

Christ Ch. Rectory, Jan^y 26. 33.

Dear Father, Your kind letter was duly received and met with a cordial welcome as well for its rarity as for its pleasing contents. It is a long time since your last letter to us was received. and we hope that you may be spared to write us a good many more. Katy and myself could not help compare your last with a previous one and notice that your hand does not yet show by any fattering, your increasing years. It is seldom that a person of 70 years. can write with a firm, untrembling hand, a few days before your came. Mrs B. recured one from Sarah Hasey, giving us quite an account of things, & particulars of the way in which a kind Providence was pleased to deal gently with Aunt, in her last sickness - She also stated the articles, devised to Katy, and begs us still to make her house, which she

hoped soon to get our home, as we had done
at 87. We rejoiced that Aunt had thought
to make some special gifts, during her life
time, to several persons. Tho' small they show
she thought of them. It is very difficult to please
all, under such circumstances, and I doubt
if any persons will or bequest, ever gave entire
satisfaction to all the parties concerned, We found
Aunt had forgotten Brother Van Dyck & Emma,
and this because we know both have paid her
great attention while at Sing Sing on several occasions.
However we can all rejoice that a good portion
is in the family. - We get on as usual. I am
fully occupied in my parish duties and in the
Education of my Children - My school house
is in process of being turned into a dwelling
& is nearly ready to be entered. I can realize
more rent, tho' no more interest upon capital,
but a more certain income from it.

On the whole our winter has been moderate,
tho' we have had considerable cold weather,
our sleighing all came in December, but
to day, the snow falls as tho' we might gain
get about in sleighs - on Lake is tight
and they are riding on it daily -
My house will cost me when finished & paid
for, about \$1300, and will rent for \$100.
per annum certainly perhaps \$120. This is
fair pay. It will be finished off nicely, so
that in case of emergency, my family will
have a roof over their heads - It is convenient
to the church, & pleasantly located, though
it has no garden spot,

The baby grows, is very stout & healthy. The other
little girls are improving in their English studies,
french & music. The baby is just weaned.

Affectionately Your children, with
love & affection to all family,
S. H. and Katy Batten,

Rev^d Stephen W. Batten
Jan'y 26th 1855