

14 August 1846
Mendon, August 14th 1846

[Letter from Simeon Locke Doggett to Samuel Doggett]

My Dear Brother

Or, if it were not for this endearing name I ^{might} may not have commenced with my Lord Norbury, or with the appellation of Orator, but more probable I should have addressed you with the name of Sagittarius.

By the way, I will give the opinion I entertain in regard to that controversy -- you exalted yourself greatly; your first discharge was terrible for the irascible Scorpion to bear; the second arrow completely demolished the araneous defence the Scorpion had spun, insomuch that had you expended another, you would have pierced a lifeless carcass. You appeared like the Lion, which had its mighty paw upon the mouse; but unlike the Lion in one respect, you gave your troublesome creature a most severe scratching: but as for Scorpion he was & is like a certain bird, found in the West Indies, which has the faculty of mimicking other birds without having a single note of its own; and he has been accosted like one of these mock birds which was once displaying his talent of ridicule upon the branches of a splendid oak; It was well said (a little songster, "we grant that our music has faults, but it is better so than no music at all, which is thy case" "how contemptible is ridicule in persons who possess no other talent."

Questions I would ask, Ans I would give, & Ans I would hear, things I would relate, & things I would have related, blessings I would bestow; and blessings desire, in a word, I would advise, exhort, comfort, promote, inform, & show my fraternal love; but alas the invention of Cadmus, tho' of the utmost importance to mankind, can convey but a fraction of the various, warm emotions, which arise in the hearts of brothers, of friends, & which can only be uttered with interest, in reach of the ears & from mouth to mouth.

We have had a most inauspicious hay season; never has time past away with more depression of both body & mind; & never were exertions more strenuous; the body has been exerted to do the manual part, the mind to bear up the disparagements; many of the difficulties you may well imagine, but to say the least, this July past with but 10 fair days.

But to descend to particulars. We finish haying yesterday; having been thus employed 6 weeks -- Jos [?] Thayer, G. Benton, S. Ham. Staples, mowed the grass at one \$ per acre -- subjects of moment have been discussed among us at large; the several characteristics of these young men, which are perceivable in their conversation; appear to me to be these: in Benton much that he says seem to me to be ebullition of pride; pride for his remarks before he gives them utterance; & ere they have received the approbation of others. Benton has now gone to Illinois. J. Thayer appears to have correct ideas of things but he is deficient in words with which to express those ideas fluently; As for Hamilton, in all his observations, he displays the aberrations of an unsettled mind.

We have used the Horse hay, rake to advantage I find it to be a labour-saving machine. Our barn is filled up to the great beams. Pa keeps as yet Nappa, which is to us a burden alike unprofitable, troublesome, & injurious. We have planted on a larger scale than usual; the

land above the Great stone heap and south of the acre lot, is one waving feild of promising corn; notwithstanding the uncertainty of raising, potatoes & the discouragements of past years, yet in the old field we have now a decent feild of this esculent growing -- Some of our potatoes & all of our corn have been hoed thrice; in fact we have laboured hard & the result is a promising harvest. We have thus far ploughed, sowed, hoed, mowed, & gathered the hay -- Spring has pass, the growing time is mostly over & harvest has partly arrived; But we are some of us in our spring; some in our autumn; but now, as yet in our winter; but ah old age is coming on apace & soon the things that are, will not be; & those which are not will be! alas! what is man? he is a "being created a little lower than the Angels:" to day he is to morrow he is not! he is "like a " pendulum swinging, between a smile & a tear"! Or as the Apostle James hath said, "he is ever a vapour, Full of woes, but a caper, Then down he goes"

Our presant administration has been thus far strong, and affective: the most momentus subject has been amicably settled; altho' it appears that G. Britain has secured for herself, the right to the free navigation of the Oregon River in perpetuity; this feature of the adjustment I dislike much. The odious Tariff of ,42 has been overthrown & a more liberal policy adopted, with the advantage of the ad verbosem system. Against Mexico our operations have been very successful; the battles of Palo Alto & Racaca de La palma are fit themes for panegyric.

Our family has enjoyed tolerable health all things considered. We are grateful & yet ungrateful, we are happy, & yet unhappy, we condemn where we should bless, smiling & greiving, alternately;" the good that we would we do not, but the evil which we would not that we do O wretched creatures that we are who shall deliver us?

To hear from you would be a source of pleasure -- it would be gratifying to peruse your Oration or even an extract, for we have had a fortaste of it in that excellent toast. We all bless you and hope you enjoy good health,

Yours Truly

Simeon L. Doggett

To S. W. Doggett, Jacksonville E. Florida

Dear Sir

As the season for engaging schools has far advanced and as my father has had an interview with you respecting my being employed in your district, I deem it not improper to urge on you the necessity of speedily advising me of your determination;

So that if your decision be favorable I may rely on the same but if it be otherwise that I may obtain the occupation I desire in another place.

Yours

Respectfully

S. L. Doggett