

Minneapolis Hertford County Dec^r 26th 1853.

Dear Cornelius,

Caroline and myself were more than gratified on the receipt of your letter sometime since announcing your safe return from California; an event we have long looked for with anxiety, not unmixed with solicitude for your safety. What a joyful meeting you must have had on your return; how well can I imagine the fervour of your Mother's embrace, as with heartfelt prayer she clasped you to her bosom - the hearty, joyous, greetings of your Father and Len - with the silent tears of gratitude to God, that I know flowed from the eyes of your grand father, when you took his hand, and told him who you were. How well to my mind can I picture it all - how well can I feel too your joy, in meeting with those so dear - for I too have had a Mother's smile and a Mother's love to greet me; and though years have passed since, crushing my hopes and hardening my heart with grief with sufferings and with sin, and though that Mother has long passed away, and I shall never more behold her - yet, the recollection of her virtues, her devotion, and her love, will be cherished and will brighten in my heart until that heart shall cease to beat.

Believe me Cornelius that this reunion, whatever may be your