

Rome Decemr 9.th 1842.

Very dear Sir.

Your letter containing draft. had
come safely to hand. for \$ 120. on Manhattan Bank.
I have this moment arrived home. from a pleasant, &
very unexpected ride to Onondaga Lake. in company with
my excellent friend & Class Mate, Gordon Huntington.
The sleighing is splendid. On first Dec^r the snow ^{fell} all
around us. in twelve hours. 2 feet or one inch in depth.
I never before rode through such wild looking country.
Fine plains, it is called. & it does not belie its name.
The lake was frozen over at the head only, from here
the distance is 16 miles. I did not stop in my hurry
to tell Kitty I was going. So the Old Gentleman, Mr Huntington
came in after her. they dined. after waiting 2 hours for
our return, and dined again with us at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock.
He enjoys a green old age, & is a most agreeable com-
panion. Yesterday. "Thanks giving" we could accept
of but one out of 3 invitations to dine, after Morning
Service and a Sermon. My duties are increasing,
quite rapidly enough. By request. I have arranged
to preach my third Sermon on Sunday Evening, at
Onondaga Depot about 16 miles distant on Rail Road
to Syracuse. and hope to organize a Church in the
Spring. this will be doing something. though I find

it. very hard work. I have just learned a curious fact. in connexion with my Sermon for "Thanksgiving" it was not. you may be sure a political discourse, it however attempted to show that our National and State Constitutions and our Magna Charta, "The Declaration of Independence," and various enactments and customs, evidently acknowledge Christianity, as the Religion of our Nation. The fact is this. that almost to a Man, I know of but one exception, My Congregation are Loco-focos, and most of them hold offices of considerable value, viz Post office, Pres of bill, Surrogate H H, though they have got a silent yet staunch Whig in the Pulpit." The money comes most acceptably, as the whole amount expected \$220. was pledged, to individuals in Town. We have only purchased necessary articles of Furniture, with two or 3, which Kate thought she would like to have, but any kind of a piece of Mahogany or even good curled Maple, costs more than double than at New York, and as we have but the one room until Spring. we chose to have it pretty nice. My Salary is punctually paid in, but at present it only meets necessary expenses. Our healths are quite good. and My dear Wife, is "daily improving in appearance."

Since I have officiated here, I have advised them to make some improvements, and a debt of \$250. has been incurred. The Ladies

are getting up a Fair. to aid in its liquidation. The receipt of the one hundred & twenty shall be endorsed on your bond to Catherine. I hope the Attea Bandy, or even ours, will cash it without difficulty or much charge. A case of very severe inflammatory Rheumatism has just occurred in our Parish, a Married Lady, after all sorts of remedies, she determined, against belief, to try "Animal Magnetism" her own daughter after instruction in that occult Science, could perform the operation, and it has certainly helped if not cured her, she can attribute it to nothing else. I really hope Mother "Fanny" will simply try it, "for fun if not as cure" it might hurt if not do, pain. Most earnestly do we hope, she will get relief. At once in awhile starts a tear from Wife's eye, when she thinks of Mother's sufferings and her distance from her, but I soon kiss it away.

The winter is mild & pleasant thus far, tho' we have heard the wind rattle in "a very apprehensive manner"

Our best love to Father and Mother and family.

Yours affectionate Son,

Stephen H. Batten



1834

Phillip G. Van Wyck Esq
Grove Hill. Sing Sing.
Westchester Co N.Y.

Stephen M. Burt
Dec 9 1834
about 10 o'clock
on 23 and