

[Letter from Simeon Doggett to his Grandfather]

(Mendon Jan. 2 1852)

Dear Grandfather

I wrote you a letter yesterday, which I doubt not you have received. Owing to some delay or other cause, your letter dated Dec. 30th 1851 did not reach me until this evening, and apprehensive, that you might think it miscarried, or that I discarded it, or that it was in any way neglected, I have deemed it necessary to write you again. By my letter yesterday you will learn that I fully understand the subject and the state of things; and that I also expressed regret that these preliminary steps were not taken last Oct. For, There is a tide in the affairs of men &c. -- And I regret also that in planning to go to Andover I did not engage a school; so that in discarding one opportunity to get a better one I lost them both. I regret also that I did not obtain the high school at Wareham. But in reflecting on these things, it is of little use to regret. "For regret is an enervating folly, and the season for energies come &c.." It will not be necessary for you to send me a catalogue, for I received one last Tuesday, sent me by my Uncle Deane whose kindness I highly appreciate. For dear is kinsman to him who has seldom kindness received; who has spent his youth confined to the narrow limits of a farm, a toilsome farm, that has consumed his young days with labor, precious days that he wept, like poor Eugene Aram, because he could not spend them in obtaining knowledge, and in getting wisdom. -- Thus has passed my life on Mendon Mendon that like a "pent up Utica [?] contracts my powers".

Thus has passed my life in Mendon, like a very hermit going nowhere, retired recluse, toilsome, and tedious life. Yet my yearning mind longed for the society, and company of others; for a conversation and intercourse with the agreeable, the refined, the learned and the pious; longed for the scenes beyond the distant hills; strived ~~for~~ by the midnight lamp to obtain without schools and teachers, knowledge wisdom, truth, and to "drink deep at the Pierean spring"

And oftimes have I wandered down by the winding brook, and laid me down upon the green grass with no one near me, with ~~the~~ all the sublimity of solitude around me, and with my eyes cast upon the blue expanse above. And then I would peer far into the blue ether, seeming to see hope and promise written in the skies; and angels fanning the buxom air, and to hear music in the blue heavens faintly falling on my listening ear; and soothed by the seeming beatific vision, and the solemn stillness around me, I would fall into some deep reverie and dream perhaps of future happiness and peace, of lofty themes; and noble deeds but aroused at last, to find myself trammelled by more than one strong fetter, and my wild thoughts chastened by reflecting on the stern realities of life. And then the sighing mind, the plaintive notes of some little bird, and the sound of the murmuring warter, fell upon my ears, and make me sad, and I would seem to see Melancholy seated in a shady grotto beside the brook

"With eyes upraised as one inspired &c. -- In hollow murmurs die away"

Hence, great and lasting is to me kindness now, who have lived so long without it. And ever will be fresh in my memory, and cheering to my heart, the kindness and attention I received ~~at your~~ Venerable Granfather at your house last thanksgiving; and tho' I am unworthy any favor from Heaven, and perhaps from man also, yet the interest which you have taken in my welfare has given me new life, and energy; and I feel that a bright future is dawning upon me. --- If I can possibly come to Raynham I will, and avail myself of the generosity of the Rev. Mr Carver. I wish I had known these these facts last thanksgiving -- it would have saved me much blindness to the guture, and trouble also. If you get a Catalogue you will see what studies are pursued, also the terms & c. You will find that the standard of the

of the Institution is high, and the aid given to Charity Students small and many difficulties are in the way. But my motto is,

PERSEVERANTIA VINCIT OMNIA!

Yours &c. Simeon L. Doggett