

New Bedford, Dec. 17, 1858.

My dearest Debra,

Am I not an
excellent correspondent? Han-
nah sits here, telling me it is
time I told you what they had
for supper at Mary Emerson's
wedding, and Mr. Mandell says
it is dangerous for me to put the
mouth or the year at present,
but notwithstanding all the
laugh at my expense, I have
boldly dated my letter Dec. 17,
1858, and although it is time
to go to bed now, I trust to finish
this interesting production before
the close of the year. Good night.

Sat. morning. I began writing
last evening on the principle
that now is the time to rejoin,
but how Mary Emerson looked,
and who was at the wedding,
&c., are known to you long be-
fore this time. Mary never
looked so well before, and
performed her part very
prettily, and nothing could
have been better arranged
than the crickets, which I men-
tion, as you shared the respon-
sibility of that part of the cere-
mony. The evening was very
pleasant, every body social
and happy, the rooms very
tastefully decorated, and all
things went as they should; but
poor Mrs. Emerson was sadly
tired the next few days. She
has been in once or twice

lately with Mary and
appears very bright and
happy - Mary ought however
to look well after her health,
and not have so many
colds - I don't think she will
stay much longer at the
Parker house, it is not home-
like enough to suit Mary.
Emily Weld spent a few days
with us before her return
home, and seemed quite to
enjoy her visit. I was very
glad to get your letter, although
I should have been much
more so to see you and your
sister Anne. I met Mr. Ricket-
son a few weeks ago, and he
told of your success with the
roof - I know you have been
busy, as you always are,

and I too have had a busy
autumn, or I should have
written to you long ago. I have
made one or two short visits
to Charlestown, but not long
enough to see any one hardly
but our own family, includ-
ing Ellen whom I went home
to meet. She varies consider-
ably, but does not suffer as
she did in the summer.
Hannah is, I think, much
better than when you were
here, although not fully re-
stored. She is more uniform-
ly cheerful, and often has
her old bright way of speak-
ing. Sophia came home about
the last of October, quite out
of health, owing to a cold
contracted while she was
in Ansonia, and probably to

7/2/58 attempting too much in
the way of travelling. She
is now however much better
so much so that we think it
safe enough for her to accept
an invitation from her aunt,
Mrs. Francis Hart, to make
her a visit in Brooklyn,
this winter. She expects to
go after Christmas and New
Year, to stay for a few weeks.
Mrs. Hart is lonely, very since
the death of her only child,
a little boy of eight years, &
Sophie goes "to be company
for her." She is anticipating
much pleasure in her visit
and I hope she will confer
equal pleasure on the friends
she is to see. Mrs. Debra Long-
don is keeping house in Brook-
lyn with Charles & Charlotte,

and some others as boarders,
so that Sophy will find
several relatives to see -

What shall I tell you
about New Bedford people. It
is so long since I have written
that all news must be stale.
Do you know how ill Mrs.
Saml. Rodman has been, and
that she is well again com-
paratively? She rode out
yesterday for the first time,
and it did her good - She
is very happy in Ellen's en-
gagement to Horatio Hathaway.
I saw her yesterday in one
of my long, old fashioned
calls. Mrs. Eddy and Ella
are spending the winter
at Miss Tallman's, and will
not keep house until

Willie's return.

Mr. Everett is coming to New Bedford next Thursday to give his charity address in behalf of the Orphan's Home, and I hope, for the cause, that he will have a full house.

I wish we could be with you at your jubilee, but do not think it will be possible. The longer I live the more I congratulate you on your freedom from faith, and the more I wish the slaves were free from their fetters. Wishes are not very potent without works to accompany them. I have made the wishes, and left you the works.

This scrawl is interrupted, quite fortunately for you,

by visitors. Pray do not
imitate my example in
delaying but brighten my
faculties by one of your
letters, and I will be a more
prompt correspondent -

With much love the Saints
abroad and the saints at
home,
Your ever affectionate

A. C. Mansell.