

I don't think this letter to warn them not knowing when you are but appearing the O. B. be there to whom I and the afflictions of a daily wounded heart

yet I hope there is still a few that sigh and cry for the desolation of our Zion, the Lord seems to be trying us. on the one hand we see Death, lioning our numbers, and on the other, two or three mercy drops, cheering our hearts. like some lonely flowers in the desert, and even now, he is taking away our young men suddenly, and by a meteoric and affecting providence, warning all the living of the uncertainty of life, and the necessity of preparing for a sudden coming of the Lord, this week has been a solemn one to some of us, last Saturday evening, Joseph Proctor having closed his days work, at Mr. Shepherds Paper Mill, where he had recently gone to supply the place of his father, who died the first of Sept. I was accidentally entangled in a band, which caught him up and cutted him over the shaft, taking one leg off below the knee, and crushing his thigh in the most shocking manner, his hip & ribs were also broken, he survived 36 hours, and blessed God, it was a space for repentance, he died praising God, & warninging all to prepare to die, again while the bell rung but just ceased to vibrate on the ^{ear}, the last sad farewell, another of our young men, Mr. Thomas Tread was summoned to appear before his judge, being confined from his labour but five days, & heal again, the mercy of God was manifest giving him repentance and faith, at the eleven hours, thus judgment and mercy are mingled together, and we are led to adore that Sovereign mercy of God, which is exercised in the salvation of sinful men, these two young men were of exemplary habits, they had been formerly members of the Sabbath school, & were both thoughtful at the time of our revival, whether these providences will awaken Christians, to more vigorous effort for the salvation of sinners, and alarm the careless, and lead them to fly from the wrath to come, time alone will determine, I do hope, that some of our Church are beginning to awake to more humble prayer, and effort, Dea Moore has been tried with sickness in his family, his daughter had a fever and was brought near the grave, her health is restored in part, but she is in a state of derangement, has not intill quite lately permitted her father, or mother, to be in her presence, but is now reconciled to have her father take some care of her, but I must close these melancholy details, but were you here, I could unburden all my soul, I much wish to see you and your dear partners, but that may never be, and if this should ever find you, write a few lines if you may be consulted to your affliction, the unworthy servant
Elijah Sells

upon us, but it was of short duration, and it was
evident she was ^{fast} sinking, and about one o'clock
in the morning ^{of the 23rd} I was called to see the work of death
accomplished, she sunk ⁱⁿ restles for an hour or more,
after which she lay composed, and breathing became
shorter, then she continued untill eleven o'clock,
when breathing ceased, and the spirit left its ten-
ement of clay, no groans or sighs nor struggles, so
much as to move a finger, but like the taper which
burns fainter & fainter, untill the very last spark is
extinguished, she passed the portal whence we all
must soon follow, but dear sir I can go no
further, I cannot describe my own sensations, and
I think I may safely say, that you can never
know them, unless called to experience the same
bereavement, oh there is a void in every place
where I turn myself, yet I feel that I have
an almighty arm that supports me, or I should
sink under the ^{weight} applications that I suffer, I had
just got up from a fever, and rode as far as
Mr Coriney, when Mr Titth was taken sick, but
I took cold a few day before she died, which brought
me again to my bed, but the Lord has seen fit
to spare me untill the present time, and I
have nearly recovered my health again, tho
I am somewhat weak, at the same time,
Elyah was confined with the same fever, but
he is perfectly recovered, and we enjoy pretty
good health as a family, excepting colds,
thus the Lord has seen fit to deal with me,
and I wish not to complain, for his mercy
is great, he gave me a great blessing, &
he has a gain taken what he gave, I trust
every mourning sigh, and say his will
be done, oh had you been my minister then
I think you would have been doubly prized,
for I should have had a friend in need
who would I think have visited me more
thurs twice, during three months sickness,
but alas! we have to mourn the desolations of Zion,
her walls are broken down, and her ruins seem
to spread, the church have become disheartened, our
prayer meetings almost extinct, while the enemy is
pouring in like a torrent, and there is none to stop the
breaches,

Hopkinton December 12th 1834

Ever dear Mr Phelps, I have taken my pen to put a few thoughts on paper addressed to you, not knowing where or where they may find you, and it is with a bleeding heart that I write, for my best earthly friend and treasure is removed, and I am left to mourn a loss that can never be replaced, no doubt you have been ever this informed of ^{the death of} dear Mrs Titcomb, which took place on the 23rd of Sept last, after a sickness of 23 days, you may wish to know something of ^{the} circumstances I will relate some of them, but it will be only a part, she was unwell on Monday ^{the 1st of Sept} tried to write at night, but did not much, and ^{soon} quite sick, I tried to persuade her to have a doctor, but she was unwilling, as Dr Burkle's who was her doctor was at Providence commenced month, and did not get back until Thursday. when a fever had become settled, and all that could be done for her was unavailing, her fever had a run, but on the 9th & 11 she was more comfortable, and we were much encouraged, the fever seemed to abate, but on the 12th she became very sleepy, yet this did not alarm us, the doctor ^{thought} that nature having been exhausted was recovering itself, but on the 13th a swelling was discovered on the lower part of the jaw, toward the ear and her throat had become so sore that she could swallow nothing but liquid, and she could hardly articulate a word, we endeavored to bring the sore forward as fast as possible, but it was not until the 21st that it was matured so as to be opened and the day before matter was found in her ear, and it appeared that there were a number of cavities containing matter, and most probably there was a deposit on, or near the brain, which caused insensibility to pain or distress, for when asked if she was in pain or distress, ^{she} would answer no, yet she appeared to have her reason, always answering as well as she could articulate correctly, to questions that were put her, after the sore was opened she swallow'd some bitter, and again some hope gleamed

Elijah Fitch

Hopkinton Mass
Dec 24

Hopkinton

Dec. 12. 1835.

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Rev Amos A Phelps

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Farmington
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Elijah Fitch

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Dec. 12. 1835.