



Wisconsin territorial letters--1843. Box 1

Folder 7

[s.l.]: [s.n.], [s.d.]

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Panorilla March 12th 1843

Dear Cousin: When I parted with you last fall I promised I would write you a letter soon after my arrival, but negligence & the lack any thing of importance to write has prevented me from addressing you until the present time. The same lack of news still exists; but thinking you might be glad to hear from your old friend & being myself desirous of hearing from you, I have sat down to fulfill my promise, not doubting that my communication will be gladly received & duly answered.

My health has been good since I left you with the exception of a slight interruption the first week after my arrival. Father's family are usually well & tolerably contented, much more so than I expected they would be. There was some complaining, at first, about living in a loghouse & an occasional sigh breathes for friends and mirthless left-behind, but of late they seem more resigned to their fate. Linda says she is homesick. But this I am inclined to doubt from the fact, that she does not exhibit any of the symptoms of a person under the influence of so dreadful a malady. This disorder usually causes a loss of flesh. But in her case it has had a contrary effect for she is more fleshy than she ever was before. I have been engaged a new kind of business this winter practicing one of the arts, not one of the fine arts I would not have you think nor is it one that is very well calculated to improve the mind, though it adds greatly to the muscular powers of the body. Though not a very agreeable art yet it is very useful & one that is very necessary to an inhabitant of a new country. Perhaps you are growing impatient to know what wonderful art is well I'll tell you in two words - splitting rails. Hard business say you! well your right it is, I have

been very poor health the trade I intended
last fall, to teach school this winter, but
the wages being low & dreading the care and perplexity
of a school, I ~~had~~^{then} concluded to work for
a living. I have often regretted this choice & wished
myself in a school, I think after this I shall
prefer teaching to work especially in the winter.
I would advise you, If you ever get sick of
teaching school, to go to work one winter; It
will not only cure you but prevent all future
attacks from of the same disorder. Benjamin
at that time since, received a letter from him
Rockwood by which ~~I~~ learn you have not
come to the west, or gone to Texas but are
engaged in teaching school in your own
district, make those young ones minor. I hope
you have got over your southern fever or in
other words your inclination to go to Texas.
Permit me to give you a little advice on this
subject, though I am aware it is contrary to
rules of good breeding to give advice unsolicited.
Well! My advice is that you postpone going
to Texas until you have committed some error
for which you will be obliged to quit the
country in order that your character may
agree with the majority of the inhabitants
of that country. Last fall, I saw a young man
about your age-a son of B. Felch, wh spent
the preceding winter in Texas. He represents
the ~~condition~~ social & moral condition of
the inhabitants as most deplorable. Thinks
going to Texas not a very funny notion. I hope
you will not get over your winter fever
until you have made one journey to this
country. May I not expect to see you out
her next summer? Just come out and spend

spend the summer here I think it would be
for your health. The expence is but small &
you will see the worth of your money & time

Oanda says, I wish late would come.

There is a gentleman living by the name
of Barker, lately from Aurora Erie Co., N.Y., who
says that a year & a half or two years ago he
~~read~~ ready an account of Talent Patching's death
in a newspaper. Thinks it was in a Buffalo paper
& copied from a ~~New Orleans~~ New Orleans
paper. Mr. B. & his wife say they both read the
account & that it said Talent Patching formerly
of Boston Erie Co., N.Y., & they also say that they
conversed about it at the time & are confident they
are not mistaken. When you have read this
you will know as much about the matter & do
I have no doubt myself of its correctness.

To day is Sabbath & we have been 3 miles to a little
log schoolhouse about seven by nine to attend meet-
ing where Eld R.S. Ensign preached. This of all
the days in the week is the most lonesome. It is then
that our folks think most of the engagements left
behind, & are led to contrast their present religious
privileges with those they formerly enjoyed. But I
think it will not be long before our privileges will
not be equal to those we enjoyed in our former
place of residence. We have had the most severe
winter I ever experienced, since the middle of Nov.
we have had good sleighing with the exception of
a few days in January when we had a thaw & the
only one we have had this winter. It is now the
12th day of March the sun shines bright but
it is so cold that it is impossible to be
any degree of comfort. The snow has not been
over a foot deep. This is said by the oldest settlers
to be the deepest snow they ever knew in this country.

OK

I had

I have been living at home since I came
here & expect to the coming summer and work
some for myself and some for father.

I want you to write to me as soon as you receive
this & give me a history of matters as far as things since
I left. Let me know what all the young folks
are doing & what you are going to do next summer
I must close for want of words. Excuse all orthographi-
cal, phonological & Physiographical blunders,

Remember my compliments to all engrossing friends
to you folks & Grandmother & Grandfather Steiner
in particular, Yours with respect C. Cary

C. Cary,

Johnston, R. H. Jr.
March 16, 1843

Author Cary Esq

Boston Mass Co.

J. C. J.

Ms. A. 2.5

Racine March 12 1843

Long absent Brother it is very strange
that you have waited so long after so very
long being absent we have had a number of
papers from you But they don't talk like
letters George & wife left here last fall
& went to Janesville to my west But
they was here over visit when your letter
arrived whether they are going to settle in
Janesville I cannot say we think you
have thought about people long enough
to know you soon heard & learned nearly enough
to squat down in some Flourishing and
Healthy Place & keep cool. it appears that
you are yet in the state of simple blessedness
yet (the same here) But don't take pattern after
me get yourself a neat little wife and depend
upon me in my you will not regret it ~~because~~
think you would be well placed with the boy
of the land & looks of the inhabitants especially
the fair sex we have the pleasantest village in
Wisconsin situated on Lake Michigan at the
mouth of Root River it streams sufficiently
large enough for my craft that sails ⁱⁿ the
lakes we labor under some considerable
disadvantage for the want of Harbor which
we will get it after a while

Brother James is in China ^{If} ^{the} Village is cold
strenge our Parcny are usually well according to the
last account they getting done what do and
wonder why their children don't come home
After Marion is teaching school in Boston
this winter Silas is to work in the printing office
Isaac & Eliza were both married some time since
Probably you have heard all about it Eliza was
married to Capt Thomas Holmes in Marshfield
while I was in the West Indies George's family
had two only no prospect of any addition
Our Village Number 800 inhabitants has doubled
within one year & the prospect is far to increase
in the same proportion from year to year
think you had better take a trip out here when
navigation opens and see our country perhaps
you will make up your mind to stop you
might do well at your trade in this village
there is no carriage maker of any account now
I spent nearly two years in officiaire had that
et full pleasure that we heard you had in Texas the
fewer & other the most of time I was there have
been here three years & enjoyed good health as I could
wish you had better pack up your traps & come here
soon as navigation opens & I will take a trip down
East with you that expect to hear from you soon as
convenient you in friendship B R Perkins



Lafayette October 31 the 1843

Dear Parents having an opportunity I thought that I would call in and see how you get along. After leaving Samuel and Julia at Oswego I got on board a steam boat and went to Rochester where I arrived soon after sunrise where I staid till half past ten o'clock from thence I proceeded in the cars to Buffalo where I arrived about sunset. I spent the Sabbath in Buffalo Sabbath evening at eight o'clock I went on board a steamboat bound for Chago and after a pleasant voyage of five days I landed at Racine a Friday evening Saturday evening I got to Elizas in good spirits and have been well ever since. My fare from Oswego to Carthage was one dollar from there to Rochester two shillings from there to Buffalo one dollar from there to Racine six dollars exclusive of board on my way up the boat stopped at the following places via Cleveland Detroit St Clair Presque Isle Macinac Milwaukee and the next place was Racine I arrived at Elizas Saturday night the next day I attended Mr Harkness's funeral although my health has been good I have been surrounded with sickness and death there has been a number of deaths within a few miles of Elizas since I came here it has been quite sickly this fall more so than it was ever known to be before mostly the ague and fever owing it is supposed to a freshet they had the forepart of June the water fell to in something less than twenty four hours so that places where is no water now then it was so deep that boys with ease could bathe in it in hollows that is now dry they tell me that the water was from three to four feet deep then it came of very dry and remained so through the season so that the potatoe crop is very light corn and oats is very light a great deal of the corn rotted in the ground wheat came in very good since I have been here it has been sold from four to five shillings per bushel it is now worth fifty cents to the bushel. I have taken some notice of things and made some enquiry respecting the country and have come to the conclusion that a man can get a living some easier here than in the neighborhood where you live though I think that a person can live with a little less labor i do not think there is so great a difference as has been represented excepting the land is not to be cleared for on the prairies

there is no clearing to be done and in the openings they sow wheat and it grows well among the timber only girdle the trees I have made some enquiry as to the number of bushels of wheat that grow to the acre some will say that the average crop is from twenty to thirty bushels others about fifteen bushels to the acre. But let us ~~man~~ much wheat grow to the acre as this does one thing is certain if I am to judge from present appearances that it is in vain for a person to think of getting rid of cold weather ^{in coming time} for the ground is ~~so~~ so frozen that it impossible to plow and they tell me that the snow fell the ninth of November ^{last fall} and never left them till sometime in April thus you see that they had a long winter in this as well as the eastern country and it is my opinion that they have to fodder their cattle about as early here as they do there for if cattle are not foddered ^{now} I think they should be for the frost has killed the grass on the prairie and it is probable that they will soon be burnt over. I have not found a place for the winter yet for it is rather hard to hire out to work by the month through the winter season though I have not hired out for the winter I have worked about a month and have earned eleven dollars and shall work some more either by the month or ~~chapp~~ chopping some cordwood. I have been living for most a month past at ~~a~~ ^{the} Mr. Harkness helping keep bachelors hall during which time I have made it my home at Elias. Elias's people are all well and Nelson's family is well ~~though~~ he has not purchased a farm yet for he has been writing for Mr. Flampton to come home he left here about the first of September and has not returned yet. The rest of the people that came from there are all well as far as I know. Major has hired to a farmer this winter for ten dollars a month. Henry is to work at his trade. Russel is doing well. Hannah Bulis has had the fever and ague but has got over it ~~now~~. I want you to write me how Samuel got home from Oswego whether he was sick or not and how David and Julia liked the looks of Oswego with me what the weather has been and what it is now for I got up this morning the first of Nov and the snow was four or five inches deep with how much corn you had and ^{how} your potatoes came in and what the price of wheat is give my respects ^{to} Tijers folks and Samuel and Mary tell Mary Jane and Marinda that uncle Lucian has not forgotten them tell Rufus that he must be a good boy give my respects to all that may enquire about me tell Mr Spencer that I am much

to him for the paper that he gave me and for the lesson that it contains
I want to know who there is on the circuit this year if Mr Richards give my
respects to him write what an effect the excitement that was made respecting the
second advent had and especially especially those that made a profusion during
the meeting. I was not sea sick any neither have I been home sick since I have
been here though I wander on a far distant shore in a land of strangers
I have found friends or those that appear friendly I have attended mee-
ting every sunday since I have been here and I enjoy the presence of the
Savior here the same as I did there for there is the same God to go to
as there was there the same throne of grace to address the same spirit to
comfort and I find that the children of God speak of the same joys and
comforts that they do there and though we are seperated here for a
while remember that we are traveling to the same country and if we
should never meet again this side the spirit will let us so
live that we may at last ~~we~~ meet in Heaven.

I want you to give yourselves no ~~worry~~ uneasiness about me for I
have been well and contented since I have ^{but} here and I think that
there is a chance for me to do well though government land is not
very plenty there is some second handed land that can be bought.
I want to know if Samuel has or is like to sell and if he has or
does whether he is coming here or not and if he should whether
Julia or William will come with him I think if he should
sell considering the price of lands that it would be as well or better
to come here than to stay there for improved land can be got for
ten dollars per acre. I think if I should not hire out to work by
month this winter I think some of going to school if they will let
me if I could get a place to do chores for my board. Write whether
William lives at home this winter or not you must not think
because I have not written before that I have forgotten you for I have
not I should like to see you all and I should like it very much if
Mr William and the girls was here that they might attend singing
school for they are going to have one if they get enough singed.

I guess that I have made a pretty good visit so I must bid you good
by for uncle Sam says that it would take a good while to all that is
in Wisconsin. direct your letters to franklin post office spring prairie Waukesha

County Wisconsin Territory

David Enos

Your affectionate Son Lucian B Enos

OK

S.
B. Bruey

Mr. David Enry

Alaska Camp Company

1/2

Enry

Alaska Camp Company

85
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Milwaukee April May 6th 1843

Dear Father

We are boarding now in a private family & pay 25 Dollars month for board & room I think
of boarding with Mr. Hattie this summer I have not seen him since he is well and doing well

Yours of April 19th I recd this evening I have just come home from the office and now sit myself down to answer your letter I think the letter before me is the first one I have recd from you since last summer I had supposed you were done writing me I was indeed gratified to hear from you at this time and that you were in good health I have often thought of you during those past severe winter - and feared you would be afflicted with your old complaints You write me that you have had a severe winter - we too have had a very severe winter - more so than for eighteen years past - (We say the Indians) Our Lakes are open, of course, and small vessels are coasting - but we have had no steamboat arrival yet - we are expecting one from Buffalo every day The great Boat Illinois left this place two weeks since for Buffalo - but we have not heard whether she reached there or not - she wintered at Milwaukee We have learned of small vessels coming in and going out largely in Lumber First after learning that we are all well - you wish to know what we are doing I came to this place last fall - on my arrival I purchased a block of city lots eighteen in number In January I entered into a copartnership with a Dr Heath who came to this place as one of its oldest settlers Dr H - is a man forty years old - a very quiet unassuming man of a good Physician - a very bad collector & has no faculty of getting business or husbanding it I have the whole sum under control of the books and co offices He is just the right kind of a man for my partner We have charged between seven and eight hundred Dollars since the 25th of Jan

The business is a mixture of good and bad — our population
is a floating one — though I am not much the loser
by that. Well now for my other affairs I gave for my lots two hundred
and seventy five Dollars this spring I took it at my word to build —
something and set myself about looking out workmen lumber
etc well I found I could sell my lots for work of all kinds
and some materials for sixty eighty dollars each (they cost one thirty)
Well I found at that rate I had lots enough to come to about
seven hundred Dollars which would be all the work I should
want to build two brick houses. Besides the seven hundred
in work I had one thousand one in cash in different
parts of the Territory which is to be paid me at different times
between now and Sept. Then finally concluded to build
a two and half story tenement brick house forty four
feet in front by thirty deep — nothing ^{else} ~~else~~ house twenty two wide
and thirty deep Each house has two parlors on the
low floor above the basement with folding doors — the
rooms of the same are on the second floor and nine
three bedrooms Then a Kitchen and cellar in the basement
I have contracted for my brick to be delivered for three and a
half per thousand Our brick here are of a white color
The clay is like pipe clay I can rent the houses that
I am building for two hundred cash I think I can
get through with them — if I can't get through without money
in debt I shall hold on till I can enough I shall
go as far as I can and then stop Then I get them done
they will be splendid property and will be a lasting
income I intend that the rest of me off them shall
go to you

which will make you comfortable as to many matters
I do not know when I shall finish them But I am
every day coming something towards finishing them I can
sell them after they are done or leave them - the rent there
will be quite a little income With regard to the Smith debt I had
intended to send the money myself this spring - until I concluded to
build I am going to start tomorrow morning for the Mississippi country
to collect some four or five hundred dollars that is due me there I
shall see Ben and we will make some arrangement about it
The tour that I am about to make would be thought to be a long one in
mean I shall go west two hundred miles I understand Ben's wife
is going east this month May will not go till Sys Martin arrived
him yesterday from Green Bay - left Ensign and wife well - they
are boarding in their father's family Martin is going east after his wife
With a view to selling the old farm There always advocated the idea
that it would be easier for you to have a different place

If you can snap up some one that has good buildings & a
small farm, you had better do so I do not mean that you shall depend
entirely on the resources of your farm for a living I shall occasionally
send you four Dollars this summer - and were I not building I should
do more - but my building will not make you the poorer I shall
write to George and John - I think they are both on the right track
now They ^{must} come out well - It is no place for them I wish
you to hold on to that colt - keep her for your own use until I
go east If we send you the balance due on the Smith concern you had
better give 137 Eastonwa Dsd of the farms & take back a
State or States running to me or some kind of an instrument to show
how it stands Do not sell to me till I tell you to I shall write
again soon and in the mean time I wish you to consider this

The following is a Recipe which I have written for S Peter
Please hand it to them and let them send it to the drug store
get the medicine and give him a tea spoonful
every hour or two day and night
Let this recipe be copied and and *Pt*
as kept I rec'd a letter from John
last night I shall answer it as soon as I
return from the west

E T Johnson

Six Opi - 3 1/2
Tonic Balsam - 1
Tonic Rhe - 1
Tonic Sanguine - 1
Tonic Lymph - 1/2

M.



David

I should write to Stiths to day but I have not time. Write you
to tell him to get some yellow dock - steep it - drink it and brush
in it every day for months and it will cure her. Tell her not to fail
to do so. She must persevere in its use. Frank must use it in the same
way and if she persists in its use she will be cured. Tell her not to
neglect it because I presented it. If it is not far fetched enough I
will get some big men to present the same. I have cured
three or four of the same disease within the past year. They must
not eat meat during the course of medicine and they must persevere

Mr. Brown had 3 rows of vines which were all trained up the fence posts. The vines were trained in much the same way as those from Mr. Ladd's farm. Oct 15, 1843

Dear Brother George All recognize
you may be worth many

I am to day deprived the privilege
of attending meeting on account of ill health, I
should not think that I was able to write if
Orion was here but he is not, therefore with
my hand on my side I under take not the task
but the unspeakable pleasure of concurring
with (I had like'd to ^{have} said) far distant Parents & brother
and sister but my heart is to full therefore I
will proceed with out further comment

my brother G. C.
do you really feel justified in excusing your self
in the way you do for not writing to us do you
think that this is doing as you would be done by if
So I have no more to say, I know well know that I have
had more favors from my friend than I deserve, I know
you all have your cares and trials to encounter, I know
further more that we have caused you all anxiety and
trouble, but when I sit down way off here in Wisconsin
and think this all over, and think that I have no
relative this side the big waters of Lakes Erie and
others I am not sorry but glad from the very core
of my heart that they are where they are, but still
I cannot help watching the mail and neither can I
help thinking, perhaps they will write sooner
I received your two ~~two~~ ² letters of July 13 & 21 last
Thursday which was like cold water to a thirty
soul, Orson as I said before was not here, he has not
been here for 3 Sabbath ^{fort} he is now at ^{at} their son
on Rock River to work for ~~his~~ Master the Lord
and what his hands find to do he does with his
might he is never idle, my health was a little
better when he left but has been growing worse
since, I have now a hard cough together with my
lame side and sore mouth which makes me some
times think it doubtful whether we meet again
this side the grave, I have not thought it here to let
you know the true state of my health before ~~but~~
because Orson says that I am home sick but this
is not the case for I think that if it is his duty
to stay here I am willing to stay, still I am thoroughly
convinced that ^{the climate} it is very injurious to my
health to stay ~~the~~ ^{the} west as we think it
is a healthy country there are now a great many sick with
the chil fever fevers and ague and the winter setting ^{every} also the

or ever has been here since I began them, but he is in such
hurry he could not stop to read what I had written but said
I must finish it as soon as I could and send it mother said if
we got any thing we must take her seal but would be glad
of such an one every week do be carefull of your poor eyes don't do any
work to hard or long & I should be of the privilege of come
see you & my dearest mother, her hair and doing up her cap as if I could get the
paper for father or make grandmas bed for her, Mrs Clinton
has cut a nice history for a case for grandpa he is going to put
a deer's horn on it and send it to him. Well Father please to
send some of his poetry, we have sung all that we have got
over for an evenings set down so till we have it by heart if he has



Jay. Essex. County
G. G. Otley. P. O. M.
FREE

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4

and was much pleased to have you in the audience before the end of the
evening. I hope you will be able to get to see it again. It is a
very fine play, and I am sure you will like it. I hope you will be
able to get to see it again. It is a very fine play, and I am sure you will like it.

and up in a bridge we set up and have left
the main current in right for lower up
the river or creek this is sisy line

do tell when you write what you have got now and what you
are going to have for the next meal, whether you have any
apples, Yester I have not seen but one deer since I came here or
that was a tame one

8581 Oct 12th we have had 3 snow storms weather same as all I never knew as much unpleasant weather in one year as they have been here since I have been there there are a plenty peaple here

Harriet M has been threatened with the ague all summer but has not yet got it I expect her here to bright to stay a week she has not lived with us but 4 weeks since we left York & slate sis is with me her health good except weak eyes this is a general complaint here I left writing to get some milk and she took the pen and filled ^{out} the line I asked her what she was doing & she said nothing mischievous only sitting to uncle dills she often works herself back carts she packs her baby dolls and stores for the last often lids us good by with a promise to bring us apples when she comes back from campus

as to the weather it is cold raw and unpleasant the snow still remains
the time we had snow twice a week ago

* Clark this is not good Grammar but seeing you can't spell running I think you
can understand it.

Mr Tomlinson passed through & will village but we knew nothing of it until he was gone also our master I expect he

we have learned a great many stories. Pay pretty hours and times to ring to you if we should ever come back.

Well Petey if you have concluded to take a paper
or box, go it but look well to your wife's mind they
won't get worse, be good to Father Mother and grand pa

One fine day:

— Geschichtsverein —

8481 '97 Long ago I wrote you many letters
Tell cousin Anna, & do not forget yourselves, where I am - I shall write soon
Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin Territory - (Let you or Franklin know what papers I want. C -
Do not cease to pray for the one so far away.
My health is now good, tho' I took a cold while at the Lake.

On landing my baggage at a Temperance House, I learned that the cars for Niagara Falls would leave immediately. I hastened aboard & rode down - 22 miles - to gaze for the first time on that stupendous work of God. Such has so long been one of the wonders of this little world. I found myself at the Falls in an hour or two, among a large number of visitors, whose errand was the same, but all entire strangers to me. A parent, a brother, sister, or some old friend with whom I could enjoy the view, would have added much to my happiness: but as it was, I could not be lonely: no man, who has a soul to be moved by the great Creator's glorious works, can be lonely at Niagara Falls. You will all recollect, in the descriptions of the Falls which you have read, the mention of Goat Island. It is an island in the middle of the river, a large part of which is heavily wooded. From this island I viewed the wonder of waters. The breaking, dashing, & foaming of the Grand Rapids for $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile above - the perpendicular fall of 150 feet in unbroken sheets on both sides of the island - & the waters gliding away in a gentle ripple below - together with the rising mist & the arched rainbow suspended in it - form, all together, a union of thrilling grandeur, awful sublimity, & picturesque beauty, which fills the soul of the beholder with emotions far beyond the power of language to express. He feels like uncovering his head with solemn reverence before his Maker, whose awful presence he ~~is~~ is conscious. In that broad deep channel roll the waters of the great inland seas of North America, ^{from} hundreds of miles above, hitherto undisturbed in their course, but here, they reel & stagger - then plunge madly down the precipice as if they would pierce to the earth's very centre, & make her foundation shake.

I have many things to say about the voyage, but have already wearied you with my story. I must hasten. Perhaps I should not say as much as I have to any other person, but I know I remember with gratitude the sympathy I find in the minds of dear parents. It must suffice to say - we touched at Cleveland, Detroit, Mackinaw, Racine, Milwaukee, Southport, & landed at Chicago at 7 or 8 o'clock on Saturday morning Aug. 19th, in a little less than 5 days from Buffalo. Here, almost the first man who spoke to me inquired whether I would be taken to a Temperance House free of charge? Yes, said I. I was off with my baggage in five minutes: found a stage already posted off for Belvidere, went aboard, I landed at Belvidere about 10 o'clock on Saturday night, having come from Buffalo, a distance of 1124 miles between the Sabbath.

CCD

Mr. Benjamin W. Wood
Westminster-Place
Mass.

My Darling

Sat. 16th A.M.
Belvidere Ill.

At Belvidere I learned for the first time that Mr. Wright was detained at Hanover by sickness. I could not tell when he should be able to come on. Immediately after engaging me to take the school, he wrote to the people there informing them of it, as he said he should do. But before that letter was recd. at Belvidere, a young man, graduate of Cambridge College, had by his agent purchased the whole concern, building, land, &c all, paying for it \$455.00, which is the amount of debt then on the hands of the proprietors, for the school. This of course was much more advantageous in a pecuniary point of view, than the terms on which I should have taken the school. The young man proposes to embark his whole interest in the school, & make teaching his business for life. I hope he will succeed. - There was no blame, or fault, on the part of any of the parties concerned. The greatest wisdom could not have expected or foreseen such a termination of affairs. But there I was, not having had a suspicion, scarcely, of failure, until I arrived on the spot 1500 miles from home. However, I felt in the way of duty, & that Providence had guided me, I would continue

