

Philadelphia. Oct 30. 1857

Dear Sister

Your letter was duly received & would have been answered at any early date, but having been so much engaged, for the last two months, that I scarcely allow myself time to sleep. I have to be up by 5 O'clk every morning & get to my business at early day break. I have the carts started by 6 O'clk & they have to go until after dark, have at times 10 to 12 carts and some twenty men besides employed & two assessors. We have two large yards & it requires all my time to attend strictly to all the collections & Sales. We also have an office up town & Agents and, I assure you, that my writing gets so piled up, that I have a great burden upon my shoulders. I only wish I could spare the time to pay you a visit, but if I cannot get sufficient time at home, it is settled to a certainty, that I cannot take time to pay any visits, particularly to one so remote, as yours. I heard from William (who is at Cape San Blas). Monday twice this week, he writes me that he is so much engaged that he scarcely get time to write us as lengthy letters as he would like to. He writes in good spirits and seems to contented. He will be home w. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> next.

On last Sunday I paid a visit to Bristol, and  
took dinner with Papa. he is not very  
well, but I trust that he may get better. he  
is trouble with the "Gravel" and I have taken  
him in hand & provided him with medicine,  
that will give him relief. I fear that he  
will never be entirely cured, but if relief  
is given it will be a source of comfort to  
him - he seems to be perfectly happy at  
his new home. he has a temporary House  
Keeper and I have prevailed upon him  
to keep him in preference to the one he has  
had, who has gone to Maryland upon a  
visit - I expect I shall get to see him in  
a few days again & see what he has con-  
cluded. He does not get to the City  
very often, which I am much pleased to  
see, - there is but little news in Bristol  
the town is filled with new faces, & were  
you to pay it a visit, you would scarcely  
recognise any one - when I steamed up the  
river to Bristol. & next season we can go by R. Road  
every hour up to 10 O'Clock in the evening, and the  
steamer runs 10 trips per day - the fare is 12 cts.  
the boats go crowded daily, owing to so many  
persons living up the river - Duck's Ferry (Berach)  
is quite a large town & will rival Burlington.  
Berach is the handsomest town on the river at the  
Berach's Edge Water which will be some day a splendid spot

I wish you would get George to write to Butler  
Edwin & ask him to send me a receipt for  
the draft I sent him - George writes me that  
he had received it, but I have never heard  
through him that he had received it -  
He must be aware that I am entitled to  
it - The house that the draft was drawn upon  
has failed, but the house I received the draft  
are sound & will pay it provided he has  
not got the cash for it - Often N. Y. would  
now command a very large premium in your  
City - rates of exchange on N. York. 4 1/2 % -  
J. P. Armstrong writes that he never hears any  
thing from you - he has often written to you  
& Sophia - How long since you have seen him?  
The business of an City is generally very dull -  
the great crisis will cause great distress, but  
I must say that I feel quite happy as our  
business has improved ever since - owing  
in a great measure to distrust of the paper  
money - Most of our large merchants have  
failed & suspended, and it has thrown  
out of employment thousands of men &  
girls - I have not seen or heard any thing  
of the Fox family for a long time I have not  
seen any of them for years - All quite well  
at N. Haven - Aunt Joanna occasionally  
gets down to see us to spend the day - Stanton  
is still in Memphis -

Joanna Bessonet occasionally corresponds with me, she has a great desire to pay us a visit. - Brother Charles has talked often about bringing her into see us, but times are such that I fear that she will not get on to see us very soon. - When the R. Road is completed near their town they will be able reach us in four days with ease and at a considerable less in cost. - I should be much pleased to meet to see all of my nephews, Brothers & Sisters -

When you write me direct to Philad - We have a box in the post office & we call at the office 4 times every day. - We live at 328 Lombard St. bet 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Coal yards, Swanson St. one above Catharine & one below Catharine - Office 136 Walnut Street -

My daughter Julia, lives in Drammond St. 13 & Chestnut - She is with us once a day - When an opportunity offers, I will make enquiry about the Fox family, I but seldom reach their part of the city, it is not in my daily walks -

We all send our love to your family also to Brother George & family -

I am ever your aff. Brother  
Jno Bessonet Jr