

Belleme Aug. 3. 1840

Theophilus

My very dear son

How long & how often have I desired to write you. Yet have put it off for such a length of time. Not that I am convinced of being behind in point of numbers. For I have received by two from you since I saw you, and I wrote you one, and one to Rebecca. Which she never acknowledged. But away with such computations! They do not, in general, answer me. Let none - especially my own children - deal with me in epistolary correspondence, on the footing of numerical reciprocity. With me often you may always expect to hear from me, when anything of particular importance shall occur. From Susan & Theodorus you get all our news frequently. I am glad to hear of you by them, altho' you have neglected to write me yourself.

I really am at a loss where to begin, in giving you a history of our affairs. You are aware how deeply I was - & am still - involved with Charles Brewster. The details would be too tedious to write. The am^t in a summary way is this. Sometime in the summer of '39 he sold at private sale two of the houses on the lot he owned, at \$13,500. The purchaser, after 5 or 6 months waiting could not raise the money. They were again sold by the Sheriff at \$9,500, which would completely cut me off from even the prospect of any thing at all for my more than \$4000. I got, thro' a legal defect in it, this sale set aside. About Xmas, the whole three houses were again exposed at Sheriff sale. There appeared then no feasible alternative, but lose all

or purchase at least part of the estate. I was strongly
advised to purchase, because in depressed state of pro-
perty, the whole was likely barely to clear the mort-
gages upon it. Mine, with arrears interest amounted to
\$19,300!! The whole property sold for little more than
\$20,000!!! Before the sale, I was encouraged by Mr. Pipher,
where mortgage & interest amounted to \$15,000 to purchase
& he would let his remain on the property, and I might
save myself by keeping it until the times would round.
I purchased the two eastern houses, 28 feet front on
High St. & 150 feet deep to another street. They cost
16,050 dollars. They went at \$800. Mr. Pipher was will-
ing to allow the one half of his original mortgage to
remain, viz \$7,500. But Mr. W. Alister had another of
\$2,000, with arrears interest accumulated to 500 dollars
more. How this to be managed! The small surplus
of the price of the estate above the two mortgages amount-
ed to somewhat more than that Mr. Alister's arrears int.
and this came to me. But were the 2000 of principal
to be met? We had no money. We had been pitting
near the state of paying up for others nearly-taking in
the whole time since we set up house - 10,070 dollars!
Will Mr. W. accept two notes, one at 6 months 1030
dollars, another at 12 months 1080 dollars, and we
made arrangements at home to live on the one half
our income in the mean time, and pay the 2000 doll.
in 12 months. We paid the first on the first of July,
& mean to pay the next on 1st Jan. All this in exten-
sive circumstances we can accomplish, should the
great disposer of events allow things to continue equal-
ly prosperous as they now are. But the 1000 of Brew-
ster's debt is yet unpaid; for the 2000 to Mr. Alister were
on my own account for the property, leaving on it only the mort-
gage of \$7,500 - The property in ordinary times is certainly worth twice

that amount-

But, my dear son, I have detained you a long time about, what a stranger might just denominate S.E.F. But with you it is different. For here I am, that none of my concerns, can, at any time, be to you indifferent. You identify my concerns, as I do yours, with yours. But stop! I must amend this sentence, you identify my concerns with your own; as I do yours, with mine. But believe me, my dear son, a very considerable portion of my trouble & anxiety, was my being totally prevented from extending any assistance to you when sitting up house. How mortifying! Could you look into my and then recognize the existing willingness to assist you and do you good, you would, as I am sure you will, ascribe my failure not to any thing else than want of ability.

I am exceedingly sorry to have to tell you that Theodorus, for some weeks bygone, has been dangerously affected by a disease in bronchial vessels. We have been all much alarmed. But for this he would have been enjoyed to have paid you a visit in Bloomington & have conducted Rebecca & Louisa home to us, until you could come on. But the physician ordered him to travel to the North. He started last Wednesday in co. with Mr. M^r. Lee, to Saratoga, with a view of proceeding - probably - as far as Quebec. We have received several letters from him & Mr. M^r. Lee, all of which are very encouraging. We have hopes that he will return radically improved. We think great long for your coming home once more. We will be in raptures to see all, & not least, the little stranger, whom we never yet beheld. Love most sincere to Rebecca. I am preparing to try to send her to not answering any letter. God bless you all. From your most affectionate father. S.B. Wythe



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The Reverend

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