

328

Dec. 31st 1860

Dear Almira,

Christmas has passed, this is the last day of the year with its repairs many of our hopes, & bright prospects. Thus it has been a sad time to us all. Who of us expected such a heavy blow to fall upon us so soon when last we separated. How much unprepared I was for such a dreadful summons. I was sorry you could not be with us on the night of our separation. The weather prevented, I started within an hour after hearing of our sad misfortune. The weather was exceedingly severe but I did not think of it, we did not get there until 11 o'clock that night. We found several there, but the sadness of our feelings were unexpressed. How much we were bereft for you, you were the only living one that was absent. The burial did not take until 3 o'clock Sunday evening. The coffin was open how natural he looked. I greatly feared we could not get to see him, I felt as if I could never realize his death without seeing him. Why did you not go to see him? I had never known of his illness, until I heard he was dead I was so very shocked. Why should he have been taken so soon. One so brave, intelligent, & such a generous disposition. One whose example so worthy of emulation. Why was it the disposition of Providence to remove him so soon. There is only one thing that bears me up under this sad trial. His dying admonitions, his hope of eternal life. 'Altho' that I could have heard it from his own precious lips. His dying messages to Papa has deeply impressed him. He says he has not long to live & he must try to meet him in heaven. He says he is very sorry he is so ignorant about the bible's truths. May his resolutions be strengthened, & may he soon be rejoicing in a saviors love. For this end let us all pray. Would we not be happy if such a reformation could be brought about. We came home Tuesday. Since leaving Papa's I heard he had a very severe attack though when going about Papa's death is a severe blow to all more especially to Papa he takes it exceedingly hard. I'llie not much better if any. I have been over her since my return. The time is so really

Almira's mother's name is Almira. The children are all well. Mary Anna has been to school & out  
 Almira's mother's name is Almira. The children are all well. Mary Anna has been to school & out  
 Almira's mother's name is Almira. The children are all well. Mary Anna has been to school & out  
 Almira's mother's name is Almira. The children are all well. Mary Anna has been to school & out

327

The Yankees, I feel more gloomy about our  
success than ever. Though it will not do to speak  
so plainly to every one. I am fearful the tide  
of our state will be conquered before the mid-  
dle of this year. If it is the design of Providence  
I am not to hope we will be able to subvert  
It is able to scatter our darkest clouds  
in a momentous way & unknown to us  
since your dear death. I have lost my  
interest with the arms. all I hear is  
far from being encouraging. Write me  
all the particulars of his death. I shall  
wait with impatience for when my  
letter to Mr. Anthony & the children I  
think all to write how is C - & P  
tell them to write to me & I will  
seize the chance to write. Come to see  
us. I should be happy to see you <sup>now</sup> than  
ever I have always thought so much of  
your visits, he was the only one that had it  
in his power to visit when at home, but little  
peace he has enjoyed since the beginning  
of this terrible war. He thought when he  
left Papas he would visit you, see how his hopes  
were blighted. Write soon. Your affectionate  
sister, Mrs. M. J. Leary

Mrs. Almira A. Anthony  
New Bedford Co  
Vt

B. S. Leary  
Jan 4 68

451912