

Farmington Ct March 28

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Mr Amos A. Phelps

Andover

Mass

W. B. Woodville
Farmington
March 28th 1838

Your Mother visited Mr Ely's family in Lindsbury three weeks since which was then and is now an afflicted family. To use Mr Ely's language "they are in the deep waters of affliction" Edwin has been sometime in a declining state and seems gradually going down to the gates of death. but is very much composed. Seth has come home from New York, in a very feeble situation and to appearance on the borders of Eternity. Physicians give but little encouragement of his recovery. — Edwin says, "say to friend Amos it is not in my heart to complain of God's past or present dealings with me — but greatly fear what will be my condition, hereafter, — that it will be an eternity of misery. — For four or five weeks have not enjoyed my mind as in months previous — have been offending the Lord and fear there is no repentance — have felt at times that it was hard to read the bible or even to try to pray. — and when attempted have feared can almost say that it has been blessing with the mouth but not inwardly. Pray for me that I may have a contrite heart and be kept from presumptuous sins. I be with you direct, and bless you" — signed Edwin & Ely

have written my Cousin word for word what he wrote. May you both be prepared eventually to meet in your heavenly Father's kingdom.

Our Bible Class in Lindsbury is in a very flourishing situation, — a great number belonging to it. I wish to know the particulars respecting your Mary W Woodbridge is with me here and requests a particular remembrance to you. We have a very pleasant visit here and are very agreeably entertained with a little book entitled "A visit for a week." Mary B has been absent ^{on a visit} but returned yesterday. She says I may say to you that she will attend to your directions about reading her bible.

The Family are all well excepting uncle Erastus who is in a declining state. He is attended with a serious cough and spends much of his time in reading. Aunt Chloe sends her particular respects. — I shall expect to hear from you soon. — Do not let me disappointed. — How is Sarah Ann — How long since you heard from her. — write all about it if you please. — I have filled my sheet you will perceive and must close Your affectionate cousin Parentless B.

Company at present, to pay off their demands. There is no money and of course no way to get along without one disappointment following another. And this is what delays Ennis's settlement with her ~~own~~ ~~attorney~~. He appears willing to do what is right if it were in his power.—at least he expresses this disposition. The fact seems to be, that the head men such as Hillhouse and Goodrich are putting off all creditors from one time to another so that no one knows what to depend upon.—The story now "hold up your spirits" is founded upon this, Goodrich has gone to New York and is coming home next week. Then all are going to be paid.—Thus much for Ennis. (yes and a little more.— His wife has a daughter three or four weeks old)

Now for Clough, who has gone to the west,— He staid about here all winter till his patience was quite exhausted.— The hopes of getting a settlement with Ennis proved wholly unsuccessful and the expectations of getting money here altogether useless.— He has gone with the intention of getting money of Mallory or Ennis' Company and then returning to pay his debts. ~~his~~ Your Mother has received two letters from him since he left with the assurance that he shall return about the middle of April.— No doubt he will come at the time appointed.—

Crastus has agreed to take the farm for this year and to continue in your mother's family altho the lease is not yet given.— He has now gone to Guilford with his mother on a visit — is expected home to morrow.

As it respects your bill you need not give yourself unnecessary anxiety about it. your Mother thinks she shall be able to meet it by the time it is wanted.— The first of May if you wish provided you write how much.— please to give directions.—

Farmington March 28th 1828

My dear Cousin,

As I am with your Mama on a visit, she has put the task upon me to answer your kind letter of the 15th. This I undertake conscious of the pleasure it may afford you of hearing from your Friends and also of my inability of writing anything interesting. But without any further apology I proceed to answer your enquiries respecting business. It is true your Mother had almost become impatient, and says had you deferred writing another week she should have given you a serious lecture upon the subject. — but now feels disposed to look over & neglects. It would indeed give her much pleasure if you could be with her to assist her in her business, but notwithstanding the difficulties attending her concerns she feels perfectly satisfied that you should be away. — She is very much gratified to hear of your spiritual prosperity and that you are ardently engaged with all holy things in building up Zion. While she realizes that she has parted with you for the sake of the gospel she is perfectly resigned that the Lord should dispose of you as he pleases. The language of her heart is if she is what she really professes to be — "Here Lord he is send him where thou pleasest."

As it respects her business withannis it remains thus far unsettled. — She gets a renewed promise from him every time she sees him and could get a note if necessary. She feels disposed to think as favorable of him as possible. From enquiry she finds that it is not in the power of the Canal