

[Letter from Simeon Locke Doggett to his cousin Abby who married Mr. Deane]
Raynham, Mass. Apr. 2, 1852

Dear Cousin Abby Weston Deane,

It is with pleasure that I let it devolve on me to answer your kind letter to Aunt Prudence. For Grandpa, when he heard of your birth, wrote in his Diary; "Laus Deo" ("Glory to God.") He seemed to have a prophetic knowledge then that you would be a blessing to your mother, a pleasure to him in his old age, and an ornament to society. It is sad to learn by your letters that your mother is so seriously indisposed. It was fondly hoped that removed from this place, the locality of many sad recollections, that she would recover. But by your letters the reverse appears to be the case

Now when your mother was here I saw that her grief was great, and sad might be the results of it.

But if at this time, absence brings no relief, then great indeed must be the weight of bereavement. I cannot at this time write a letter of condolence, and I am moreover persuaded that consolation from the lips of others consoles your mother very little.

It is sad that it is so; but all find that their is no grief so great as that for a deceased parent, and no death so full of pangs as that of a dying heart.

Sad thought, that love and death should have been born into the same world!

But we must dry our tears, and no more weep for the dead, for them we cannot benefit, rather let us weep for our own condition and for the living; Prayers and tears will make the living better, but will avail not the dead.

Let us seek contentment, resignation and consolation from the same source that grandfather obtained them, from a life well spent, from the inspired pages of the Bible, and from God in Heaven. But I must with reluctance leave this sad and tender subject.

In regard to health and feelings all here remian the same. Aunt Prudence grieves much and is very sad and lonely. Grandmother continues the same as usual.

I received last night the magazine and newspaper your brother Roscoe sent me. I am highly interested with them, and am very thankful.

I have written several letters, one to Maria Doggett of I.k. which I gave to your brother Sammy to carry to your parents; another to Miss Mary H. Hale. One to my Brother in California, & one to my mother, from whom I have rec'd a letter.

[The letter closes without a signature.]