

storms and afflictions of this life and be
one unbroken family circle around the
throne of God in Heaven I am glad
I have not always got to live here. I can
at times look forward with joy to the
day when this life shall be o'er and my
work done here, and oh may it be well
done and I prepared to enter into rest.
I don't know as I have much news to
write. Sheldon Lawrence has died since
you went away. he died very suddenly
I believe. Sam "gray deciver" is
all right and if I am any judge looks
better than when you left. I wish Henry
had the money to buy him but the wish
is vain. Please write to us as often as you
can and I will try to answer in my
poor style. Love to David's folks also yourself
and may the blessing of Heaven guard you
from ill is the prayer of your
unworthy Sister
Amanda

Bridport Apr 26th 1868

Dear Brother Lewis

We have received two
letters and one paper from you since you
left us - and I thought we might venture
to write to you or direct to New Bedford.
We were glad to hear you was well and
in such good spirits. If you have good
health I don't see anything to prevent you
from enjoying your visit. In fact perfect
health is the greatest blessing bestowed
upon us poor mortals here below.

Ezra returned rather sooner than was expected
by any of us. Really I don't think it hardly
paid for the tears shed over his absence.
Martha fairly cried herself sick and her
mother was obliged to fuss over her for half
a day and finally put a brick to her feet &
got her quieted down so she slept till
noon - she survived the terrible shock.

I believe

There were others of course ready to cry their eyes out - which is all right of course - but to think he came back in less than two weeks - Of course they were all glad to see him - and it was perfectly natural that they should feel bad to have him leave.

Abel came down yesterday and helped Henry all day - also David Lario - they planted potatoes - finished before supper - & H plowed the garden. Henry & I have been to meeting to day. Mr Blairdell preached an excellent sermon as he always does. The house was pretty well filled and they had good singing. William Brandey took the lead of course. It has been almost as cold as winter to day, and we had a terrible snow squall about the time we came from meeting. I declare I don't know as we shall have any warm weather this summer. The sun has just set and the clouds look beautiful.

Nettie & Jennie have been here today. Nettie came home with Jennie late even from prayer meeting. Emma and Et have been gone ever since last Tuesday visiting - at Stephen Willmarth's - & Gilbert brought them out to Uncle Agnes today and I guess they are all going up to meeting this evening - probably Albert and Mary - will be absent as they usually are. I am afraid the meetings will decrease in numbers and in interest - if any stay away - I would like to go to every one of them and I know it would be for my own enjoyment to do so - but I cannot get there it is so far. I do know by my own experience that by neglecting religious meetings & prayer so surely religious enjoyment decreases - and finally we get back to the world again. I am determined to try to make my way to Heaven - and I sincerely hope we may outlive the