

James Fenwick to Samuel H. Jones

May 13, 1882

Lisbon Farm May 13, 1882

My dear Cousin Sam,

I have received your kind letter of May 8th and am very sorry to learn you "are in bed and ailing" - we are indeed "brothers in affliction beside being almost a life time brothers in affection".

My physicians give me no hope of release from suffering during the remainder of my days. How glad I am to know you pray to God and turn to Him as ruler of all things, the consoler, and comforter in time of affliction, trusting you with myself have learned fully to know God is love, realizing that the very hairs of our head are all numbered. He has manifested His love to us by sending the dear Savior to live and die upon the cross for our sins. He having become victorious over the grave has gone to prepare a place for us, we may be washed pure enough to dwell with Him, be like Him and know Him as He knows us. He has promised from there to send the comforter and although we cannot now imagine why a God of love thus afflicts, we are assured that hereafter we shall know. So faithfully and prayerfully let us trust His love and mercy. How blessed it is to be able to feel such an atonement has been made for us sinners and that we may be washed pure in the blood of the Lamb slain for us.

As you say I have very "much to be thankful for in the care and attention of the wife of my youth and loving daughter". Also an affectionate and dear son J.J. White in whose capable, loving, and conscientious care I leave them and my estate. How thankful too I am that instead of suffering the anxiety so often pressing on me this season, it is my good fortune to be able to say the sales of my cranberry crop of last year

have defrayed all current expenses, beside paying a number of old debts, leaving a balance in the bank. Believing my son in law, capable, truthful and all he should be in the matter, I have made my will, appointing him my executor leaving my estate to my wife and to my daughter after her; feeling fully assured it will always be kept separate and safe from his business fluctuations. I felt interested to live that I might develop my own property under the signal good fortune of procuring the additional land with the water right ----. The \$1,500 (the sum paid for the additional five hundred acres) remains as a mortgage on the estate. I fear the profit of the carp and strawberry may not be apparent in case of parting with the property at public sale. There is no doubt that in a few years these would (under my care) have developed an income of a thousand or two dollars per year - thus with such success furnishing the means for still further increasing all these interests. Under these circumstances I trust Joseph (as my executor) will not be forced to sell soon, as such a sale without more perfect development of my plans would leave Mary a small estate. It is true the vast improvement in the cranberries now growing, the safety from fire, summer droughts, etc. (all results having water at command) are certain to ensure a crop of three or four thousand annually.

Joseph has a contract for his position as long as the business proves profitable, as new beginners they felt some anxiety in regard to quick success but prospects now are bright, biding fair for a large lucrative business, so of course his presence is very necessary and valuable in it, leaving him little time to spare for looking after the interests of my estate in the pines, where he, more than any human being I know could bring the same knowledge, experience, and interest as myself. The things required for perfecting my views and plans and enhancing the value of the property. Still I trust he

may not feel forced to sell. He has good business qualifications, is a good straightforward manager of men and very popular. Now during my illness he comes up to give my business a day's attention each week. In every way he is a great blessing to both Mary and myself, for which we certainly feel thankful.

Another interesting part of my work has been the supervising of Mr. Upton's interest in the pine tract bringing old Mary Ann pond into cranberries with other similar work, pleasant to me and promising to be lucrative, so you see dear Sam, I am cut off not in "circumstances of financial ease" as you say in your letter, but having good prospects, the opening of success.

The late visit of my sister Maragetta was a comfort to me and the universal kind respect and sympathy shown by all around us, in my illness, with the many very kind attentions and visits of acquaintances generally have been truly gratifying to me in these hours of pain and sadness.

Let me congratulate you dear Sam, for I am truly glad you have a son so tenderly affectionate. Give my love to him, also to your brother Ben, doubting not that in him you have a good faithful nurse for you truly have great cause for thankfulness. Now receive thanks for the book on crap you sent me, which of course interested me and from which I gained much valuable information. I lately procured another work on the same subject by Fenley which is very full, showing my ponds to be admirably adapted to the work.

Now let me close this long letter, which I never could have written myself, sitting to write being very painful for me, but dictated it word by word to Mary, who now does all my writing for me. Any time you may wish to hear of me you can do so by

inquiring of my son J.J. White, no. 925 Market St. Now please let me hear from you now and then. Give my love to Sam Jr. and Cousin Ben. Is it not a good thing to have a faithful wife to write for you? God bless you all!

James A. Fenwick