

[Simeon Locke Doggett's Ledger begins on page 19 -- the previous pages appear to have been torn out intentionally, though the document begins somewhat abruptly. It seems to be a record he kept for himself of letters written and a few perorations penned. The transcription begins here, undated, but probably belongs to the mid or late 1840's.]

Oh blest is the man who can dwell in that favored country and partake of the bounties which nature hath so liberally bestowed without becoming enervated and corrupted

Our domestic affairs remain the same nearly -- Pa had Jockey castrated last July which has improved the animal in every and cured him of amorous inclinations -- Crops suffering much from exuccous weather and our Apples are almost all blown of by gales of wind

The appearance of the town after a little -- The common occurences that take place on which each and every individual discourses are the illegitimable proceeding of some of the inhabitants such as one Miss Jane White made pregnant by Seth Staples and Dean wife at last with child by Luke Aldrigh

O town has been interested by a Gentleman from Boston who payed to teach his Audience the necessity of abolishing capital punishment and have imprisonment locun tenens for hanging and he then ask for a contrary opinion from any one Pa arose and by decisive arguments convinced him and the major part of the assemblage that the punishment for murder as establish was comme il faut -- The disconcerted speaker appointed another conferance and obtain for the occasion besides himself a gentleman from Boston Mr. Ballou and all his Hopedale Sattelites but Pa fairly Abbey Ketteged them

I have the utmost confidence in the presant administrations and rejoice to behold our country's prosperity certainly divine aid assisted in the consumation of that all important question

I sincerely hope that the Oregon negotiation may be brought to an issue as advantageous but Enland is more powerful and subtle than Mexico and doubtless is determined to retain that territory by force of arms her warlike preparations at Penetanque-shine appear ominus of approaching danger all our Cities on the border of lake Michigan within 36 hour ride of that place are very much exposed in this fort nor soldier to protect them

Now my dear brother my letter draws to its end without imparting without imparting any thing of much interest I hope you will prosper as your auspicious beginning portends May your generosity lead you not into extravagance or your ambition into indiscretions, we are all liable to errors for frail creatures we are As to myself I no not what my future destiny may be but sufficient for the day is the evil thereof

I enjoy the greatest earthly blessing Health which is better than diadems rubies and sensual pleasures.

Here must end this feeble letter and I remain as ever
your humble Brother

S L Doggett

S.W. DOGGETT

[I have labored to keep orthographical -- as he might have called them -- lapses and errors of repetition. I am not sure of Penetanque-shine, but that's the way it looks. The letter is evidently to Samuel Doggett.]