

Lisbon Farm Jan 2nd, 1862

Dear Andrew

I have felt that you have a simpathy for Richard. Sam & Ben & myself above all that any other person has. That even when they have regarded you as an enemy you were their best friend.

Yours remarks about Sams' literary turn when I last seen you. showed me that you understood Sam more as I did and your hope that the evils that he now suffered under. might or should turn to his advantage was in the sprit of the Bospe. if it spring from the love that is in Jesus. anyway it partook strongly of this nature of state of Love. Which I think should first be the love of Jesus, the Fountain from which flow rivers. having partook we should invite all. and little ones from it may flow through us to others.

The Rock of such firm foundations on which we may stand. and reach out in the troubled sea the hand of simpathy and know that this will never fail to give relief, if the parties will but except the hand of love.

His is the Kingdom of love in which we may all hold office. and when the Devil. the source of his chastisements. leads away many that he may inflice punishments, we have to direct the chastized to put there eyes and ways towards the king. and the power of the evil one is gone and then they see but the hand of love in their chastizement. But how often often when our own eyes are turned in the wrong direction lead by the deception of this evil one, and the weakness of the flesh we need the chastizement our selves. and all chastings are greivous and if we are not cut down by it, it would be as nothing to our good. it shows us the need & help of simpathy of others. For our King (as a man) was promised legions of angels to bare him up in his temptations & sufferings. and that have his love are as angels surely.

This King says the first includes all other commands.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God &c the second is like unto it thous shalt love they neighbour&c. Therefore when he says "When ye pray say" lead us not into temptation &c. it should teach us not to lead others into it.

The advice of my old schoolmaster was practical. now boys (says he) we know from experiance that there is some poor weak one in this school who will be tempted to steal. therefore I shall hold him guilty who leaves his desk unlocked. because the tempter is as guilty as the tempted. This brings it down to the common affairs of life. and he who is truly religious would be the best ofa business men.

Indeed business habits is but part of the drill this is necessary for the soldier of the Cross. and from my own experiance. it would seem almost necessary. for through it he has less temptations to deviate from the straight and narrow way and fall into divers temptations. which by it he would avoid and with it needs but his eyes directed from the dust. to the eternal city to which it leads. to keep him to the end in this right way.

In 1857 I took my Cranberry Farm with high hope that I would show to the country that by a moderate outlay I would improve natural Cranberry land. so as to produce a large revenue and would make myself richer and also Richard & Sam. My plan so far as increasing the virus go has succeeded. and by vigilance & care I have saved the berries. although Mr. John Black. and all

my neighbours looked upon the attempt as ridiculous. Now the oppinion of the whole neighbourhood is changed, and such fears as they threw in my ears then would be looked upon now as rediculous, this is a victory. it is not compleat yet, although Richard picked near three hundred bushels from Buffins Meadows. Some were picked too soon for fear of the ives and his other places yielded him almost nothing. when Providance had produced a good crop.

His berries this year from pretty good information should have yielded him four hundred dollars nett, and a maxiamum crop & prides when put out by giving two thirds for the labour as now would be eight hundred I think.

In side of my fence the thing attempted because the frost has distroyed the front large in 60, and the fruit buds in 1861 had it not been for this in spite of the drought of 60 the bog would have produced me the interest of 10000dollars nett leaving a good margin sufficient to pay for labour which will increase the berries. The vines if they will bear like did in the summer of 57 when you were there, would produce four times as many vines to vear as there was then. this statement is safe because I leave a margin. Now any person unacquainted with this business, most all are, could not see much inside the fence but bushes and old dead grass, and like the heart of a man or the inside of a jug they cannot tell what is in it untill the crop comes out of it.

If I have done what I think I have it proves that Sams land of this kind has a large value for this purpose. Sam knows what I have done about as well as the man in the moon, feeling that I was working for his good as well as my own. I have been astonished and hurt that he was so indifferent to it. I have studed cause and effect with the utmost diligance, and have picked up a fund of knowledge on this subject which is of great value to him, or his property. And if Providance takes from my crops a few more years in succession I must close out and quit the Jerseys in justice to myself and others. if is true I know how to prevent the same losses but the frost may come and the trees I should plant would take some years to grow. but the frost & c dose not come but at times. my crop may amount to thousands next year.

My wifes health is bad and my mind is on the cranberries, so I have been imploying a Forman on the Farm, his family to provide food for the hands, thereby saving wife much work as help is hard to get and uncertain, but this dont work well. so that for next year I have put it out on shares, hoping to avoid the sad experiance of 58 and 59. The drought 60 brought me in debt on the Farm and this year my cows have done very bad, and with the low price of Pork & Beef I am behindhand. We have lived cheap hoping for better times. my barn needs a new roof we need a carriage to ride, more rails on the Farm, more cattle on the Farm. the children more schooling.

This being my condition and feeling that from my knowledge of farming, active outdoor habits, knowledge of fighting fires, and as Nat was going to leave, I would be of service to Sam at Hanover. I proposed to Sam to take up my residence there, provide for myself, and attend to his business about the cost of a gardner and Housekeeper and their board. This I estimate at \$5pp, which I thought would be cheaper to him by two hundred dollars per year than he can get through with, and this at a fixed amount, his plan depending upon the economy of the housekeeper, and may run up, he also will have to feed a horse, there will be the economy of working

the timber. This was my calculation and is thought to be good by two intelligent business men from whom I obtained an opinion. But Sam thinks he cannot afford it. I do not want the job without the servaces are a full equivalent for the pay. and his argument is good if he will stay. and attend to all things himself.

Now I cannot nor would wish to spend in improving the bog except by personal labour these times. So that I want something else to employ part of my time. and have applyed to Richard because as Levi Parker has not the confidence of Mr Morris, if any timber is to be worked on Richards property I trust that I should have the confidence of both parties. so would answer the purpose. One strong argument in favour of having some person interrested on the tract is on account of preventing thieves. and stoping fires. these no doubt would take as much timber from the tract as a moderate working of the Timber.

I have presumed in writing you a rigmarole all about my self but with a wink from you it will never be repeated.

Many things have made me low in sprits this season. the condition of the country showing giant strength indeed. but in a fratricidal war. the hope defered in the success of my plans. which has not been from the state of the nation. The feeling that no one appreciates those plans because have not brought success (which is Money) also Richard & Sams affairs it does me some good to write this hoping you will not thing to much of a bore and read it.

With respect to Mrs. Jones I remain as ever

James A Fenwick

January 2, 1862
Continued

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JAMES A FENWICK"

At the time of writing this letter James has had five years of experience in the cranberry business and he speaks of the thieves taking Cranberries and of the fence surrounding his bog.

The remnants of his cedar rail fence were still in place when I began working at the "Bog" in 1893.

One of the big problems for the early cranberry growers was to get the people of the pines to recognize any of the cranberry areas as private property. Since the days of the Indians, the cranberries, a gift of nature, had been the property of the first comer.

Grandfather built his fence. Other growers took other measures. I often heard the story of Nat Bishop's method. He killed a cat and with the blood and brains and some old clothes managed to create the impression, among the Pineys, that a murder had been committed, to prevent the theiving.

The next letter, written in August of the same year, tells of his anxiety in regard to his son Thaney's education.