

Guilford, March 14th, 1861

Brother  
Mother Leete

Hannah says it storms this afternoon and why don't you write to William. Well I don't care if I do for I really like to hear from you. If I write now why I shall expect to receive an answer ere long unless reception brings on Millenium but I think the end is not yet but any rate we in old Conn still continue to sit under our own views & views light speaking figuratively with no Southern braggert to molest and make upon it. With regard to myself and family we are all pretty well considering and if I except hard colds think we have been quite as healthy as usual the past winter. Our little boy who was born Christmas evening and now weighs 15 lbs is uncommonly healthy I think. It is our present intention to call him Webster.

Right here Hannah breaks me off with the following sensible expression tell Will I want a letter oftener than once in the month, therefore please take warning and govern yourself accordingly. Amos has been quite sick with lung fever and the last we heard he was better and began to go out doors. Mr Rose (?) & wife get on swimmingly I believe. I don't believe it is the best place in the world in Fair Haven & I have expressed to him my views but he says he has got there and damned if he is going to back out. We have heard nothing from Hall and Anna recently. With regard to vegetables (?) we have had a plenty thus far and I have got rye & corn and oats to sell but they are very low and not easily sold for cash at all. I weaned 2 spring pigs. Butchered one Monday after Thanksgiving weighing 283 lbs. Butchered the other one the loth of Jan weighing 375½. So you see we don't expect to go very hungry for some time to come yet but as for paying debts if I could make or get enough honestly to pay my debts in one year as you seem to expect to why I should be so tickled that I should not stop laughing for a month. By the way if I could show you my colt (that I like or like) there is nothing favorable to report from this quarter which I am sorry to say but we hope for better times. Please tell William Chadly (sp?) that at the SS Concert in \_\_\_\_\_ a temperance pledge was presented to the scholars of the \_\_\_\_\_ Church SS by the Rev. Mr. Wood and an invitation given to the scholars to sign and about 50 scholars & teachers responded to the call a few names have hole in paper We think something ought to be done as about half a dozen \_\_\_\_\_ shop are in full \_\_\_\_\_ in this place There I must close. Please write soon. We love to hear from you dearly. Love from all please give to all

R. W. Benton

Deacon Linovolds mother died nearly a week ago at Fair Haven. She had attended Church with us for some time since her Mr. Bennet (sp) of the Episcopal preached a sermon on the occasion of Mr. Buchanome (sp?) past evidently aimed at the Abolitionists in which he says \_\_\_\_\_. I am confident that in our little fold we have no torn Also your Preacher (?) has repeatedly admonished against the agitations at the North of questions connected with the domestic institutions of the South for which institutions we have no responsibility. He also speaks of people deluded into error \_\_\_\_\_ by the teachings of desecrated and fanatical pulpits. The text from 11 Chronicles XX. Since I have been tempted to ask him to preach on Good Friday from the 14, 15, & 16 verses of the same chapter. As the preparing of an illustrated rebus is thought to be quite a trick by some people I have torn one for you to guess the answer is on the back please guess before turning it over. It contains the whole aims of the Scientists

Yours RWB

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