

[Letter from Simeon Locke Doggett to his mother]

Raynham, Mass. Apr. 2. 1852

Dear Mother,

Your kind letter I have just received and I hasten to answer it. You have no doubt learned from Pa a pretty full account of grand-father's death.

He died at about $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 o'clock of the night following Friday the 19th inst. i.e. a few hours after we had read the letter announcing his sickness, a few hours after Elias Wood prayed with us.

He died in the full possession of his senses &c.

Aunt Abby, and Prudence are almost inconsolable for their bereavement. Aunt Abby and her family returned to Brookline last Friday, the 26th ult. Cousin Abby has sent here two letters from Brookline, stating that her mother is very sick, so weak she has to keep her bed, and so sad that she grieves continually.

In regard to your enquiry about Brother Melancthon's making a bargain here, I can only say nothing definite can be said at present. Aunt Prudence may wish it, but her wishes cannot govern, for you must understand that she has no authority over the property here; the control and regulation of it is in the hands of the executor, whom Grandpa appointed in his Will. He is to be up here fast day, to see to this place, and then the plan with Melancthon will be mentioned to him. But you must understand that no one here will consent to any such arrangement without the permission of father.

I am very sorry to learn that Melancthon is unwilling to continue dutiful and useful to his poor father. I know that Pa is apt to be harsh and unpleasant to him, but I know also that if Melancthon would be kind to his father and patient, if he was but more obedient and willing, if he would have more his father's interest in view, and try to help his father in the many troubles and labors that oppress him, I am certain that Pa would treat him kindly, and that they would live peaceably and happily together. [Melancthon is now 18.]

This is true by my own experience. I have ~~tried~~ tried to obey and assist my father and Mother, and they have been kind and good parents to me, which shows that if Melancthon will be kind to them and love them, they will be kind and good to him.

If there is anything that makes me feel sad & causes me to weep it is the remembrance of those instances in which I have disobeyed my parents I cannot restrain the tears of regret for my unwillingness and unkindness to my parents, and could I live my life over again my utmost care would be to obey them always, for in the end it would be my happiness.

Such too is the experience of all. I have seen lately my Aunt Prudence weep bitterly, for fear she has disobeyed her father, though he told her on his deathbed that she had always been a good and an obedient daughter.

And such too will be the sad experience of of my brother Melancthon when he grows older. Especially if he now runs away from his poor father; when he knows that Pa needs his help to carry on the farm, and when he knows that the laws of our country, and God in heaven, require him to be obedient and subject to his parents until he

is of age, like our Blessed Saviour was to his parents.

It would be much, infinitely better for Melancthon to remember no more the troubles and disagreements of the past, to see the evil consequences of self-willed actions, to repent, and try to do better, to be kind, gentle, useful, and thus induce his father to forget and forgive the past, to be his best friend, and ever be to him a loving parent.

For when ~~he~~ my dear brother, if he pursues now a wrongful path shall have grown older, the remembrance of the past will come upon him.

He will reflect that his father was harsh to him at times, but will think it would have been better if his father had been seven times more severe. He will remember his acts of unkindness and disobedience to his parents, and the remembrance at last will bite like a serpent and sting like an adder. You loving son Simeon L. Doggett.

P.S. I have written several letters, one to Maria Doggett, one to Miss. M. W. Hale, one to Brookline &c. I have a very peaceable quiet time here. Tell father it is not necessary for him to come for I can come. I have had a proposal to study law. &c.