

Dear Mother Salem Schoolhouse Elkland Pa January 8th 1848

I suppose you have been watching the mail these many weeks expecting to hear something from Pennsylvania. And perhaps you will expect an apology from me for not writing sooner but I think it is sufficient to say that nothing very particular has happened therefore I have been waiting the materials when with all build. I suppose you know that James of age last Sept.ember, and therefore at liberty to do as I wished. Our folks not being able to hire me; nor I, able to work for nothing, after looping about a week or two I went a trip down the Soyabock as a second hand sh araft then coming back I hired about a month and a half to work on a farm about 9 miles from home, that time being when I next engaged to teach a school in the Salem district where I am still in good health both in body and mind. A fine specimen of a school teacher says you. perhaps you are right in so saying, I suppose that among the refined Yankees I could not shine. but among the barbarians of Pennsylvania I am looked upon in a different light. I have a district school at my command and of course respect is due to me for a school master in Pa is a person of some importance and besides all that my school is not one of the lowly order but one which ranks among the better sort of country schools. although I receive but the small sum of ten dollars per month I have 18 scholars from the age of 18 down to 4 I like the employment very well it affords more time for reading than any other employment that I can find and besides that it is a nice thing in the winter to be in a warm house. My school is about seven miles from father's and I have not been home for three weeks then they were all well father is working in the factory this winter he is wearing by the yard I believe. Franklin's folks were all well the last time I heard from them. I received your letter some time about the last of August or the first of September in which you requested any thing that was interesting. Now I cannot find much of any importance. We have not had any snow of any account it is now only about half an inch deep but the weather is pretty cold the ground is hard with frost and it is neither good sleighing nor waggoning. I had thought some of going to the

to the west next spring but I have about given
it up for the present you say that you intend to visit us
before long on your tour west or south and I think that
I may wait till then and perhaps if nothing happens and
you have no objections I may bear you company. I
think that I should like to go into a new coun-
try & to settle rather than to settle here although
there is land plenty here it is not of the best quality
and therefore it does not settle very fast the best
of it is picked out and settled upon and next of it is
rather slow in settling. I have studied the art of
surveying and if in a country where settlements
were going on briskly I might perhaps make
something handsome at it. the country here I have nothing against
it is healthy and the land of such a quality that a man can make a
very good living off of it but still I should like to travel and
see some thing more of the world. Some I have known that
have been to the west and have ague and then come
back saking like an aspen leaf and have been quite satis-
fied to settle on the hills of Pennsylvania but still I
think that I should like to try it myself. When you
write I wish you would mention about the time
you think of coming out to see us. And I want
you to write just as soon as you receive this letter
for seven weeks of my quarrels are gone already
and where I shall be after my school is out I
cannot say therefore I wish you to answer this on
the very day you receive it

R Bedford

Varley Rodford

Edmunds Jan 83

Rev R Bedford. Barre
Washington County
Vt