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[Letter from Simeon Locke Doggett to his brother Samuel]
Oct. 29th, 1849

Dear Brother

There is a critical time which happens in general, to every thing; and on the manner in which that crisis is past, depends the ~~happiness~~ unhappy condition, or prosperity of the residue of existence. If then things are managed with all due discretion and foresight, at the moment, even thou' the whole difficulty cannot be removed, the satisfaction of having done all possible, even alone would be an amelioration. And if doing all possible consists only in the application of the doctrine of expediency better is such applicability than passive permissance. And if among several affinity exists, and capability to do better is such management is consistent with harmony, as will not produce after regret.

There is a critical time which happens, in general, to every thing, and on the manner in which that crisis is past depends the ~~unhappy~~ conditions, or prosperity of the residue of existence -- That time, that crisis has arrived in the affairs of this family, and must now be met, come good or come evil. I am urged, I am desired to write you this letter; -- you're urged, you are requested to ans. it immediately. About a month ago Uncle Theo op. made a second visit to this place, for the purpose of selling his business, Like unto this was his statement; -- that, when he entered his profession by great frugallness and saving he was enabled to lay up the most of ~~this~~ salaries. That thinking it not good for a minister to be troubled with the care of money he would put it into reliable hands, accordingly he sent the money to Mr. Deane [?] And when it had amount- ed to \$4000, and his need came upon him, he asked for its payment, but he found Deane insolvent, therefore great was the stir in his mind be- cause of his embarrassments. And as his salary now is small, and acces- sible only once a year, and his voice threatens him with its failure, therefore he would take what return soever Mr. Deane would give. Viz. such values as I mentioned to you in my letter of Aug. 17, '49. But I have since learned, that part of the debt was canceled, according to agreement by Uncle Theo's assumption of Aunt Abby's patrimony (=2000+) in reversion.

Thus his salary being inadequate, the Patrimony inaccessible, and the residue of the payment not ready money he says he is destitute. Such is his predicament; to Better which he wants the note (\$900+) against Pa ~~paid~~ liquidated, whi ~~ch~~ he says he was obliged to take of Deane. Fu- thermore Grand pa ~~wants~~ feeling nigh his end, wants the 2 note (\$150,+ & \$130+) paid, for which he bears security.

To affect the liquidation of these debts Theo required the dismem- berment of the farm, to which barbarity Pa ans. he would never consent, that he would rather have the whole farm sold, that he had no deeds of it nor wanted one at present, and the only property liable to his debts was money he had lent Grandpa. To pay debts with money in this po- sition, being insuperable, and Uncle Theo desirous to be brotherly, finally offered and now offers, that if Pa will advance the sum of \$600 Six hundred dollars, which is less than 50 per ct. on the whole he Uncle Theo will assume upon himself the several notes viz \$900, \$150+, and \$130+. Now he has given Pa until the 29 proximo (Thanksgiving day) to make his determination, and until spring, or a like period of time, to make payment.

Such being the state of things, Pa desires me to mention, that he

to Samuel

offers to you (if it is in your to accept it), which the character of the family forbids him to offer to others, the purchase of, or the mortgage on the land west of the road to the amount of the sum required.

By which means he will be delivered from the perplexities which environ him, and his latter days will be days of freedom from this vassalage, with which his life has ever been enthralled.

And in regard to the land to state, that it is a most valuable part of the farm, for the last 3 yrs. owing to the uncommon dryness of the seasons, it has been the main support of the farm, this yr. most all the hay has been cut on that side; it is in a very good state of cultivation, and the wet parts could be made into cranberry beds, which are now selling for 2 dols. a bushel. Now to sell it at Auction or otherwise it might bring a \$1000, which would be a great sacrifice.

For every prospect is it will increase in value greatly in a few years. Because Mendon is destine to be a thriving town even now land in the heart of the village brings a high price.

The land where Horace Stone lived sold a month ago for \$3500, for 15 A by Comstock, by whom it is to be devided into house lots.

(And by way of information I would state, that the rest of the C. CP Hastings estate is for sail, viz. his lawbooks, state and U. States reports, reviews, encyclopedia &c, his old house and house-lots which extend up to our farm, and as far west as our meadow = 8A. Post lane and its pasture, proved at \$15 an acre, also his woodland &c.; also his wife, who has put herself in the market, for whom Grove, the Blacksmith, has quite a predilection.)

As this village is building up fast for a great boot manufacturing place, it will afford a good market for farms in its vicinity, but as our farm is not only in close proximity but will eventually be in the centre, it will be profitable for farming or to be covered with houses.

As the trouble in view is to be settled on the 29 proximo, you see the necessity of speedy attention this letter.

Yours truly

S L Doggett.