

MSA529:9

Windsor, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> 1854

My Dear Sister

It is now time for me to try and scribble you a few lines in answer to your kind letter which I received the last day of last day of last month was very happy to hear that you was all in good health as this leaves us all at present with the exception of Colds that are very prevelant hear this winter the wether has bean very changable last Thursday it rained all day and night and most all day on Friday and it has taken most all the snow away the wether hear has bean quit modrat most of the time thare has three or four very Cold snaps this winter but not very lasting, It would be all most imposibal for me to give any account of what I have bean doing since I came back to Windsor but most that I have don for my self is to make up 50 yards of cottan cloth and some knitting and a fiew such things not worth mentioning I went down to Leeds A fortnight ago to day, had rather a stormy jurny Richard went with me it took us two days and a half to go had a very plesent visit tho very short seen all my friends that are thare now Uncle James Hargrave is all the Brother that Mother has in Inverness now and he is bound for the West in the Spring I was quit a stranger to them all as it will be 16 years in the spring sinc we parted It did not take us very long to renew acquaintance as I said my visit was short stoped from Wednesday untill Monday morning to return it was one of the most sevar coald days that thare has bean hear this winter snowed all the next day and on Wednesday was very plesent it was a very tirsom jurny the the distance is not very grat it is only about 180 miles from Windsor our horse was not very good we did not get back until Wednesday evening had we bean one day later we would have had bare ground to come on I must all redy have tireg you with my noncenc Richard would like much if you or James would have the kindness to senc him som red pepper seeds in the next letter you send me and a fiew tommato seeds as he could not get any hear last spring that would grow

if you ever see Joseph or Mary tell them that the people in Windsor would like to know whether tha are dead or alive or whither tha have forgotn us Windsor its as thare is not anyone had a letter sinc I left C.-- as for the question that you asked me in your letter it will esly be answerd Awhen I get married in C.--, you shall know it some time before it happens if I know it my self and if not you will excuse me as for my return in the I have not mad up my mind when I will yet but you have my ful permission to ask the person that you mentined perhaps tha can tell more then I can but one thing I do know that you must be patianc trye long ear this Mother Hellen and all the rest joyne me in kindest Love to James and Children not forgetting you it would give us all greet plesur if you could all come and see us this Summer writ soon and let me know how you all get along permit me to remain your ever sincear and loving tho unworthy M. J. Hope

MSA 529:1

New York Jan 18th 1856

My Dear Wife

I have had my walk down to the office to mail my letter to you, and now it is a quarter to 8. Lo – I have pointed my quill, and sat down to my usual pleasant occupation, writing to you. In the first place I will read over your letter and answer what I did not in the one just mailed. Mrs. Sherman told me that she supposed Frank & Lydia Smith were married by that time. It was the last match I should have dreamed of. I wonder how Lizzie likes it? But if he is suited, I am sure I am. I am dreadfull sorry your lilly blossom is gone so quick; I like them so much. Is the stalk hurt? Now as to that long Poem I am writing, I have sent you all the poetry I have written this winter, so I don't know what more you can ask; you see I take a walk nearly every evening, and write to you every evening, so I have no time to write poetry, it takes one a long time to write such long letters: so if I go to work on that, I must cut short on the length of the others. Now, as to Shep – it don't astonish me in the least, it is just what I always thought of him. And as to Mrs. Shep - & Eanos, I heard him tell a worse thing then that one evening in the Post Office. He said that there were some of the ladies one afternoon, talking about a couple that had just been married, and were wondering what should tempt them, under the circumstances, when a young lady present spoke up and said, "folks would act like fools some times to get their seed-ends together". He said he would not call any names but it was a verry prompt, respectable girl, one of the first families in the village, lived down near Mr Harrisses, just across the way. So the women must not make any special remarks before Enos unless they want every body to know it. O. it is such a beautifull evening the moon was shining so clear down through my skylight when I came in this evening & the stars are twinkling away up in the sky; and it don't freez verry hard, it has been verry pleasant for a few days back, to day it thawed some in the shade, it is just right winter weather now. O! I forgot to tell you I had a dish of fried onions for my supper when I went to the Post Office I stoped in to a Restaurat and had a park steak, but it was all bone, a dish of fried potatoes, the first I have eaten since I was up to Tarrytown in Nov, & a dish of fried onions, about two spoon fulls but they were not like the onions you fry, they were all mush, & scarcely any onion taste to them; & the potatoes were off the same piece, some quite sweet ones mixed in, but ther was plenty of slop on them, so I swallowed them down, & then got a cents worth of pea-nuts to eat on the way, and when I got to my room the first thing I did was to eat my usual quantity of bread & milk, so on the whole I have eaten quite a supper. Hewet told me to day, that when he got payed up he wanted to get some more pictures of me, he would give me work enough at least to buy my bread & butter. I tell you! There is a vast difference between my pitures now, and when I painted that, Old Forge. You know that was one of my best then, but is flat-flat & wooley, though it is a first-rate subject for a good picture. I wish you could see them together, you would be astonished. The only thing passable is the Old mill & bulk-head, the landscape is bad; but not so bad as several they had in the Academy last winter, painted by an Associate of the Academy, and all hung in very good lights – so much for partiality. Well I see it is nine, so I will read a few minuts & go to roost. Just see how long it takes me to write down one of these pages, & I have written much faster to night than usual, and if this was spread out on a whole sheet in the usual way, would make a good long letter.

Thursday eve 17<sup>th</sup>

This morning I went up to dun Levison, he owes me 17 dollars yet, but did not see him. On my way back I called on Hart. I presume he has near a hundred pictures unsold, most of the small ones, of course; and all his large ones are yet unsold, that he did this summer. His walls are covered with small pictures, and any quantity standing on the floor; & you can hardly go into a picture shop in the City without seeing some of his paintings. The first time I called on him when I came here, I asked him how business was? He said, "O nothing to brag of, & still we cant complain; I think you do about as well as any of us here." Now how he knew what I have done is more than I know, unless Levison told him what he knew about me, for Hart was never in my room before; but he had seen my pictures at Levisons for he appears to think considerable of Hart, but he has bought more of me than of him. So on the whole, I think I need not be discouraged; for all the papers have cracked him up so much, and don't me; if I had as many on hand as he has I certainly would be discouraged. I nevr asked him what he sold his pictures for, but I know what he used to get in Albany, and unless he has raised verry much, he don't get more than I can. He used to sell such a one as Dr Green's, frame and all for 65 & 70 dollars, but scarcely ever more than 65, & frame worth 15. His pictures don't look so well as they did to me the first time I called, he still sticks to his old stile more then I thought he did first; the effect of light & shade is generly good, but otherwise his pictures loose a little every visit. This has been a verry pleasant day, side-walks all wet, thaws a little this evening, or at least it dont freeze any. Had a letter from Saxe to day, I wish it had been from you.

Friday, 18<sup>th</sup>

Well on the whole I have done but a poor days work today, and in fact I have not done a decent one this week, but last night the onions which I eat the night before began to operate about dark, and although I did not have but two operations, I felt real bad, had a high fever when I went to bed, took a tryplex pill: woke up a dozen of times during the fore-part of the night, and dreamed all sorts of horrid dreams but towards daylight I got into a swet & felt better in the morning; went down once before light and once after breakfast; felt pretty shiftless all day, but feel better to night. Had a call from Mrs. Griswold to day. I have read all the evening, and I see it is 9 so I will go to bed for I must try & do something tomorow if I feel well.

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>

Well if it aint Saturday night again! And my stent I took a week ago not done yet, but I have done a tolerable days work to day, if I had done anything like as much the rest of the days this week my picture would have been all finished. I had a call from T. Addison Richards today, he brought me a sircular of the coming Exhibition, he is Secratary of the National Academy. The exhibition is to open the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. Pictures are to be received from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, none received after the 6<sup>th</sup> so you see I am down on my large wood scene; I must get the pictures done I have commenced, on account of money, that will take me, the best I can do, till the last of the first week in Feb. Then, if I come to see you, there is a week or more gone, and at the most wont leave me more than two weeks to begin & finish it. I could not more then do it if I did not come home, for I must not hurry one off now, as I did that Swamp, I must do my prettiest, if I do anything,

for I have something to contend with. I must not let Hart beat me on trees; if I only had an order for such a scene, I could commence it at once, and drop the others for the present, but that wont do now. But I feel as well as ever to night, so I will put into there and see how I am like to come out. If my boots did not leak or if I had rubbers I would take a walk to night, but the sidewalks I suppose are wet & I shall get my feet as wet as sop before I go ten rods. It has been a most beautiful day this, thawed by 9 this morning and the snow is getting pretty well settled in the streets, another week without doubt, and I hope the last end will taper off pretty small. I have not made a fire since morning till just as I sat down to write, it has been so pleasant and warm all day.

#### Sunday 20th

Well this morning I was up soon after nine, earley wa'nt it? Got a fire made, swept, eat breakfast, and sat down to read: red till noon, eat dinner and read again, and now it is a quarter of three, and I am tired of reading, so I thought I would write a while, but I have no news, and I don't know what to write about, for I have pretty much exhausted my stock of nonsense, in my long letters, but I see I must mend my pen, for it appears to have got an extra split since I last used it; I wrote to Saxe last night, in answer to his but I guess I shant go down to mail it till I am ready to carry this, which I suppose will be by Tuesday night, if it, don't storm It is a real cold day out of doors to day, freezes hard, so sun, but a cold gray snowey looking sky, and a Northwest wind. Sleighing I see is pretty much used up in Broadway; more carriages are out to day then sleighs. I hope it wont snow much more here this winter, for snow is is nothing but a nuicence, and is generly converted it into mud and slime in twenty four hours; it never gets trod down hard, but is either like loos sand, or mud. I feel as well as ever to day, and expect to take hold with a vengeance tomorow, if I am alive & well, to make up for my bad weeks work last week. There goes the fire bell, some body is taking a warming up this cold day – but I don't begrudge them their happiness; for I am comfortable enough. Now I can here the fire men coming hooting & hollering. But I never think of going to fires here as I used to in Montreal, it is generly half a days journey to get to one, if you should start it would be out by the time one could get there, so I have not seen even the smoke of one since I have been here this time: and then there are so many false alarms, it woul[d] be no fun atall to go three or four miles and not find anything after all. The other day a horse ran away in Bleeker St. it broke loose from the sleigh, and ran across Boadway, in crossing which it jumped over a large stage sleigh, that was passing at the time full of passengers and never touched one of them, but struck the other sid into a snow drift and fell over, so was caught. Now the sleigh that it went over was large enough to hold 40 or 50 persons, high on the sides and wide enough for 4 or 5 on a seat so on the whole it was a pretty fair leap. Well I see some of the fire men coming back so quick, so I guess they did not have much of a fire after all. And the Sun is trying to shine once in a while, but the cold clouds gets the upper hands of it, and it is not likely to do much today by the way of heating up; but the sidewalks are are nice & dry, that is one comfort to them that are out, and it is just cold enough to make their cheeks red. I just had a battle with four cockroaches, that owing to the change in the weather, had stuck their noses out of a crack in my coal-box to smell of the stove, I impaled one of them on the point of my jack knife, the rest fled, and finily as I was pulling him out, he got off the knife and made his escape to parts unknown. It don seem possible that two thirds of January is gone so quick, I cant realize

it no way, but it is, and how soon the other ten days will pass, just think only one more Sunday in this month. Did you have to move your potatoes that awful cold weather? Or did'nt they freeze? Aint you glad I got you that stove?, just think how much better it is then that old big one, to have in a room; or then the little one slipping about. Besides the comfort, I think the saving in wood will be concidrabable in the course of a winter. How I wish I was sitting toasting myself by the side of it this afternoon, instead of where I am, but there's no use in wishing, sometimes there is a sort of comfort in it I think, but it dont accomplish anything. I don't know what to do to crack my walnuts on today, my board which I used, belonged on my box & that being gone I have nothing left, but I must contrive up something if it was summer I would go and get a stone. But I cant find one now if I try.

Monday eve – 21<sup>st</sup> What a good letter I did have from you this morning Just as I was sitting down to work, and so unexpectedly too, for I had no idea of looking for one before tomorow afternoon. I had one from Mr. Fennell too at the same time he is much pleased with his frame & sent me back a dollar extra to pay me for my trouble: so I have a three dollar bill exactly that I can spare, which I send you, I wish it had been five. I also send you that order for Harvy, on Thurs when he gets the wood all drawn, you can give it to him, when you do, you must write your name across the back of it, for I shall write it payable to your order, be sure & put on, Mrs., for if you did not he would now know it was you. I have got his picture all done but the tall trees on the left, I think I can finish it tomorow. My Dear don't you know if I got crackers & raisons, I should eat all the rasons up at once & have nothing to finish the crackers with. Tell Douglas to mind his books & not look out for the teacher, he wont get punished if he tends to them as he should; Tell all three of them that if they do just as the teacher tells them to, & attend right their books & not get punished, I will get each of them a nice present, when school is out. But the one that gets punished wont get it. Don't you remember when we were down to the Dr Child Cathy said she had some rich relatives in N.Y. she was going to send to see my pictures when I got down there? I presume that was what she wanted my address for. I suppose I shall have to curtail my letters too, so you wont have to spend so much time reading them when you get on to those shirts, wont I? It is nothing but fun to write on the ruled lines only, for I have got to the bottom already. So good bye for the present & much love from your affectionate husband J. Hope

Castleton, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> 1856

My Dearest,

I shall not promise you much of a letter this time for I have had so much to do this week. I have had no time for writing. Henry has not been out of the house for a week. He has had a severe time with his teeth. That consequently, brought the care of things upon me, untill I have got it too, but not very bad. & Harvey came in to day, when he brought the wood, and he says he will fix something to cure us and bring it tomorrow. I dont feel much like writing. I wonder if I shall get letter to night. I hope I shall, for I think it would cure my teeth. I have this day finished all your shirts, but the bosoms. dont you think I have been smart? and I have done a good deal of mending in the shape of pants beside, for Douglass has had to wear his best ones to School while I could wash and mend his. They have been selling the contents of that tailor's Shop at auction. I wish you had been here to get you some clothes for things went very cheap. Well I did get the letter, for time and was'nt I glad and I am so glad you are going to paint a large piece for exhibition. I could not be reconciled not to have you exhibit one, and I certainly would if Hart advised me not to. of course he dont want you to have one any thing like his You certainly have great reason to think your future prospect is good. if it was not for debts you would not have any anxiety, but time will soon put all things right. But dont work too hard now remember, because it wont pay the cost. No doubt Hart would like to have you put in that small one, and then hang it out of sight. I suppose you are going to pay, for your frame with a picture are you not? I know you do work tremendous hard, now that are a fact. I wish I could see how poor you are living on bread and milk. (or water) and I do believe you send me all the money you get. I shall have enough to get your shirt bosoms and I had thought I must get Doug a pair of pants, but I have mended the old ones, and I can let him wear his Sunday ones occasionally, for he will out grow them, but I should like to make a pair before you come home if I can. You wont come now for 3 or 4 weeks yet, will you? I am not getting impatient, only I dont want to expect you every week, for 3 or 4, and not have you come fer that is cold comfort. Now did'nt I tell you if I should get a letter to night, it would cure me, and sure enough it has. I dont believe I shall have any tooth-ache in the morning. Now about that cloak There are too patterns worn here. One kind is mad with a yoke pointed on the shoulder (and some have a tassel on the point) and a loose sleeve which I think is very pretty, but this is rather last Winter style, but I like it better than this, which is a double circular. The ladies here gave Katy Child \$17 to get her one & she had hers a double circular. I have forgotten whether she got velvet or ladies cloth, but it is black I know. I think black looks best at all times. They can be bought ready made, for there is no great fit to them fer the yoke is large any way. I felt quite anxious for one, the first of Winter. Mrs Root & I called at Mr. Granger and Jane & Mrs. G. was making them some, and I enquired what they would cost, and she said the too. Cost \$13, and I thought if I was going to get any thing I would get one, for the cloth would make light Summer coats for the boys when I had done with it. Mrs R. said considerable to try to make me say I would get one & proposed to Mrs. G. to come with her and help me make it, but when I come to think of it all around, I thought if I had a cloak, I should want something else. You know if you begin and get one nice thing, then you need something else to match. now in respect to that pin, if it is a nice one, it wont correspond to put it in a linen coler exactly. Now I dont expect a cloak shall not be disappoint not to have one for I had rather wait longer, and have one a little better,

than to have one now that I dont like but any thing that suits you, will me, for I would not trust my judgment, to get a dress or any thing more than a common calico. O I forgot to tell you the cloacks are all short, look like something cut in too. I am very glad to hear that Mrs Child has a Daughter. I suppose they will feel very proud – I am very sorry you dont sleep as sound as you did at first. I am troubled sometimes about waking too earley, but I generally make a fire at 6 and lie about 20 minits – then get up, and washed by ½ past and call the rest up, so to get as much done before School, as I can. And a few times, I did not wake till the cars came along. then I did’nt wash. Now I dont know but you think I have painted the doors in the dining room, ever so nice, but I have’nt. I found it too much work to get them cleaned & beside, there is so much dust I thought they would look better to let them go till Spring, and then we shall need a general cleaning and can do it then. O! how I wish you was here, to rub my side, for it needs it. We had most a glorious sunset, tonight and I watched it for you. The weather is more mild but not warm enough to rain. My plants are growing finely – one rose in blossom - and I am trying to coax my lily to have another bud, but it looks so sory. I have not got all the marks of “Jacks” teeth off from it yet. – Now I dont think of much news. I have not been out of the house, or seen any one, and I expect you would rather get this, this week than have me wait to write more. I must send it tomorrow, or you wont get it till Monday. I will get some larger sheats and be writing so to have one ready for next week. I had sent that money to Griswold, for Harvey said he was going there this week but I shall not send any more till I get it to spare. this you sent to day will last me till you can get more as well or not. dont do without things yourself. good night & except much love. J. M. Hope

MSA 529:6

Castleton Jan /58

Mrs. Bingham, My Dear

O excuse me – 'tis queer

I forget the rules of propriety,

That last word I pen'd,

I fear might offend,

The sensitive ear of society

But when to a friend an epistle we send,

Our feeling must have their expression;

So I'll commence new.

Keeping caution in view;

And thus avoid future transgression

Since for auld Scotland rhyme, wi' its measure and chime,

You ha'e feelings akin to affection;

I'll tune up in that,

For a wee friendly chat –

As for it too, I ha'e predilection.

Dear Mrs B--, ho's a'the day,

I fear you've had an unco fray,

And near hand cowpit ower the brae,

In death's dark valley;

May rosy health resume its sway

Wi speedy rally

The sweetest rose maun ha'e its thorn,

There's glar-holes in the bonniest burn,--

E'en life maun hae its crooks and turns,

O'weal and woe;

An'ilka stane the hind ourturns

Has manks below.

But we maun tak' what Heaven sends,

Whether to weal or woe it tends

Well kenning that it oft forbends,

Frae something wour;

The mirkiest cloud that darkness kens

Aye hides a star.

May life's sair ills nae langer fear ye,

Its racking pains and spasms tear ye;--

But joy unfraught wi evil cheer ye,

Till life is doon;

And sister angels lightly bear ye,  
To realms aboov.

And noo I fain wad something tell,  
O' what has hapned to mysell;  
Or to the wife and bairns befell,  
But that you know"  
Wad be a hopless task to – well:  
I'll let it go.

But here I'd say, we've had our share,  
O' health and sickness, joy and care;  
Some times little sometimes mair  
Wi' blessing sent aye;  
But whether it blows foul or fair,  
We tak' it cantie

I've two three pictures, maybe four,  
Of small dimensions several more,  
As good as aught I've done before,  
And something better;  
If self conceit whiles topples o'er,  
Yet what's the matter.

The first's an August afternoon,  
Fra auld crag Wallace looking doon  
O'er meadows, burn, an dingle broon,  
And forest deep,  
And silver lake embattled round  
Wi' mountains steep.

The tane's a morning in September,  
The light, what poets wad call amber,  
High mountains which they grey mists clamber  
Like tatter'd sails—  
I ne'er hae seen sin' I remember  
A sweeter vale.

The ither,'s crags and earthy patches,  
Uptorn spruce, and fire-scath'd birches,  
Clouds, mist and spray, wi' sun-light catches  
On the wild mass.  
O'er trackless mountains Northward stretches  
The Hassian pass.

In ane, through clouds the sun-beams stream,

Trout-brook and forest lies between,  
Ben Avis crags high o'er them gleam,  
In Autumn dais;  
While Indian-Summer vailes the scene  
In dreamy haze.

The last, is, an October twilight,  
A wee bit thing, wi yellow skylight,  
Soft purple greys wi goldan highlight,  
Cott brook and pond  
As dream-like as the fire-fly-light  
In fairy land.—

But here I find my subject spun out,  
My jingling song is fairly sung out;  
The sheet o'paper well nigh done out  
So here I'll end;--  
Heaven bless you; till life's sand are run out.—  
Your sincere friend,  
J. Hope

MSA 529:1

Westfield, Jan 29<sup>th</sup>/59

Dear Husband,

Here I have been one week to day, or will be in a few hours, & it seems so strange to see every thing look so Spring like. no snow & the weather so mild. Addie does just enjoy herself to the full. Stearns said she told him it was almost as good as being home. The house stands back from the road as far as ours, only level, & she & Jessie walk down through the yard, nothing over them, & frequently out on the side-walk as far as the corner, & they are going up to the Academy to day at recess, & Jessie leave her there & take this to the office. She goes around about the same as at home, & she says she thinks every body knows her by this time. 4 or 5 of the neighbors have in to congratulate Addie because her mother had come, & to call on me, & said they were very glad for her, when they saw me get out of the Buss. I thought I could come here & people not know it except a few near ones, but Monday evening George came home from board meeting & said I should have lots of callers before long. So I have to get fixed up every day. I dont like it much. I just wish I was through here, & ready to go to you or dont you calculate to let me go there? I had almost got myself into a fix, for I had told any one that asked if I was going to N.Y. I said not before the last of this month, & did not calculate to let them know I was coming here. but after I was to take Jessie, then I said I was going to leave her here & go to you from here but the day I came away, Henry saw Caswell & he wanted the horse. & H- said he was using it to take me to the Depot & Caswell said you did not expect me there this Winter, for you had told him so only a few days before. So I dont know how they will make it out, & it is none of their business. I only wish I was there with you. It would not cost very much to keep me there & not much more to go than to go home. & I got the letter just as soon. Jessie saw a man on the street yesterday on a volosepede, & he tipped over. I dont think the boys will need much mony. I sent one dollar Monday, & Mrs Ellery will pay her milk bill soon one dollar more – they will need some lard & sugar to use up that lot of mince meat I left & if you wish – write to Douglas to bake you some pies to send. he can do it & Mrs. Streeter would fix a batch of cakes, & he could fry them, & send a small box. there is one I was going to send about half as large as the first. I hope you will get Addies frame here before long. I want them framed – before many people call. this picture of home looks so natural & good. I think Addie would paint now - if she had the chance, & George is very anxious to have her, & says any amount of mony needed for her to learn she can have. She has drawn a good many nice little things. I am very glad of the mony for it was so terribly cold that I put on that flannel shirt that I used to wear at the Glen & now I dare not take it off, & beside I have no short ones, so when this gets dirty & is washed, I must buy one, but I can wear this a week longer. About Greys sending the water, such weather as it was when I left, water could not be out long, without freezing & breaking the bottles, & he has as much as two men can do to bottle all the while. I hope you will be able to do something with him, & then Douglas can have something to do, for it is of no use for him to learn a trade. His boots were so bad, he went with wet feet all the time – snow melted on them, & kept them wet. I told him if Loveland wanted to use the horse enough to pay for a pair, he had better get them. It seems sometimes as though it would take a year to make up sleep he lost last Winter. If he is down street, he comes home about 8 & lies on the sofa & sleeps untill I am ready to go to bed, & not only one night, but every night. I have not heard

from home yet, am very anxious to hear how they get along. I will get a letter tomorrow I think. The money I have will last me some time. I think I will send one five dollars to mother. You know Douglas had to borrow 10 of her to get home with, & she had only three left. I could'nt save it to send before I came away. Well I must say good bye & love from all. J. M. Hope

New York Monday Eve March 21/59

My own Dear Wife

I suppose you received today the letter I mailed Friday Eve, and it is about time I was beginning another. I have written none for the last two or three evenings from the fact that I have got my mind so full of painting I could not get off till it would be so late that I had to hurry off to bed. I have nearly finished my Exhibition Picture, all but glazing, and I have got my mind full of experimenting in producing effects of light & shade I don't know whether I shall succeed or not, but if I do, I shall paint a picture that will astonish you. I got a 20 x 24 canvas this morning & rubbed in a sketch of Catskill falls for the first trial. This evening I got another 25 x 25 and sketched a wild Scottish ravine which I intend rubbing in, in the morning, so to have them both drying while I am finishing up my Exhibition picture. I can soon tell, after I commence re-painting whether I can produce the effect I have got in my skull or not, but I feel just as though I should. Now I don't know when I have succeeded on my large picture or not. I suppose I shan't know till I see how it turns out, in exhibition. But one thing I do know, I never painted anything that looked like sun light before. Mrs. Humphrey called on me this afternoon and after looking at it a few minutes she said it made her eyes ache to look at it, it is so bright. It certainly is a picture that they cannot kill, and one that will be seen unless they hang it clear up garret. Romanes prophesys great things about it, he thinks it a real success, but then he may be mistaken, and I have worked on it so steady & long I can't tell much about it. But I have effects in my head that I wish were worked out on canvas, I do. I wish you could see this picture by the side of that Rutland valley scene, that I painted from Bird Mountain & thought so much of, you can't imagine a greater contrast. There is as much difference as there is between live coals, and dead ones covered with ashes, but that will be a fine picture when I get the sunlight into it, and that study of the lower Saranac looks exactly like a moonlight by side this, if I should just paint a round white spot for the moon and leave all the rest as it is. But it may prove a failure after all. O what a disagreeable windy day yesterday was, and Saturday was most as bad, to day has been quite pleasant. I took tea with Romanes yesterday. And now while I think, I am as well as ever again.

Tuesday Eve Well I got up as usual this morning, after breakfast commenced glazing my pictures, and I believe pretty much put the finishing touches on it. still as it dries there will be something else I may see that wants doing. Now I really wish you could see it. I do wish very much you could. About 11 o'clock I thought I would go down street, get my check cashed, and call on one or two, so I did as I was going down I met an old Montreal acquaintance, had a few minutes chat with him. Then I met Bill Ward, he looks about as he used to do. Got my money. Then called on Hewet the engraver to see if I could get the rest of my pay of him (\$27.) for those little pictures, but he had got to Boston. Met Pepon, then called on the Tupper Lake man, to have him call & see my pictures this week, says he would with his son who would be down Thursday or Friday. Got back to my room about 2, found Eliza Child had been there, sorry I did not see her to find out whether Alonzo had got back. About 3 Romanes called, it was just commencing to rain and of course dark. he went off in extasies over my picture. while he was there Pepon called, he said I had made a great hit, Romanes declared it was the greatest effect of sun light ever painted by an American Artist. They are both going to call the first time

the sun shines, as the light will be twice as good then. now if every body would think as Romanes does there would be some sense in it. O if I only could have produced such a piece ten years ago, my fortune would have been made, but studying motion and the Dusseldorf gallery has made wonderful changes in the style of painting here in that time. But still it may be a hit and it may not. I am not going to set my heart on it till I see how it takes. But I do know that it represent as well as colors can, a golden sunset, at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the picture is flooded with light and every thing carefully painted. I slighted nothing, but I tell you I had to improve my time to get it along so fast and all the work there is on it. I wish some real good, disinterested Artist could see it before it leaves my room, for when a body is working steady over a piece it is hard to tell whether it is good or bad you know.

Wednesday 6 oclock. Well Dear I got your letter to day but I did not much expect it till tomorrow, but it was just as welcome I can assure you. I knew you would not get mine till Monday for the reason that you was one day later sending yours last week, so I did not get it till Friday. Then I mailed mine the same evening, but it would only get to Albany Saturday, it must be mailed here Thursday Eve to reach you Saturday, so you remember that. Yours I was mailed in Castleton Monday & I only got it to day. I will mail this to night & you will get it Friday. Henry had not better try to tap too many trees, as he will not be able to attend to them all, & it will take all the sugar to pay for the trees, if it dont run well. I have been painting on my Catskill piece to day and it will make a beautifull thing. I heard there was a sunset by Church & a sunrise by Gifford up the Artists Exhibition room in 10 St designed for the Academy, so I am going to run up in the morning to see them & compare notes. I hope I shant get discouraged. I am glad the children are getting well. I am as well as ever again, & sleep as warm as can be. I sleep much sounder than I did. So good bye my own dear. Love to all from your affectionate husband. J. Hope

New York April 14<sup>th</sup> 1859

My Dear Wife

I suppose you have received my letter by this time, if you are at home, and so it is time I commenced another, but if you are in Rutland and it rains anything like as hard there as it has all day here you will not be likely to get to Castleton tonight but you will be there sometime. It has rained here in torrents all day, and looks as if it would all night. I had quite a luxury for supper to night, I had a canker sore on my lip, & the salt beef did not exactly agree with it, so to night I got a pot of molasses to eat with my bread for a change. Last evening I spent at the Academy, but it rains so to night I hardly think I shall get up but perhaps I shall for I must have a walk rain or shine. The collection, taken as a whole is a good one, but there is not a study there that comes up to some I have done for truth, they are more effective & sunny but not halfe so natural. One great trouble I have always had in getting my pictures too dark. I am trying despirit hard now to remedy that, & I think I shall succeed. I think this picture I am doing for Romanes will be about right. I am painting it several shades lighter than the first one, which I ment to have light enough, but this will be a great improvement on it, as to clearness. if I can get that corrected I shall be well paid for staying here, if I do no more, it will make my pictures 200 per cent better than they were before at least. I wish you could see how lifeless it makes that morning scene look, I painted from Bird Mountain & thought so much of, why it's no where beside one of these, but I shall think as much of it as I ever when I bring it home & get it worked over, for it is a beautifull subject. The shadows on my Academy picture are darker than I wish they were, but not bad. I expect most of the Artists are down on it, as well as the hanging committee, but I dont think any the less of it for that, it is natural, but not as good as I could do directly from Nature probably. I am following suit with you now. I can go to bed ever so earley & sleep till 8 or 9 in the morning if I could afford the time to lie so long, it was so dark & raining this morning I lay till almost 8. I hate dreadfully to get up mornings I am so sleepy, only I am obliged to. Is Granger so he cant work? Poor old man, he wont stand it long if he goes to having fits. Well I think it dont rain so hard so I must go & walk to settle my supper so I may sleep sound. As to bad dreams, I never have any now, so they dont trouble me, but just think this month will be halfe gone tomorrow, and the last halfe will soon follow it. Good night, Dear! Good night!

Friday Eve. You cant think how glad I was when Guernsey called this morning with your letter & sugar & Mrs Jackman's parcel, all safe & sound. The sugar wont last long. I never saw anything go like it, it was sugared off the wrong time in the noon it is all gone but a little piece already. I thought first I would not send this till I got the answer to my last, but then in case it dont get here tomorrow, I finily thought I would. I expect to go to Tarrytown tomorrow afternoon & back Monday afternoon, so if it comes Monday I shall not probably get it answered till Tuesday. It is not likely I shall get home much before the first of May, not more than a day or two anyway. I shall try. If you have sent the answer to my last, when you get this, you need not answer this, as this is out of the regular course. so you will know when I will get your letter & when to go to Rutland. if you mailed one so I shall get it Monday night it will take two day to get to me & the same to go to you from the time of mailing. So you can gudge your selfe. I always mail an answer the same day I get yours. I am going to send the white dahlia bulb by Guerney so

you can put it to sprouting for it is to dry & warm a place here to keep long, that is, if it should come warm weather in any season. I am well & getting on finely with my painting to day. & it has been a beautifull day out of doors, but it will probably rain tomorrow. I have not time to count my clean shirts, but I think there are more clean ones than dirty ones, so I will not be out while I stay.

You seem to be changing inhabitants in Castleton or is'nt there any that takes the place of those that leave. I am glad that will not be so many young ones want to be ther. What is your bumble-bee society made of? Well I have eat my supper & now I will go to the office. It is not quite dark yet but I want to go up to the Academy after I come back seing it rained so I could not go last night. I said you need not answer this, but you may if you like, as the more letters I have from you the better. Good night & love to all & especely you. Your affectionate husband, J. Hope

New York, Friday eve April 22/59

My own Dear Wife,

It is almost night, and rains like fury, it has rained all day and all last night. after just 8 days of dry weather, I have painted but little to day. I worked a while in the morning & then went down to Childs office, as this is the day he comes to the City. He was not in, would be at 2. I next called at Hewet's he was out also, so I came back to my room, got dinner & went down again. met Child, & saw Hewet in his office said he would call at my room at halfe past three. I next called at the Office of Pomeroy & Son, the Tupper lake man, saw the old man, he said his son liked my paintings very much, but times were too hard & they had no money to spare for any. So that is settled just as I thought it would be. Came to my room & sat down to dry my legs by & by Hewet called, but of cours he had no money, nor could promise me any, said if he got any to spare in a few days he would bring it up, if he did not, to draw on him for the amount on the Castleton bank & he would certainly acknowledge it, the 25 of May so that is the best I can do with the skunk. If I get it then I shall be glad. I see nothing now to hinder me from getting home certainly by next Saturday if I am alive & well, it is not likely I shall get a job of that woman this Spring. It was so wet to day she could not call of cours, but I dont expect her. Then there is one other man I have heard of, there may be one chance in a hundred to get a job out of him. Child is to see him on Monday & have him call Tuesday if he has not bought some already. Then I will get my painting finished by Thursday easy enough & perhaps before. But I shall not have any money to buy any presents with, I dont expect. I am afraid I shall have to leave in debt & send it back. I have 60. to pay on insurance & 11 for Shermans frame & boxing & 7 for frames & Mrs Jackman's photographs, making in all 78, besides my living for a week & about 2 for materials which I shall have to get by Monday at least 5 more then moving & my fare home. Now I have in my pocket just \$35.25 & I expect 50 of Romanes making 85 in all to meet it, so you see with the strictest economy I shall have only two dollars to pay my fare home, unless I come off in debt. I was in hopes to have got my pay of Hewet & it would have done nicely then, but I am obliged to give that up for the present. But I know you will be just as glad to see me, & I hope the children will, as if I had money to buy what I wanted to, but I shant forget Jessies peanuts. My Academy picture of cours is dead for the present. I hope it may sell afterwards.

Saturday night. I received that letter from Brown this afternoon and answered it & carried it to the Office this evening. by your note that accompanied it, it appears that you had not received my letter I mailed Monday night, strange it had not reached you by Thursday morning. I thought it would & that I would have had the answer to night. O it rained all last night, & all this morning, and then the wind blew & the sun came out and again it clouded up about four and has rained most of the time since and is cold & windy. O dear it is time for me to go to bed. just think where I shall be next Saturday night if we are all alive & well. in your arms caus you know you've promised to take me in your arms, or just the same. O I wish I was there now. This will be a terrible long week. & how long it will be even to Monday morning.

Monday Eve.

And if you believe it, I have got my things washed up, eat supper, sat down to write, and it is not dark yet, but I quit work at six to night, for I was tired & it was so dull & cloudy I could scarcely see. I usuly work till ½ past 6. I received your dear good letter this morning earley, that you mailed Saturday. Go right over and tell Napen not to wait fussing about that 4 feet of land. I will give a deed to him just as well as to Root, it will make no kind of difference, if that is all the trouble between them. Yesterday morning I did not get up till almost 10. by the time I got breakfast and washed up it was noon. I went to Humphreys & eat dinner & supper, came back here at ½ past 8, went to bed at ¼ after 9 and slept till almost 8 this morning. I suppose you have got my last letter before this, if it has not gone all round Robin Hoods barn to get there. You need not answer this as I shall probably be at home before I should get it. I hope to get there before Saturday but I cant tell what day, as I may have to wait over a day for photographs, if I get any of Watson Child, “numb head” he promised when I was there last, to have at least two done, and he would be down with the Duegeareotyps himselfe during the week, but he neither came, nor sent them. I am going to drop him a line to night, to send them by Alonzo Wednesday if he intends to have them done atall, or send me word, if I should get them that day. it is so rainey it may delay printing. This leaves me in good health as I hope may find you all. Much love from your affectionate husband J. Hope

MSA 529:2

New York, Monday Eve [January] 22 or 3/60

My Dear Dear Wife

Your verry welcome letter was duly received this morning I did not expect to get one untill tomorow but was happily disapointed. I was so glad to here you were all in a fair way of recovery, for indeed I had felt verry anxious about you, particularly about Jessie. You must try to cheer her up all you can, for I should hate to have her come down again, poor little thing. I am sorry for her. I have got my room all in order and got to work. I hope I shall do well. I am going to finish up that brook study first. But it is so lonely to be away from you all that I can hardly stand it, but I must, there is no other way, so I will make the best of it and try to be content. I went over to Joneses yesterday afternoon, took dinner & tea, and stayed the evening. he has a number of boarders and one to be doctored, so he feels pretty well just now. I have not seen Saxe yet. Friday when I was out picking up things I went round the Bible-house but did not se his name out side, so I did not know where to look for him. Saturday Eve I wrote him a line but he would not get it till some time to day, or this evening. This morning I went over to the Bowrey to buy me a couple of chairs, so went round by way of 200 Mulbury St. (where he has his letters sent to) in hopes he might be in there, but he was not, but I will see him in a day or two. Do you know that you did not put those towels into my trunk, so the first day I dried me with a paintrag, and the second day I went over to Bowry and bought me 4 yds of crash at 8 cts per yd. a first rate piece and as hard & rough as any hair cloth, it almost takes the skin off, but it will be nice to rub a bodys back with. We have beautifull weather here as well as you. I made up a little fire this morning but it went out about 11 and I have not needed any since. I hope we shall have such all the rest of the Winter, it is so much pleasanter then cold is Mary Eaton sick yet? Or dont she believe it is hers? The reason she dont notice it, she has to nurce it, dont she? What do you think I did this morning? Well I cut off about 4 or 5 inches of my curls, every body loked at me so, I could not stand to go out. I dont think I fixed the ends quite so nice as you did, but I did as well as I could, and by keeping them well twisted they will do verry well. Do you know the morning I left when I found Jessie so sick and you so lame & stiff, I should have staid till next day if it had not been that I knew Miss Uhle expected to go with me from Saratoga so then I thought I would go, but I made up my mind that only for that I would stay over till Wednesday. Well the train that I would have gone down Wednesday (the 11 oclock Express) was run into near Singsing & the hind car smashed all to pieces and the next one some what broke. one at least killed and a good many badly hurt, and the passengers did not get into N.Y. till about 10 at night now I would have been verry apt to have been in the hind car for I generly do when I am alone so you see it might have been providential that I came the day I did. The train was stoped to fix something, and the other one came round a curve, at the rate of 40 miles an hour and ran into them, but good bye and love to all God bless you all, your affectionate husband, J. Hope

New York, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> 1860

My Dear Wife

I thought I would just commence my next letter while I was waiting for my fire to get burning, so I can leave the stove door open while I take my usual walk. I have just finished a good days work, got the whole of my extreem distance done, which occupys no small part of my picture, and I think the effect is fine. I had another search last night after those towels, and found three in the top of my trunk, under the shirts at the lower side. when I looke there before I did not take the shirts out, only pulled them forward, and not finding them anywhere else, I supposed they had got into the other carpet-bag that I partly packed, and then took the things out and left them in. I had an ugly night of it last night for all my soda crackers, but got through with the aid of ginger, so as this is Saturday night I have just laid in for medisn, so I guess I shant be troubled any more. I got some pills, a vile of Liquer Potasia, & a paper of musterd. I have just taken a dose of the Potasia and now I will take a walk, it is dreadfull sloppy out for it snowed part of the forenoon, and thawed ever since and then there was a little snow left from the other night. Well I have had my walk & it is almost 10 Oclock, and I suppose you are a bed and a sleep by this time. I wish I was with you. Just think three months yet before that can be if we are all alive & well & have any kind of luck. O I had a good visit from Miss Hotchkiss to day, she was out shopping & thought she would come a as far as this to see if I had come. it seemed good to see any body I ever knew before, she is looking as well as she did in the Fall.

Sunday afternoon ¼ past 3. Well I have just got my work done up ready to set down. I was awakened out of my morning's slumbers about halfe past nine this morning by some verry plaintive musick, so I sprang out of bed pulled on my clothes opened the blinds just as accompany of Hougarians were passing to bury one of their bretheren. Then I made a fire got something to eat, swept &c, washed up, put on a clean shirt, blacked my boots &c just as if I was at home. Then put on my first kettle of rasp-burys to stew by the time it was done & I had got ready for dinner it was 2 Oclock so I had an extra dinner with some saus to it. I rested beautifully last night, I suppose owing to the potash I took. This morning the mud was frozen up, but it thawed as soon as the sun touched it, and that brought on a beautifull display of skirts and ankles, but the sidewalks are drying fast under sun and a coolish wind, but where there is mud it is as black & sticky as tar, but I shall not go out in it today, though I suppose a walk would not hurt me. Monday Eve Well I have proceeded finely with my picture today. I must be thinking up a name for it. Let me see I dont know hardly what to call it, "The Gizzard of the Adirondacks from John Brown's diggins" I wonder if that would not do. Church you know called his big picture "The Heart of the Andes" and mine has a high mountain on it a valley water, trees, rocks &c as his did. Well I will dream upon it and then make up my mind. I called on Saxe's folks to night Mrs. Saxe looks worse than you ever did, or else I have forgotten how bad you did look. I dont think she will ever be well again. She looks completely broken down, but she says she is some better than she has been. You know she had a baby before she left Castleton or else was going to have one, well that is dead. Saxe & I went over to the sale exhibition a while the latter part of the evening, on the way he told me, she had a tumor or some kind of a bunch inside that stuck out on one side more than halfe as large as my fist. he said that for a few weeks it had not increased any, but I dont think it will ever go away. Tomorrow Eve is the first night of the sale, 276 paintings they

expect to sell in two evenings, I hope they will sell well. certainly it is a fine collection, taken as a whole but they ought not to attempt to sell more than a hundred in a single evening but I must bid yo good night and pleasant dreams my love, good night! Tuesday Eve 31<sup>st</sup> Well it is almost 10, but I thought I would write a few minuts before I got on to my roost. I have been up to the sale, it is only about halfe over now. Some of the pictures went verry low, but generly pretty well, a few good ones sold cheep, and then some poor ones went high particularly if they happened to be showey, and one by Wenzler called "a study from nature," a perfect lybill on nature, a square house with two great elm trees with dead brown trunks, not an appearence of nature about it, white fence & paper doll figures, not worth framing, brought 135 dollars. It was rather a cold north west wind when I went up, but when I came out, it was snowing & drifting like fury, whirling in every direction but it has been warm all day. I have not made a fire since morning. I have got on swimmingly to day, Good night! Feb 1<sup>st</sup> I suppose Well it is almost eleven & I cant write much. Last night was a cold stormy night and I slept like a log when I woke this moring I had no idea it was daylight, my head was partly covered, and my eyes shut, but I finily opened them an found it broad day light, and while I was contemplating some one knocked at the door. Of course I did not say come in! but got up as quick & still as possible after a while they went away, and I got my thing picked up, unlocked my door and began to build a fire, just as I cot that done Mr. Saxe came in, said had been there once before, it was a quarter past 8 when I woke up. Well in about ten minuts more Charlie Langdon & Sherman called. Sherman wanted me to go over to the Metropolitan at six and go with him to Niblo's of cours, there is a wonderful circus performance there now every evening, so I said I would go. he & Frank Adams are down here so we all went to see the circus to night, and it was first rate I can tell you, far beyond anything of the kind I ever saw before. Saxe is verry much interested in the progras of my picture, he is going to see if he cant get some of the papers to make a stir about it when I get it done, he is going to get some of John Brown men to come & see it, as it is a scene from near his hous. I got a good days work done on it today if I did over sleep. I think the mustard is going to digest my victuls for me, I have used it 6 days, and have not had a faint spell since I began, it is not halfe so bad on bread & butter as I thought I would be it does instead of sauce. good night dear.

Feb 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday night and no letter from those I love. O what a day this has been it has been almost intolerable. I tried to think of my work, but it was no use, I could not. I thought certainly I should have had one yesterday, but it did not come, and to day past & gone, and I dread to think of tomorrow, but I shall go over to Dr. Hewets. I shall be sick if I stay here. The last I got from you was a week yesterday. I answered it the same evening, and you must have got it by Monday last, are you sick, or did you send one and it got lost? it must be, it must be so. so I am going to finish this and carry it down to the Office to night, so it will reach you as soon as possible, for I cant stand it so not to here from you in 9 days, and if one is on the way I cant get it now before Monday 11 days. O! O! O! Good bye., I am well. Love to all. my own dear. Your affectionate husband J. Hope

New York Saturday Eve Feb 18/60

My Own Dearest

Last night I mailed a letter to you but it was so late I was too tired to begin another. To day has been rather dull, it was cloudy all the fore-noon. Then it blew'd, and then it snow'd, and then it thaw'd and rained and then it friz. And my sky-light is a flat one, and got so thickly covered with snow by noon that I had hard work to see since that; I had to quit earley. This evening it turned to rain, but not enough to take off the snow. About 6 I took my picture down to the Dusseldorf Gal – to see how it would look by gas light. it lights up beautifully. And on the whole I am pretty well satisfied with it. I dont think it perfect by any means. I dont know how it will look in the Academy, it will depend on where they hang it, but if it was hung in the Dussedorff Gall it would loose nothing by the side of the best they have there landscape, I mean - but the pictures in the Academy are generly more gaudily [gaudily] painted you know than the Dussedorff pictures, though they are generly mere sketches compared with them. And then my picture will have the disadvantage of a poor place, while others near it will have a good one, so of course it will loose considerable there. It was such an unpleasant evening to night Romanes shut up his Gallery to night about ½ past six, since that it stoped raing nearly, and I took a walk down as far as Canal St., the side walks are covered with indian meal as well as the middle of the street to night, but the boys & men are out now with their shovels & brooms clearing them. I should take solid comfort here this Winter, if I had you and the rest of the dear ones with me, in comfortable quarters, but I must endure it alone, and get up a stir amongst them. You see so few know anything about me, that even the 2 or 3 I do know, get all they want, then I am run out, but I am going to make a muss among them, so that if I send down a picture during the Summer, they will know who painted it, that is, if I can. You see that all I have sold here, have been on the merits of the pictures and when I have a picture that has not got much merit, it dont go. Now most leading Artists here depend on their names for the sale of more than halfe their works, so I must get better known. But a name dont do everything after all. There is my particular friend, J. B. Sterns, he had a picture in the late sale, I should think nearly a yard long, a landscape with 2 young ladies in it, quite larg figures, one sitting sketching & the other looking over her shoulder, it must have cost him at least 10 days or 2 weeks work. Well it was bid off, and after deducting the price of frame, & Auctioner's commission, he had one dollar & twenty-five cts. left for his picture; so you see a name dont do all, but a name together with a good picture, goes a ways towards getting a good price.

Sunday 1/2 past 1. Well Dear, I got up earley this morning a quarter to 10. I had previously got up and made a fire and when I was in the midst of my breakfast some one knocked, and I hustled my things into the sink cupboard as quick as possible and opened the door and in came Jonas, he came to invite me over to dinner at 1, but I declined, told him I would come over to tea. The fact was, last night I got a slice of ham, as it was the only kind of meat I saw at the Dutchman's that I thought I could stomach, he had fresh pork, but it looked as if it might have been fed on hospital poultices; but the ham so sweet and tender and not smoked enough to taste that I made out quite a breakfast, and I thought to [uneatable] to eat 2 meals with meat so near together, would be too much; one at ½ past 10, and another at 1. So since breakfast I have had a general scald up of my dishes, for I only wash them once a week, and now I have put on some mapol sugar to melt, and am going to lunch on bread & sugar. I got some verry nice soft bread last

night; this is the first sugar I have melted, though I eat a little without melting one Sunday. I have just finished the last of the walnut meats this morning, so you see I have an appetite for things in general, the fact is I am real Sunday hungrey, for the first time since I left home: I have had a good appetite all the time, but never got particularly ravenous before; if I only had some of your dough-nuts now I could chew my cud on them a while; I hanker after them more than any thing else eatable. But here goes it for the bread & molasses. Well I have made out quite a lunch, it will stand me at least till I go over to Joneses to tea. This is a beautiful day, the sun shines so clear with a south west wind, but it not thaw enough to make the side walk sloppy, at least as far as I can see, but I have not been out. I dont care to go out here when it is ever so pleasant only when I am obliged to go for exercise. I had rather stay in my room. If you was only here to go with me. Monday Eve. And all is well, here at least, and I hope at home too - or no I am mistaken, I have a great canker sore on one side of my tongue, and it is awful troublesome. I have done another good days work on my little pictures, getting some fine effects. This has been a beautiful day and as good an evening, I had a good walk, but the streets are getting dreadful sloppy. Called on Mr & Mrs Saxe, had two apples and a good time generally. There was a man hung about 2 weeks ago, Stevens, for poisoning his wife, probably you had the account in the paper. Well he had a little girl 7 or 8 years old, she died Saturday with a broken heart. I did not see the account in this mornings Tribune, but Saxe told me of it.

Tuesday Eve. O what a beautiful day this has been, and the streets & side walks like a perfect mortar-bed, but they have been scraping the slush out of the gutters to night and are busy carting it away, but it will take a good while to make any impression on the mud and dirt in Broadway. I had a call this forenoon from Miss Hotchkiss, she is a real pleasant girl. I wish I only could bear her, I should really enjoy her calls occasionally, and I cant tell what there is about her that should be so disagreeable to me, but is so, and I cant help it. This after noon I had a call from Simon Bassett, he is really got to be a man, and I guess a driver too. he must be worth considerable money by this time. I mailed a paper to you to night.

Wednesday 5 o'clock It is not dark yet, but I have just finished a little study and it is too late to begin on anything else, so as I got your dear good letter this morning, I thought I would finish up this and get it into the Post office tonight. it is too rainy for me to go down, so if I can get it into the nearest station before six it will go to the general office to night. It has rained like suds over since 10 this morning notwithstanding the soldiers have parading the streets all day like so many drowned rats, celebrating Washington's birthday, but between mud & rain they've had a sorry time of it. Inclosed you will find a line for Mrs. Ransom telling her the price of frames. I got the cost of both Rosewood & Guilt, so she can see which she wants, the rosewood is quite as suitable as guilt for a crayon drawing. I had to stop and go up on purpose to find out. Just think your letter mailed yesterday, and I got it this morning and if I had sat right down & finished this it might have gone back in the 11 o'clock train to day & got to C either late to night or the first train tomorrow. I have seen nothing of the lost letter yet. never mind about my shirts I can get along well enough, and I don't want you to do a stitch more than you can help, for I know you must be nearly used up with that cough. Never mind about my roost. I get on well, I sleep warm, if not soft, have not had a bit of cold. When it is cold nights I heat the flat & roll it up in one of my dirty shirts and it keep me warm till

morning, and it is good to have a hard bed once in a while, it makes one appreciate a soft one, and a good bedfellow. But I dont allow myself to hanker after either, if I did it would only make a bad matter worse, so I just think of the good time coming. I have not seen Watson Child or any of them. I dont want to till I can get time to do his picture. Tell Henry not to hurt himselfe sawing wood, and not to do it under price. It is too bad Luke dont bring ours, so it can be taken care off. But I see I must bid you good bye for this time. Love and kisses to all the children. And you. Your affectionate husband. J. Hope

New York March 24<sup>th</sup> 1860

My Own Dear One,

Here it is Saturday night again. I suppose you have got the letter by this time that I mailed yesterday morning, I wish you had got me with it, but that is a foolish wish and will take five weeks to be fulfilled, if we are spared. I had a call from Jule Langdon this morning, her great homely face really looked good, but she did not stay long for Charley was with her and he had to go to the Office, as it was then rather late. She told me about Parker getting hurt a few days ago, by gumping out of his waggon when the horse ran away. It must be a pretty bad hurt and will likely lay him up for some time, and he is so nervous and figity it will take him far longer to get over it than almost any one else. I am afraid Beecher will not see my pictures in my room. I expected him all day, but he did not come, and about 3 Hawkins called, he said Beecher went off East lecturing last Monday and was to be gone all the week, and he had not got home last night, so he has not seen my letter yet, at least before to night, and I believe I mentioned in it that they would be taken out of my room Monday but I entered them last night, or rather this morning to be sent for Tuesday, but sometimes they dont call for 2 or 3 days after the time you set, so they may be here 3 or 4 days, well if he don't see them I must at all events leave the Bowl in his care and then he can study it at his leisure with none to molest or make him afraid. It is cold tonite but neither windy nor dusty. The snow has all disappeared. Ogoodness how sleepy I am. I must go to bed.

Sunday almost 2 o'clock. And I have just finished breakfast and got washed up and a clean shirt on, so you see I was rather lazy for such a beautiful morning as we have, it looks delightfull out of doors. Last night I went to have got up earley this morning and gone to church, but about 12 I awoke with a treamendous turn of gripes, and after coresponding operation, I felt easier and got to sleep, but I did not feel over and above smart this morning, so I lay still till about 11 then got up made a fire, took a drink of oatmeal and water, then took a chunk of rhubarb and when my fire got agoing I made a teacup (for I have no bowl) of brose, then made a cup of tea, & broiled a small piece of meat to help down my bread, so you see I made out quite a meal after all. I feel well enough now, and had only that one operation. Now speaking of corns, I have one on the great toe of my left foot right under the nail and nearly in the center and it is intolerable almost sometimes [sketch of toe showing location] right where that dot is. how should you like one there, it is caused by the boot pressing the nail so hard down on the flesh, if it is much worse I will cut a little bit out of the nail right over it. I have already dug into it from the front and scraped a bit off the top, and put a pad under the corners of the nail and it dont hurt so bad I shall be obliged to get some cloth slippers to wear in my room and then it will be better I suppose, but it is an uncomfortable place for one. I was looking out the window a while ago at my neighbours across at the Smithsonian. There are two ladies by the windows, in different rooms busy painting, one on photographs, the other monochromatic, the last is a new one The other has been there about five or six weeks and paints verry busy especily Sundays. She takes lessons about twice a week of a fellow that looks exactly like me, in features, size, hair and every thing, so the first time I saw him I had to look in the glass to see if it was not me, only I think by the motions of his hands when talking that he is a Dutch man. How I should like to be at home to day and go to meeting with you, but I cant say that I should like to here Dr. Child harping all the time on heracy. But I presume on the whole it is all for the best that I was not there

this Winter, if it had not been the Lord would have directed it otherwise, just as it was two years ago that I should be there, and it was for my own good at least it did not benefit any one else. There are things about Grant and his belief that I do not approve of, as the Divinity of Christ, which I understand he don't believe, now the Bible says plainly that he was divine as well as human, but I believe on the whole he is a good man, and is doing good, and why not let him do all he can possibly, if they would let him alone he would not preach his peculiar doctrine half so much, no man will fight long alone. We have one inflexible rule of doctrine, try all by the measure of the Bible, and their fruits. Christ says, "he that is not against us is on our side." And if any one is truly converted I don't care who the instrument is, even if it was the Devil, but the Church is considered the only highway to heaven by some, and themselves the only guides. Now Churches are all right in their place, and should be properly cared for, but the way to do that is to care for Christ and the salvation of man first, and the particular church to which you belong afterwards, but selfishness will never do, a Church will grow lean on it. There is a funeral coming I can hear the sound of the muffled drum, so I must look out and see it, there! I can hear the shrill wail of the bagpipe some poor scotsman is taking his last march, "And the sound of the bag-pipe shall wake him no more." Well I followed the funeral down as far as Jersey ferry, and that did for a walk which I rather needed, after I got back I went over to Joneses and staid to tea and until I nearly froze, I do hate to eat there, even the bread and butter tastes Irish, and particularly their apple sauce, and he does think that Charley of his (the baby) is so smart, it is a dreadful disagreeable young one to me, I can't bear to have it in the room, and always so nasty, he wants to know if Mrs Freeman has gone West and how long she is going to stay &c, so let me know all you know about the matter so I can tell him. Monday Eve. again. Been pleasant but rather cool to day. I had a call this afternoon from Mrs Culver and Miss Dewey. She is getting quite fat. I should think it would do to take the straw of the shrubs before long. I don't think it will freeze hard enough now to hurt them. Does the cistern leak? Or is it only empty for want of rain? If it will hold at all so you can get along I don't think it had better be fixed till I come, if it needs plastering all over as I want to see that it is done right this time. I believe the Studio Artists have a reception to night, they did not send me a card, but I should not have gone if they had, so they make much of it. I ask no odds of any of them and they will find it out one of these days, bless their little souls. I wonder if I shall have a letter from you in the morning; just think it will be more than 2 weeks yet before the Academy opens, all this week gathering pictures, all next week hanging, and then varnishing day, and the day after for private view, it will be about the middle of April before it is open to the public, and closes I believe the 16 of June. Tuesday Eve. Well they came after my pictures bright and early this morning and my room looks so empty and lonesome since that I could hardly paint, and I have nothing worth showing any one now if they should call, and it will be almost or quite the middle of April before the Exhibition will be opened to the public, not half time for me to take advantage of it, even if my pictures should get a desert place, but I will not trouble myself about them now, they are gone and I can't help them any by worrying. I called on Saxe to night, he said he should not know what to do when I was gone, he should be so lonesome, I presume he will miss me, for he calls here nearly every morning and I go there about 2 evenings a week. But the time will go off quick with me now, being divided up with the opening of the Academy so, and I have as much work laid out as I can possibly do. I will finish this of Watson

Child this week, and then if I am well, a copy of the flower girl, and a small landscape for Romanes, and an old master to repair for Pepoon of 2 or 3 days work at least. aside from the one promised Campbell so long, and then as much more as I can get time to do, which wont be much I am sure, the flower girl I do dread, but I must have this money. I wont have so much lost time now with visiter. My pictures are gone, but then I durst not paint to hard, so I try to take it easy so I can stand it the longer.

Wednesday Eve. My own Dear I received your dear welcome letter this morning, so I will finish up this and mail it to night, so you will be sure & get it this week. I had a call this afternoon from Mr. Manley, the Methodist minister of Poultney. This morning when Pepoon was in, he said he went to the reception the other evening. I asked him how he liked the pictures. Well, said he, There was only one realy good thing there that was a verry large Rockymountain scene by Bearstadt, verry large, and verry well painted, and the only thing new there, there seemed a wonderfull sameness in the pictures, just what they have had over and over again. There would be a Gifford, a sunny picture and yellow, and next perhaps a McEntee, a green & purple verry pleasing, then a Gifford again sunny & yellow, then another McEntee, then a seacost by Hart, then a Gifford sunny & yellow, then a Shattuck a seacost, evidently painted in emulation of Hart, and so on all round the room, but there was such a sameness in them all, and all the same effect, spring, summer, autumn all painted alike except a little change in the leaves sometimes." Then he went to looking round the room at my old pictures, now says here are fine pictures hanging here, and no two atall alike, and that one on the easel still different from any of them." So you see the thing is working just right, it is just what Saxe & Romanes both have told me before, that they had looked at my pictures so much that they could not enjoy any other, they all looked so untruthfull and conventional; but I dont care how many feel so the more the better, and the same thing you see is working with Pepoon, he said he never noticed before the they looked so much alike as to be almost disagreeable. I send you five dollars, & if they come round for supscriptions for any good caus give something, and I will send you more. I have yet \$1.50 in my pocket that belongs to the Lord after taking out the 45 cts you gave the children, so whatever you have ocasion to give, just let me know the amount, we shall have more when this is gone. O how I should like some of your new milk when you do get it. I suppose you have it by this time, but I shall enjoy it when I do get home, only one month more I hope. I dont think the time will seem so long to me, as I have so much that I must do and I shall put my mind on that, & not on the time. It is the only way I can stand it. I hope the Universalists will dry up soon. Now Dear [don't] worry about what is past, it is past. And with Gods blessing let us strive to serve him, and make each other happy, for he designed us to be happy, and why should we not? The time is short now here, but ages of joy are before us. May God bless & protect you all. Love to all from your affectionate husband. J. Hope

New York March 1, 1864

Dear Sir:

I want the frame of the bulding herein described, put up, roofed clapboarded, and floored, with Door, and large window put in & chimley raised; nothing else need be done at present. and I want it done so I can go to work in it by the first of Aprile. Can you do it? And how much will that much cost. I am poor and must get it as cheep as possible, but will pay the cash down as soon as I come. If I have good luck this Spring I shall want it & My House finished up by some one between now & fall. I want to turn in the work of my son Henry on it, who has handled tools concidrable. if you can do it, and within or about the time, send me your bid immediately. If not, please return both of these papers immediately to Mrs J. Hope Castleton Vt. as she will have to look for some one else.

Yours truly, J Hope, No 5 Beekman St., N.Y. City.

P.S. if the work can be done, I will return to Castleton Aprile 1, as I want to paint a large picture in it, & cannot wait for its intire completion. only as above stated J.H.

New York March 9, 1864

Dearest

Yours came to hand this morning. I thought I would not wait till Sunday, but send a line to night, it may be a short one, just to let you know where to set the building. I will write it on a separate piece of paper, and then it can go with the other documents, as you can show it to him. I had just as soon and rather, I think have them work by the day, as the boys can help, and I presume Rollin will board them towards what he owes me, if you have to get them boarded, for you cant do it. You can make a bargain with him, as well as any one tell him we had rather do so for what little we want done now. So I will leave it to you to do the best you can. And I will pay when I come the first of April, if it is done then. I dont remember exactly where the gog is, in the line fence, but you will see by the thing below about how I want it. As near the fence as possible (The line fence I mean) and as far forward as can be and not crowd the drive way & pump. if it does cover a part of the window, it wont hurt anything as there is two in the room, besides it wont be close to it. You see I have marked it square with the main line of Knappins fence, & not with the gog; so wherever the North East corner comes against the gog, as I think it will somewhere, let the corner be a foot from the fence, that will clear the jet. But you look at the ground, and you can tell better than I can recollect, but you see what I want. Have Henry take the bar and dig up the clod of earth that has that little holly in it, but the sumacks cut down and one little spruce, will have to be dug up And in drawing and laying down the timber, tell them not to injure a single bush, that little Hemlock that stands in the centre of the road, halfe way from the pump to the gate, I would not have it hurt for anything, so have the boys see to it. I am glad Douglass is not going, for I felt about as you do about it. I am getting along fast on my "White House," it is nothing like the work of the tree. I had a call from "Julian Scott" to day, that Artist Drummerboy of <our> Brig. he is studying with Luitze: just think what a chance he has, to what I had. I dont believe there is one that paints that had so poor a chance as I did; but the Lord has led me through in safety; and I have no one to thank but him. We may not be flush just yet, but I think we will have enough befor long. Now if there any thing about the building they are puzzled about just write, for I want it right while I am about it as far as I go. Just the frame up, the floor laid, big window in; and roofed & chimley. That is all I want now, with front door and clap-boarded; the wall can be better laid I suppose when the frost is all out. The chimley I laid down in the plan to be in the south west corner; but I dont want it there I want it on the north side, verry near the west corner, built on top of a couple of plank, like the kitchen chimly, so I can have a cupboard under it. So remember somewhere west of the window & on the North Side; with some sort of a tasty finish on top, and a stove pipe hole below I am much obliged to Jessie for her likeness. So good by again God bless you all. Is the earnest prayer of you ever loving husband. J. Hope

Castleton March 6<sup>th</sup>/68

My Dear Husband

Yours of Sunday & Monday came yesterday noon – and what an awful time every body had had. You would not suppose to see the snow that we could get thawed out before June certain. & we have comparatively little to what there is in Western N.Y. Cousin Ida Freeman came today. She started from Fulton N.Y. yesterday morning, and should have got here last night but could not get through in many places. The snow is drifted over the telegraph wires. not here. Mr. & Mrs. Streeter are going to Rutland with Addie tomorrow, if the weather is so they can get there. She wants to get a dress & sack, and trimming for other dresses, and a good many little things, but there is so much snow it is bad going. Mrs. George Woodward died Sunday night & Monday Mr. Heath wanted to come up to the village to telegraph to her son at St Albans & he had to come up on the railroad on foot. it was drifted so he could not come with a horse.

Saturday morning and I will finish and send it & try to write again tomorrow, for I shall not think of half I wish to say. I have just got Addie started for Rutland: & I think it will rain before night. The wood is all drawn – I had forgot to tell you & Henry is going to saw it next week. O! how glad I am that it is a little warmer, for there has been no let up on the weather only so cold all the time - there is one thing I wish you could bring me & that is a little barley. three or 4 pounds will be plenty. what I had is nearly gone. This is such a nice day here. I think it must be splendid there. & I wish you may have plenty of calls & some that will bring in the needful. Some how I cant help thinking you will do well after all - & is there any prospect of you being able to go to Colorado? Addie had a letter from Douglas yesterday, & I have not much time to write, so I will send it along. I have often thought of his boots for they were not new when he went away - & his clothes he has worn right along for a year - & I think they must be getting used up. he has never said any thing about them, only he wrote a line to me – if I got it before mother went to send his old pants & perhaps he could wear them, but they were not fit to take & Henry has worn them all winter for drawers, & I thought if you could get a pair of pants cheap there, Addie could take them to him. She will stop at Ypsilanti a few days. He has not said he needed any, only sending for the old ones I thought he did. Was'nt it real good you had a customer last Saturday? Hope you will have a big one to day and your finding the mony to keep you over Sunday. Only I wish it did not belong to some poor starved body - that could not spare it. Well I must send this off. You know I am very busy but am getting on well with the work. I have got Addie fixed out nicely well comfortably for common clothes if she could have one nice dress I should be satisfied. in dresses she is not as well off as even Anna Miner was.

I came to the end very suddenly so I must say my good bye here. You dont know what I am going to do when you come home. ever yours J M. Hope

MSA 529:11

Castleton, Vt. May 3, 1868

Dear Father

I am so glad you are better and are coming home soon. It has been a warm pleasant day but I did not go to church. Mother has got an awfull cough and a cold on her lungs. I hope you will sell two or three pictures so you can get a book that I want too read to you it is splendid the name is "Anna Judge, Spinster." it is only 75 cts. It was in Mr. Knaps paper and that is the way I came to read it when Mrs. K was picking up she sent some of the papers up here but she had destroyed a good many of them before she knew that I wanted them so if you sell two or three pictures you must remember if you dont get it I can read you what I have got the first ten chapters are gone and then every once and a while there is a one or two papers gone.

I dont want you to bring me a spangled fan I want one like Adas I saw one in Fairhaven and so I thought that they must have them there now I will tell you how they look it is a little round case not very long and I think it is made of leather and at one end is a tassel and at the other end is a string and you pull the string and out comes a little paper fan and then you pull the tassel and it goes back again it looks some thing like this when it it shut up only it is normal you know

it is a splendid day the first day of May Kate and I went over to Parkers woods and I got quite a bunch of flowers.

I dont believe you can read this but if you cant just send for me.

Oh I want to see you so much and you must come home right off. Good bye. Jessie

When you bring my dress wont you please get me a 1 ¼ yard of this cambric. I cant get it here or in Fairhaven. I will put in a little bit. Good bye. Jessie

Lodi Wis July 19/68

Dear Sister Jessie

I recd your welcome letter of the 1th Friday I believe. I am sorry that my dear little kitty is dead. I could'nt help crying when I read it. I had'nt once thought of it being killed. I thought you would keep it for my sake. But if it is gone there is no use talking I suppose. Mr. Stearns and George have gone to the farm to-day and left me all alone. Allie and Ned are washing and mother J- is up to something. I dont know what. You dont know how much I would give to have a good meal of victuals – that taste like home.

I cant eat anything and everything -and I am so tired of the sight of just bread and butter and currants for tea- that I am almost ready to fly sometimes. Allie and I went to the farm last week and Ned picked a few black raspberries in his hand. those are all the berries I have seen since I have been here. I dont know whether they always live without things – that way or not – when we get to Westfield we shall have heaps of grapes and plenty of blackberries – shant I enjoy it though? We had a soup the other day and 'tho there was rice in it and only cabbage and onion I enjoyed it hugely.

You know I used to complain in about home victuals, but I dont believe I should ever do the like again.

Soon after I came here I read “David Copperfield” and Jessie I cant agree with you that it is not good. I think if you were to read it now, you would like it. I have also been reading “Queechy” by the author of “Wide, Wide World.” I liked it very much. We are going from here to Milwaukee, and by water to Detroit. George cant go to Ypsilanti with me but I think I shall go from Detroit alone – then when I am ready to go to W- George will meet me in <Conneaut>

where we shall spend a few days and then go to W--d.

Thursday Afternoon

I will begin where I left off I think. When George came home from the farm he brought me some cherries – dear! how I did enjoy eating them. Yesterday, Allie, George and I went to the lake, five miles from here. We put up our horse and got an old flat bottomed boat , at a house where the five or six young ones stared and laughed at me – (I made a suit of my old striped calico – just made a skirt and wore a white waist and trousers) We embarked in the beautiful (leaky) boat, and when quite a distance from the opposite shore one of the oars broke in too. George took the broken oar and I the other one and then we managed to paddle to the shore. When to a house and got some nails and mended the oar. found out there that there were no fish in the Lake, except pickerel. as we had no spears we fished pond lilies instead, such fun as we had gathering those same lilies. when we tired of that we landed near another house, got some splendid cool water there and the woman cooked us some eggs. we took our luncheon out under some trees and had a splendid time and G- hired out to the man to harvest wheat. he went last night and has three dollars a day. he is hired for 3 days only. if he stands it says he shall try it again.– Love to every body and everything. Write soon and often to Addie

[Attached to envelope addressed to "Douglas Hope, Castleton, Vermont.," postmarked Westfield N.Y.]

Handwritten on envelope 1936

1869

67

Westfield, N.Y. Feb 9/69

Dear Douglas,

I want you to send me some Saffron knees salve you can send it in a pil box in a letter I guess it wont take more than two or three stamps. There is an awful sore on my heel and I cant cure it up my shoe made it and there is another coming on the other foot you can send it in that tin pil box that Charlie McConnell gave me it is in mother's work box I think send it as soon as you get this dont forget now.

Tell Fannie Streeter to write to me or has she got the small pox dont you get it or let Liss or the cat.

The snow is all going off and it is awful sloppy under foot. I guess you will have a hard time reading this for I am in an awful hurry.

Good bye write soon "love to all from all."

Jessie Hope

MSA 529:9

[Attached to envelope addressed to "Mrs. J.M. Hope, Castleton, Vermont.," postmarked Ypsilanti, Mich. Jun 7]

Ypsilanti May 30, 69.

My Dear Maryett

I received a letter from you & Jessie last Monday. I was so glad to hear that you, & all of your family are in health, & espeshily the little one, that you have the care of at present. I suppose you remember the sore that Francis had on his leg, when he lived in West Rutland, that Aunt Freeman cured with her Green Ointment, Mary Ann seys, she had 2 kinds dark & light green. Hamon Goss had the remainder of what was left. I am so glad you have got back, your old neighbours again now I hope they will be contented to stay (I hope I shall get a new pen) I think it will do to give the baby cold cool milk soon, it is not half so apt to sour. Keeping it in a warm room it is warm enough for use, poor child, you & Julia do have to git up in the morning so early, when is James or D. coming home, I see a notice of his painting in the paper, but I dont see much. I have been sick, most the same sickness I had when at your house, but not so bad. I hant got over it yet.

June 6

Mrs. Carson is sowing here now, & we hant cleaned house, yet nor made soap. Dear me I ment to finish this letter last week but didant. I will try now, I dont think the new posted stamps are as handsome as the old ones, I hant had any of them yet. Smith are well at present going to have lots of fruit, I wish you would or could come out here, & dry cherries there is going to be sights of them & every thing else that ever did bear, & some that didant but the season is backward many farmers cant plant corn it is so wet, I went down to Hewets Saturday & got me a pair of gaiters & paid 3 dollars for them, they are good, & a good big price. Mrs. Agritly Perkins lives in Ann Aryour, she was at Joseph Smith last Sunday with Mr Batchelder of Castleton, love to all S.P. Smith

MSA 529:11

[Attached to envelope addressed to "James Hope, Castleton, Vermont.," postmarked New York, Jan 4. Envelope address P.M. Please return if not called for in Ten Days to J. Hope, General Agent, for N.Y. City, Jersey City, Brooklyn & Hoboken, of the Middletown Healing Spring Water, Depot, 82 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.]

New York, Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 1870

Dear Father.

I have just returned from Griffins & Borgards and find that there have been no pictures sold and I don't believe Griffin trys to sell any. Miller has not even seen the picture you sent last and he thinks he cannot even bring him in until there is a frame on it which I suppose he wants you to get. He says there is a man who wants to buy 10,000 worth of Paintings and he keeps harping about that frame on the Forest Glen. He says he has sold about 25 since the first of December but is not doing any thing now.

The Captain expects to sail on next Wednesday if the weather is favorable. I have not been to see the vessel yet but will before she leaves. it is at the foot of 39<sup>th</sup> East River.

Spring water business is D

ull. I have not seen a man after any yet.

I will write more soon.

J. D. Hope

[On stationary with header: Middletown Healing Spring Water, Grays & Clark, J. Hope, General Agent, for New York City, Brooklyn, Jersey City and Hoboken, Depot, 82 Fifth Avenue, Cor. 14<sup>th</sup> St., New York]

New York, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> 1870

Dear Father

I have just returned from Mrs. Wilders and find she has but just returned from Buffalo that is within a day or two. she has not been able to those people in yet, and I guess it was about as well for she had the picture in a horrible position. the top tilted away from the gas at about forty-five degrees [sketch of picture position in relation to gas] she has had a reflection made. I told her to get the inside of it painted and I would bring up the upright easel. she can get a splendid light on it if it only placed in the right position. I am going up tomorrow eve to fix it Meanwhile she has written to three or four of her friends and I think she will mak some stir. I will write more about it soon.

from you Affectionate Son

J. D. Hope

MSA 529:3

New York, Feb 13, 1870

Dearest.

Here it is Sunday evening again and I away down here. We got up about 11. I got some tea, bread & better. And D. went to cooking his stew, which occupied him most of the afternoon then I read the rest of the day, and here it is night. Just after I had sent that note to you on Thursday, I went in to the store room to find some of my traps.

Ortges was there, and I told him that my room was going to look look bare without a carpet, and if I only one large enough to cover the centre, leaving the outside (which is stained) bare, I should be fixed. So he pulled out a role of green brussels carpeting, and told me to see how that would fit, so as it was the verry thing I wanted, in a couple of hours we had it all right, so that is all got along with. So Friday afternoon & yesterday I have been making calls down town, and have got the promise of several earley calls from men I want in here. I shall be out a part, or all day, tomorrow, after that I expect to paint, and finish up evenings. I have a splendid light in this room, and we made a movable screen, so to throw the light, or rather to shut the light from either side of the room, & from your eyes, and strike the pictures alone, and the effect is a great improvement. I wish Jessie would go down and ask Mrs. Curtis how tall her son was? if he was as tall, or any taller than Sam Curtis? and which was the tallest he or the McCormall fellow that I have got. I am afraid I have begun one too large & the other too small. And be sure and compare them with Sam Curtis, as I know about how tall he is. O dear! I wish I had something to write, but I have nothing of interest, hope I shall have some day.

Tuesday Eve. Dearest, yours came this morning. I was as glad to heare from you as you was to heare from me. I had a visit about noon to day from Henry Maynard & wife, of cours they like my pictures verry much, and I was glad to see them. I had a letter from Chicago this afternoon. I can get nothing at present King has over-drawn his wages so far that there is no chance yet. I am highly pleased with Church's good opinion expressed to Mr Seaver, but dear me, it is hard to bring it to bear on selling my pictures. If anybody in Rutland were picture buyers, it would do me some good, but who will know it here. [I]t has rained hard last night and most of the day to day, and still rains, so I cant go out to continue my calls, as they have lost my umbarella, so I have not been up to Baxters yet, as it is about a mile and a halfe from here. By the way, where is Seaver, is he not in Brooklyn? if he is I will invite him over here, he will be apt to come too I think. he ought to be well acquainted with plenty people that he could send in by this time. I shall bust.

Saturday night when I was out I found a verry nice hem-stitched handkerchief. I thought first it was tissue paper, and passed it, then went back and picked it up.

The old doctor that moddeled Addie, did not get any thing of a likeness of her. You would not dream it was her, except the hair. I wish I had some clay up here tonight when I cant go out. I'd go at it.

Love to all.

Ever yours

J. Hope

P.S. My throat don't alter one way or the other, and I have got used to it so I dont mind it, I dont expect it to get well till summer.

A week tonight since I left, isnt it?

MSA 529:11

[Attached to envelope address to "Mrs. J. M. Hope, Castleton, Vermont," postmarked New York, Feb 16, 10:30 am]

New York, Feb 15 1870

Dear Sister Jessie,

Yours was received this morning and as father is going to send a letter I thought I would drop you a few lines I have some news for you that I forgot to communicate in my last, it is! that!!!

(I have shaved my Mustaches.) they are clean gone. I felt like parting with old friends when I clipped them, I knew Alice Gates was to be married some time this winter but forgot the critters name it has been raining here for two days.

If you want to send a letter the 23d of Feb to Addie you must not forget to forward it to me previous to that time I had a letter from Aunt Lucy Ann the other day they were all well.

I should think crazyiness was hereditary in the Thornton family when such a man as Jerry goes wild. What will Julius do? I will look after the papers, you bet I see they have had some heavy weather since the first of January and Addie probably has had a good shaking before this time.

Cannot think of any thing more

J. D. Hope

Buenos Ayres, June 23, 1870

Dear sister Jessie

I thought I would begin writing a little sooner this time, and I wanted to tell you about something nice too. I tell you about things we get, because I think you can imagine how our rooms will look when we get settled in Parina. You know you can imagine how we place things in one room. I don't know how it will be yet but I will tell you what we have purchased toward housekeeping. This is the greatest place for auctions, there are auctions all the time, & oftentimes one can get good bargains. Ladies don't go to the sales, but they can go before & look at the articles. George went to one yesterday and brought home a Chinese junk boat carved of ivory, about a foot long. It is just like pictures of Chinese boats, & beautifully carved. There are little flower pots sitting around the top, & on the end a little table with four people sitting around it. I guess I will try and make a drawing of it only I can't show the carving. He paid \$10.40 (ten dollars forty cents) for it & we would not sell it for \$20. that is his. We had a looking glass, about a foot high, in a frame of sandal wood, & the back of the glass is an ivory carving came from India. It is beautiful only six patagons - \$16.00 - awful cheap. It ought to bring \$30 or \$40. Two Chinese albums with pictures in rice paper - the funniest looking things - two India handkerchiefs grass cloth embroidered with white silk. six flower pots - very handsome I will bring them home when I come & four French vases - very pretty. Then there were five silver-plated nut crackers 68.cts a piece, they are the prettiest ones I ever saw, & I think that was very cheap - a very pretty little matchbox for me, with steel fittings. When he brought the things home Miss Wood was much taken with the Chinese albums that she wanted to see if she could get some. She has two or three little pictures on rice paper that were sent her from China. George went with them this morning to see if they would see any, & they would not let them go any way. They had orders after the sale not to sell any more of those articles because they went so ruinously low, but George says he intends to have some more of those albums. They went for \$1.60. They would be worth a great deal at home. It was well we secured some

There is a furniture sale at the same place, to day, George has gone to see about getting some for our house. Furniture is dreadful high. You have to pay a \$100 for a common chamber set that you would get for \$40 anyway, at home. Perhaps you will think those things did not come from China & India but they did. They were kept by the custom house, because the duties were not paid on them for some reason. I do so wish we were settled in Parana I am so hungry all the for home victuals. No bread is made in the houses here, so it is always cold, & I want some good warm biscuits so much. I am going to have my cooking done Yankee style. I suppose I shall have to have a cook, for I am "maestro inspector" of the preparatory school. They gave me that position themselves. George said he guessed they didn't know what else to do with me. All I shall have to do is to oversee the teachers & order them around in the preparatory school. I shan't have anything to do with the normal school & may have a little teaching to do but not much. It is not allowable here for ladies to teach boys over six years of age, I believe. & boys & girls can't go to the same school after a certain age. The prest & govt men want to overturn that notion & will work for it soon but it won't be done just yet, prejudice is too strong

June 24<sup>th</sup>

Well, we have got some furniture, a beautiful set for the salon (parlor) a lightish handsome blue [unclear], a sofa, a dozen small chairs & two arm chairs – \$204 dollars for them. they are perfectly new & have linen covers for the whole, & two square sofa pillows of the same. it is worth in a furniture store – Then we have six rosewood chairs with cane seats & one large rocker for a dining room, a lamp that is taller than the baby, two japan bread trays, a butter dish glass with a silver plated cover & saucer, a little three legged work table for me with a drawer in it, & a most splendid set for a wash stand, gilt & white 7 pieces the pitcher has three little feet, the soap dish four little feet, four on the tooth brush dish, & a round dish for a sponge with three feet, & a little cup with three feet & a cover, & another article they are french china, & so pretty & covered except the wash bowl & pitcher Geo got the set for \$10 dollars. Miss Speed says \$32 is the price in a shop. then we have two wash bowls & pitchers we have got to fill the sets out some where else. They are both very pretty but nothing beside the others. you may use the nice ones when you come  
Adios for now.

July 15<sup>th</sup>

Dear Jessie – I am all played out of writing material but you have got a longer letter than any of the rest so you cant complain Good bye love to Henry & everybody Write soon  
Yours  
Addie

MSA 529:3

[Attached to envelope address to "Mrs. J. Hope, Castleton, Vermont," postmarked Watkins N.Y., Aug. 2., return address Glen Mountain House, Watkins, N.Y., Joshua Jones, Supt. On stationary Glen Mountain House, Joshua Jones, Sup't, Watkins, N.Y.]

Aug. 19, 20 21 or 22 1871

Dearest

Here it is Sunday again and afternoon at that. I have been sick all the week, did not touch a brush till Friday, and then I worked about halfe the time. Yesterday I worked  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the time and to day I am almost well. My appetite has returned to day in full force, so I am all right. Last Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday were fearfully hot days, the hottest of the season, but yesterday & to day it has been lovely. A little rain would be verry acceptable, but we must take it as it comes & make the best of it. I expect your turkeys will keep the grass-hoppers down in the corn in the garden. I am glad you beat Daniel on tomatoes again, he would crow so much if he had beat you. I am going to bring you all manner of slips when I come home. Any quantities of new varieties of cactis and I dont know what all. Unless my hands are so full that I cant; But the cactis I can do up in paper & put it in my trunk. And what shall I ever do with all my pile of stones? I hope to do a big weeks work on my picture this week, to make up for my little one last, but dear me I thought so just a week ago to day, but slipped up on it, but then my teeth ache is gone now, and it was just beginning then. So there is a better chance, and then the weather is likely to be more moderate. Was Atwood sick long? before he died; was he liquer Agent? or what. I have thought a good while that he liked whiskey pretty well. Well no good comes of trying to bolster up life on that, a great while, better die a natural death. But it does seem as though people died off faster far the last year & a halfe then ever before, and of no especial epidemic either. Yes – if the grass-hoppers are going to eat up the corn on Hoits, save the feed of our part at least. Perhaps that was the reason why our heather would not do better in the Summer because it was the hot sun. Well we can try it Oh! they do have lots of flowers here, & a great many fine varieties. You will enjoy them so much next Summer if we are all spared to come here, as I expect. If we can manage to come here Summers for a while, I think then we can be together Winter too mostly. Dear me if we only could be together the little time we have left, I think I could be so happy, and not have these endless days of weary longing that makes up so much of my life. If I perfect the arrangements here that I expect to, it will give you rest, and me too, from so much anxiety at least. My boots are givin out so I shall have to get a new pair right off. Well good bye again & love to all.

Ever truly yours

J. Hope

[Attached to envelope address to "Mrs. J. Hope, Castleton, Vermont," postmarked Watkins N.Y., Oct ?, return address Glen Mountain House, Watkins, N.Y., Joshua Jones, Supt. On stationary Glen Mountain House, Joshua Jones, Sup't, Watkins, N.Y.]

Oct 3 or 4 1871

Dearest

This is Thursday morning a little before sunrise. I write in case anything should turn up to prevent me from getting home Saturday. I expect to come then but there is a bare possibility that I wont, so if I dont, dont you be skeered. I will if I possibly can. But if I cant get away from here in time to make the connections sure, I wont start, so to be caught some where else over Sunday. The grapes I expressed day before yesterday. 38 lbs 5 of Delawares, & the rest Concorde. The whole cost 3 dollars here – so by adding the Exp charge you can see whether it will pay to sell any, if people want them. The Concorde sell here at 8 cts per lb, & the Delawares at 10 & ~~12~~ That is in open boxes packed in 5 lb boxes 12 in a crate they are .10 & .12 cts. all the unripe & injured ones are taken out.

Good bye & love to all

Ever yours

J. Hope

[Attached to envelope address to "Mrs. J. Hope, Castleton, Vermont," postmarked Watkins N.Y., Oct 19., return address Glen Mountain House, Watkins, N.Y., Joshua Jones, Supt. On stationary Glen Mountain House, Joshua Jones, Sup't, Watkins, N.Y.]

Oct 18 1871

Dearest

Yours just came to night containing one from George, so as it is time his was off I will write at once. If you think flour will be up, you had better get another bbl, you will need it sometime at least. I do wish when people come to visit you would tell them plainly you cant se them as it makes you sick, at least not over 15 minutes, & if they stay, let them visit with Jessie. I mailed a letter to you this morning, since that I concluded to send the study of Rainbow Falls, to Joslin for his Exhibition, & wrote him he could send up for the frame on the Norweigan scene 30 x 36, to put it in, or write to Douglass, and by paying him for the day & his expence, he would go down with the frame & put it on & hang it. So he may write when he gets it. They must pay all expences, for I have done enough already, risking the picture & boxing it &c. This has been a cold raw day, feels like snow cold enough in the glen. I dont know what I should do on a side hill. Cant you have that girl of yours drink a lot of white oak tea, & pucker up her stomach, so it wont hold so much. You had better buy some good strong butter expressly for her, and it might last better. Well I cant think of anything else. So good bye. I will write Sunday as usual. Love to all.

Ever Yours

J. Hope

[Attached to envelope address to "Mrs. J. Hope, Castleton, Vermont," postmarked Watkins N.Y., Oct 30, return address Glen Mountain House, Watkins, N.Y., Joshua Jones, Supt. On stationary Glen Mountain House, Joshua Jones, Sup't, Watkins, N.Y.]

Oct 29 1871

Dearest

Yours came Friday eve all right. But dont set your heart on my coming home at any particular time, for you, as well as I, may be disapointed. I have got through setting a time, the fore-part of Nov, is the nearest I can come to it. I do hope I can ascertain at once what I can do with the new Landlord, if he comes in a few days, but there is another kink up just now. The Glen is leased, the writings drawn, and Parsons has halfe a quarters rent in advance in his poket, but there is other parties that have offered him a hundred thousand for the Glen, & he told them they might have it for 125.000,00, subject to the lease, and they may take him up, and buy out the lease, and that will change the whole affair. Every one here that knows me & my pictures says they would jump at the offer I make them, but the new man, coming, is a quaker, and he knows nothing of me or my work, personely, and judges them by other things he has seen. So I have to wait & make his acquaintance and if we can come to tearmes, then we will, if not, I will then dicker with other parties here. The offer I make them is of such a nature that if he takes me up, I will at once commence preparing for my next Summers campaign here, instead of working for customers; & arrange matters so we shall all come here. So you see it is verry important that all should be fairly settled, but I hope to get home some time, so keep up your courage. I am screwing up mine. I have got no less than two passes from here to Schenectady, but they came to late, only to use one to come home with, when I get away. I hope Joslin got that picture in time to use it, before the exhibition was over, it will be a serious affair if it is lost, but I dont think that can be. Now if Joslin gets the picture all right, and you get it home, I dont think you had better show it. Wait till I come with the big one, and they can see that by paying for it; but if they see the little one first they will think that will do. Now get the well stoned up while it is weather so they can work, and not wait for me for you see you cant depend on me one bit. I may not get home this week after all, bad as I want to come. If the new man dont come to terms, I may be delayed a few days arranging with others, and then he may not get here the verry first day of Nov. as I expect. Parsons is to be here tomorow and he can tell me whether he is coming now or not. I shall probably come all at once when I do come, but dont be expecting me. Wont I have a delightfull time up at Port Henry, when I get there. On a bleak side hill on top of a railroad trusselwork at that. I wish it was over. If everything goes well and we come here as I am trying to arrange, and open a picture gallery Jessie will have a better chance to sell engravings to visitors. Mrs. Jones ocasionaly sells one, but she has no shingle up, so strangers dont know anything about its being for sale, and so dont do a quarter what she might. It almost snowed in the glen yesterday, just a few flakes. I shall get my picture done in 2 or 3 days more, it is so cold I cant paint so many hours, as I did. But there a quite a number of visitors every day yet, and will be till snow comes.

Well goodbye, and love to all

Ever yours

J. Hope

[Attached to envelope addressed to "J Hope, Artist, 82 Fifth Ave, N.Y." postmarked Castleton, March 29]

Castleton March 29th [1872]

Dear Husband

Yours came yesterday. I am glad I can tell Mr Ross give him an answer one way or the other: & if any thing should happen to prevent our going we can do some way. I shall be very glad when you can leave N Y, for I do not think the air is good for you. You would be better here, but take all possible care of yourself while you are obliged to be there & leave the place as soon as you can. I am sorry if you have that portrait to paint for it will take so much more time to be there could'nt you paint it some other place & send it? I wrote a line about the horse. Mr Ross was in hopes we would'nt care to sell it if we only expected to be gone a year, & he would keep it, & even now he told Henry to tell him what you would take for it & he thinks he will buy it. We have had 2 or 3 pleasant days & it snowed all night. I presume is still at it & new snow is 7 inches deep. if it snows like this all day what will become of Sugar? The heifer is all right, so she can get up alone most of the time or with very little hel:. Henry got Sarah Langdons man to come over to help & he thinks he never saw a smarter calf, all red except a white spot on the tip of its tail. heifer calf & I would raise it if I thought we would stay. O! I just remember, if you get a cold & your throat or lungs feel pressed & trouble to breathe, put on a cloth wet in Kerosene oil, & it will relieve you. I expect it is the Salt water air that keeps your throat rough, but keep the molasses going all the time it is a good regulator I am leaving off coffee & I am afraid it makes my head ache. I have certainly felt better for the last week than before this Winter; It is pretty hard to give it up, but I thought while you & Douglas had to do without it, I ought as well, & give it a trial. No! George will never bring Addie home in that way. I would not have it for any thing. So far as I am concerned, I had just as soon let her rest there, as any where. It seemed dreadful, at first but it will make no difference & if he comes when his three years are up I dont think he could bring her - certainly not without a metallic coffin. Well good bye J. M. H.

[Attached to envelope addressed to "Mrs J Hope, Castleton, Vermont.," postmarked **New York**, April 5 3PM. On stationary with header: Middltown Healing Spring Water, Grays & Clark, J. Hope, General Agent, for New York City, Brooklyn, Jersey City and Hoboken, Depot, 82 Fifth Avenue, Cor. 14<sup>th</sup> St., New York]

April 4<sup>th</sup> 1874

Dearest

Yours came yesterday so I will answer this this morning. I attended a picture sale last evening down below, so that interfered with my writing last evening. So while D gets breakfast I will write. I commenced sitting for my portrait yesterday morning and am going again this morning at 9. The weather since Sunday is cleare but cool, and I expect it is verry cool up in Vt. I had a letter from our friend the quaker yesterday. He has not commenced bulding yet, but will as soon as the frost is out. Then he will put it through fast. I expect to stay here as late as the 20 of April and I may have to stay till the first of May. I want to make some more sales if I can. That is the reason of my staying, so to get the benefit of my picture in the Exhibition if it has time to benefit me in that time, for I must sell a few hundred dollars worth if it is a possible thing, as it will take halfe I have now sold to pay rent, debts, living, frames, moving &c and leave us altogether short for bulding you see. I must go to Watkins as soon after the first of May as possible and get the thing started; if we can get the Gallery in shape to hang the pictures, and the wing up and closed in, and partitioned off, we can manage to live in it and the boys can finish up, all but plastering. I want to get so we can live there, and be earning a little, but you, and Jessie wont get there before the first of June anyway, and possibly a little later. That depends on the gallery, and how fast we get the buldings along I shall take one of the boys with me. Yes, get the hay of Knappen, when you need it, but feed plenty of grain, as that will be cheeper. I sent the picture with the tower rocks, up to the Academy. I may sell something out in Watkins, after we get there, but I want to have money enough to start with, so not to get stuck in getting up the buldings, and not have to depend on chance. Well good bye, love to all.

Ever yours,

J. Hope