

[Letter from Rufus Knight to his son Arno Knight, who is working in Boston]

February 13th 1872

Arno we rec'd your letter and was very glad to hear from you after waiting so long a time we began to think you would not write at all, but I suppose you wanted to get a chance to do something before you wrote, we have been tolerably well since you went away your mother is gaining slowly. I have been about the same and as I was before went away until now & am dreadful lame.

It has been very steady cool weather since you went away and very good sledding most of the time it is quite warm and pleasant now. I have sold my oxen for \$225 about three weeks ago, consequently have not been able to do much sledding. Avans cut his hand quite bad and has not been able to do many chores lately he cut it play with a piece of slate at school. It is getting better slowly, he wants to go to dances if he can't do anything else our school closes this week, I have bought me a stout horse sled and am in hopes to get a little wood out of the woods yet if Avans will take hold after his hand gets well. Wm was telling all around in the fall and the first of the winter, that he was going to chop for me all winter but he has not got into the Cushing woods yet and I don't see much prospect of it. Sylvanus has been chopping a few days. Capt. Lunts wife is dead, Aunt Ruth is getting a little better, Nancy is sick with a slow fever, Charles is very sick, was taken very sudden last Sunday he fainted the first they knew of it. Hay is getting very scarce and high they have been poor meadow hay as high as 20 dollars per ton at the barns It's hard to be obtained for that the like was never?

I sold my oxen because I was afraid I should not have hay enough I rather pay a big price for oxen than hay and move it I shall have to bye me a pair shortly if I can get money enough for they are taking out about all the cattle worth having in this vicinity. We want you to write as often as you can and let us know how your health is and what you are about and how you like it. We have not told any body what you proposed to do but Roberson has been telling i[t] understand let us know how Ma Matthews (folks) are and the rest of our folks that are up there.

Nellie began a letter as soon as we got yours but she says she don't know what to write

Money is scarce here and business dull I have not had my hand operated on yet but must soon for it grows some faster than it has. It is hard work for me to write I don't write much my fingers and arms cramp

I must close my letter with this admonition take good care of yourself and watch over yourself for good, Fred says he is going to read your composition in school the last day of school It can't be beat he says

From your best friend and Father,
Rufus Knight