation is small & I should
think he would be discouraged.
We need exceedingly the blessing
of the Spirit & without it we can
do nothing, & our Church will
drivell to extinction. Help us
in calling on the Lord for a bless-
ing. "He that watereth shall be
watered" - which is never more true
than when we pour out prayers
for blessings upon others.

We have heard nothing from Weybridge
since Mrs Shaw's letter. Do you
hear from Isaac? Mr Joiner who
explored the West last Summer has
bought here within a mile &
a half of the Village. He is a shrewd
calculator, & undoubtedly thinks
that he has bought as much for
his money as he could have done
at the West. I want to know
what Isaac thinks of that great
country. Also, & first, I want
to hear how you are, & how
all around you are, & how
things go on at Weybridge
Love to all - C. B. Drake

Royatten May 25th
/68

My dear Father

I thought you would
be looking for a letter from Louisa
& I write to say that she has not
been out of her bed for a week
but I think she will be soon.
The Measles went rather hard
with her so that for 3 or 4 days
we thought she was really sick
but they went straight along
& have passed off but she
is rather weak & sticks to her
bed - but will soon be up
we hope. Her Mother has not

had the Meashes as she Rurs
of, & we have kept them in
different corners of the house
with what success remains
to be seen. My wife is getting
quite comfortable again; but
I hope she will not have the
Meashes; nor do I much expect
that she will.

I am about as usual &
shall be off to New York
next week - if we are all
well enough - if not, why I
shall wait until the week
after. I want to leave Loui-
sa & her Mother able to take
care of themselves; & shad

^{not} think of leaving them unless
they were. We have had rain
for a week & people here begin
to be anxious about planting.
Grass grows finely; & no one
crop is so important or rather
so valuable. My Garden
is not half planted - but there
is time enough yet.

Tell Solomon I want to hear
from him before I leave here.

I hoped to see him, but have
not, and the prospect diminishes.
I hope he will not return until
Fall & so if we live, I may meet
him again before he leaves
Vermont. I hope you are well

these days, & that your lameness
succumbles to warm weather.
Does brother Lauren remain
in Weybridge? And how do
all our Brothers & Sisters & friends
do? Does the revival continue
why should it stop while any remain
unconverted? Alas for those who
remain unmoved now, & die
before another revival comes,
& perish. Sad to think of it!

I hope you have received a
blessing & had your strength
renewed & can go on your way
rejoicing unto the end.
We want to hear from you soon
& from all our friends. C.B. Drake

Royatton Jan 23rd 1869

Dear Father,

I reached Rochester about Sun dawn - had a comfortable ride - found the travelling much better than when I went over. Although the snow had blown into the track some.

I reached home about 2 o'clock yesterday after a cold ride of four hours - facing the wind about seven miles, but I did not suffer except my face was some cold.

This morning was cold - thermometer 10 degrees below 0 -

on the whole I had a very mild
time for my trip & enjoyed it
better than I expected to in the
winter. I had a good visit
with all my friends & feel
thankful for the opportunity
& for all the kindness shown
me by yourself & the family
& other friends.

All things here are about as
when I left - Mr Caldwell
will stay another year, we
think. The Sevee night be-
fore last was a success -
netting \$175.

There is nearly double the

snow here that there is with
you. Sleighing is very good.
Every body is busy getting up
wood &c - & it is time I was
looking for a supply of wood
for another year - for if for
any reason I should not stay
it will sell - is always a
cash article.

I am not going to write
much now but only re-
port my return & thank my
dear friends for making
my visit so pleasant - I
hope your own health will
hold out as good as for the

year past & better. Health is
a great blessing - but ~~is~~ ^{was} is ve-
ry poorly appreciated - I think
I should value it - God I regain
it. But the Lord knows what
is best for us, & we ought to
rejoice that He reigns.

I want to hear from you
soon - I hope no care or anxiety
will burden you, that you
may enjoy the quiet property
belonging to your time of life -
& may you be enriched by the
peace of God which passeth
understanding - Love to all,
in haste C. B. Drake

Royalton Sept. 18th 1869

Dear Father,

We reached home safely
last evening about 8 o'clock.
It began to rain before we
reached Salisbury & rained all
the way & profusely. We got
some wet but took no harm
from it. I have not been out
in such a rain for years.

Yesterday we had a good day -
it sprinkled some but we
raised our umbrella only once
& for a short distance; but this
morning it rains gently
& we are glad we are at home.

Openly.

The Tomatos are ripening

Providence has greatly prospered us in our journey, and we try to be thankful for what God & our friends have done for us - to make our visit pleasant & the recollection of it satisfactory.

We think of the Staerholm friends on this rainy day - but they are young & vigorous & we hope they will get on well. We are very glad we could meet them & have so much of a visit with them.

They seem dearer to me than when their father was living -

the tenderness I felt for him, now seems to centre on them. This is the common law in such cases.

We find all things at home as we left them except vegetation has made progress - things are ripening off in our garden & corn has certainly done well since we left - there will be a good - if not an abundant crop; much of it might be cut up now. If frost holds off ten days longer corn generally here will be ripe. It is earlier here than in Addison County.

We send special love & thanks
to all of you. We made you
all much work - but we
had a good long visit. Sickness
Kept us from circulating as much
as usual.

We shall want to hear from
you soon & that is one motive
in reporting our return
so promptly.

We hope you will all have
comfortable & continued health.
Our love to all our relatives
- they are growing fewer
& if possible clearer.

C. B. Drake

Rozatton Feb. 22/69

Dear Father, yours by the
humb of your good aman-
nensis was very gladly re-
ceived. It told us many
things - all of which we wan-
ted to hear about. And we
want to hear still more, for
we are hoping that you
will have a blessing in
Weybridge & that there will
be an ingathering of some
who have long stood aloof -
God is able to bring in even
such, & then shod be much
mayer offered for them.

We see no signs of special attention to the soul here. Mr Caldwell preaches well, but I expect he will become discouraged soon or I fear I should regret very much to have him lose hope and leave us - but I can not blame him, nor think it strange. Our people listen well but I fear we are hearsers rather than doers.

It is some sickly here and several families were absent from Meeting. Measles, Mumps, colds, & almost peves - prevail here now.

Hope you keep pretty well during these sudden changes of temperature - they try the health I suppose, but I like the mild weather. We have certainly had a light winter so far. I have felt the cold little compared with last winter. We are about in usual health - I have begun sawing my wood pile - a small one - & have got about one third of it done. I saw about a cord a week - I saw about 2 hours a day - & many days none at all - & yet I get on so fast, I begin to think I can afford

to enlarge my pile a little
so as not to get out of work
& what is more important,
not to get out of dry wood a
thing which never happened
to me since the Reft house.

Please write soon & I want a few
statistics for family record, in-
cluding your & Mother's births,
marriage - & her death.

We all send love to you & all in
the Brick House & at Sister
Lucy's - Have you heard again
from Biddie? or Solomon?
I have lost correspondence
with them somehow -

affectionately C. B. Drake

Royallton May 16. 1870.

Dear Father,

Warm weather began here yesterday, & I saw the first man planting corn Saturday. I have about half planted my garden, & mean to finish this week. It has been cold for two weeks - cold & frosty week before last - cloudy & cold last week so that I have not cared to plant corn & beans. The leaves are coming out rapidly & the plum trees are in blossom. Two or three new jobs have been flying up - on my hands & I shall have

delay starting for the West
about a month. I shall not
probably go before about July.
It will be warm enough then
on the lakes, so that I shall
not shiver if I see no fire.

We are all about as well as
usual. Farmers are very
busy this week, plowing &
planting on the river land.
Since our Bank was burglarized
- they talk of removing it to
South Royalton instead of repair-
ing here - they think it would
cost five hundred dollars to re-
lay the walls of the vault &

make it as good as before
but I do not believe it would
cost over \$300. to make every-
thing good. Most of the damage
was done by powder. Sprawl-
ing the walls & breaking the
floors of the vault. The Bank
is rather convenient, but
makes no business. The
people here have lost more
by it than they ever gained.
My wife lost \$250. or half
the value of 10 shares at
\$50. each, which her father
gave her. Money takes wings
& flies away - our loss if we

have but a little, & so ^{we} ought
to learn not to lay up our
treasure here. We have no
lack of good teaching but we
are poor scholars.

I suppose that you are all
busy these days, but I hope
some one will find time
to write us a word, that
we may know of your
wellfare, & of what is go-
ing on at Weybridge, where
are so many in whom
we are interested.

Our best regards to you all

C. B. Drake

Royatton Feb. 25/70

Dear Father,

Delana's letter came all right, & made us glad as they always do. I have nothing remarkable to write, but only can speak of common occurrences & mercies. As to health we are about as usual, although I failed to attend church last Sabbath because my Breakfast made me sick. I think it is nothing new or lasting but I have not been kept from Meeting for a long time. I have attended all day for

for a year & a half probably.
I have not restricted my diet
enough of late & shall have to
be more careful in future.
Last week on Thursday evening
our ladies had a Sevee, & raised
about one hundred & forty dolls.
enough, & more, to finish pay-
ing up for repairs on the Church.
It was fine weather & they had a good
social time but did not receive
as much money as they did last
year. I am sawing wood when
the weather & other things allow.
I have sawed only 2 cords of the
eight as yet. I make haste slowly
- last year I finished March 8th

but I shall be much later this
year; I want to get this, & some
other jobs, done before May so that
I can start for Iowa, if it shall
seem best for me to go when the time
comes. Does Isaac want to finish
out his western explorations, I
should like to have him along - espe-
cially if I have to go alone. There
is no law against his writing me
a line about it, or upon other
matters, if he prefers.

We have good sleighing now - the
great rain Friday has been fol-
lowed by a snow to cover up the
rough ice and the travelling
is now good. Teams are moving

lively. for winter's work hangs on
and the Almanack shows us
that Spring is just ahead.
How does Mr Shaw's work & health
prosper & how do you all do? It
is a bad time here for colds but
we are having them lightly.

God is good to us & takes care of us with
wonderful forbearance. We are very
unprofitable servants, if servants
at all. We have good preaching but
nothing encouraging in our meetings
so far as I can judge. It might be
worse with us, but it shod be a great
deal better. Our love to you & all
in your house & neighborhood and
town who take an interest in us.

Please write soon. C. B. Drake

Dated

Royalton Sept 30.

Dear Father,

Deanna's letter was duly received & we were very glad to hear again from Weybridge & about so many of our friends. It was just such a newsy letter as I like and the more the better. I had a letter from Solomon apologizing for not writing & merely wishing I would come to Iowa this Fall & but I wrote to him not to look for me until Spring as I should want a whole season before me. If I was

strong next April. I woud
try it. I have been busy
cutting raven & corn &
doing all sorts of jobs and
wife & Louisa worked so hard
the first week that both
got sick - (their extra work
was for the Meeting House)

I was cook & nurse for 2 or
3 days & then gave up in
part to Laura Lincoln
Louisa is so much better
that she has gone out to
night for the first time &
wife came out of her room
to day for the first time
since a week ago last

Monday. Wife had just such
an attack as she had before
& by over-work - she did
enough for a strong person.
I think they will soon be
well. I am as well as usual.
No frost here to kill anything.
Corn on the river is all cut
& is an average crop - on the
hills it will be ripe if the
frost keeps off as we hope.
Crops in Rozalton this year
are above the average
except apples - I do not mean
that corn will be up to the
average on the hills - but other
grains are above the average.

we have enough to make
us thankful & ought to
praise Him, who has ordered
the season in mercy.

Some are complaining of
rot among potatoes, but I
have seen nothing of it in
ours & hope it will not
spread. I am sorry Isaac
got a cold from the Fair,
hope he is over it by this time.

Fairs have been held in Bar-
nard & Lunenburg, & our Coun-
ty Fair has not come. I have
not attended. Please let us
hear from you again soon
Our love to you all - C. B. Drake