

Bowling Green Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 1847

Dear Brother

Your letter of the 2<sup>d</sup> inst I received last night. I feel very much pleased to hear that you are all well. though you said Father had a sore tooth yet that is not very serious I am not only glad to hear that you are well but I love to hear what is going on in Canton and in fact all about. You said you hardly know what to write about but just think of me sitting down to write to you here I am about sixteen hundred miles from home all among strangers seeing thing ~~things~~ that are interesting to me <sup>to be sure</sup> but I feel afraid to write <sup>how</sup> for fear ~~that~~ that they will not be interesting to you while you know I am not like Joel Shepard I like to hear all of the news. But as you and Mother expressed a wish to hear from me often I will tell you a little what I am about if it is not very interesting. Mr Keith arrived here last Tuesday morning. The <sup>boat</sup> generally get here on Monday afternoon but owing to the rain it did not <sup>get</sup> here until Tuesday morning I felt quite anxious about the boat Monday night so much so that I dreamt about it all night and one of my dreams I will tell you. I thought that the boat that Mr Keith was to come in had been due a number of days and as there was another boat going down the river I thought I would go down and meet Mr K. the time come for us to start off we moved but we had not gone a half a mile before we saw the boat

was to come in clear up on dry land, and the way that  
it got there was <sup>this</sup> there are a great many bends in the  
green river and I thought as the boat was coming  
round one of these bends a squall of wind struck her  
bows and turned her up a little creek and before they  
could reverse the steam she went upon dry land &  
when we came in sight who should I see coming out  
of the boat with a valise in his hand but yourself  
I exclaimed what in the name of common sense has  
brought Brother Nat out here. Now if this dream is not  
interesting just say so in your next letter & I  
will tell no more dreams if I can find any thing else to  
write about Well to return as it rained Tuesday Mr Keith  
and myself did not go any where but sat in the house  
and talked over matters and things I felt quite dis-  
appointed not to receive a letter from home by him  
<sup>although</sup> to be sure that you could have if not Mary Ann would  
write and send ~~it~~ by him, but I will not complain  
Wednesday we hired a horse and wagon and went to  
Elton which is 43 miles from Bowling Green to Russellville  
which is 28 miles is the worst road that I ever saw  
you cannot drive over 5 miles an hour in dry  
weather but when it is wet as it is now you cannot drive  
more than 4 miles an hour the land is a red loam &  
as soon as it is wet it is just like glue it is not like  
the mud <sup>in</sup> Mass it sticks and hangs like a brother.  
There is an abundance of lime rock here in fact all  
of the rock is ~~lime rock~~ that they have in this part of the  
country is the lime rock and that makes the water



very hard. so that those that live near any of the  
rivers use the river water they have an idea out here  
that the river water is more healthy than the lime  
water they call all well water lime water I will return  
again where I left of well we started for Elton so we did  
and we got there in spite of lime rock mud, about 8  
oclock in the evening it was quite cold all day. but  
clear, Wednesday I took the horse and wagon and went to  
Brenton which is 10 miles from Elton I went to see four  
different persons that I heard that wanted to buy pears  
but they are not ready to <sup>buy</sup> get I think I shall be able to  
sell two or three in the spring one man has promised  
his daughter to buy her one when he has sold his tobacco  
which will be in march and so it is with most  
of the planters they do not want to buy anything until  
spring so I am going to go south to some of the cities  
until spring and then try them again. the pears  
that is at Elton can be sold at any time if we say  
so at a very good profit but we think we shall do better  
by & by I intend to start for Nashville tomorrow morning  
McKeith will stay here a few days to here from some  
persons that are to write to him here, he then will go  
up the Wabash river I do not expect to see him at present  
as I intend to go south if he does not send for  
me. I intend to go from Nashville Tenn to Memphis Tenn  
and then to Lafayette City Miss & to New Orleans. and further  
to Mobile Alabama The pears that went to New Orleans we have  
not heard from McKeith does not intend to leave until  
he hears from them or knows whether I am going directly south

Mr. Huth is a little home-sick I think that is he wants to get home by the first or the middle of January he thinks now of coming south but I think that if I have good luck he will not go farther south than Memphis. I have done a little tanning but not enough to pay expenses but we have sold two of the peanos now and expect to close the bargain for the others soon so we have got money enough to go with yet I am very much obliged to you for the kind offer to do any business that I want to have done I do not know of any at present but may have before spring There is one thing I must say for ~~you~~ & Father that is the people ride the oxen in this part of the country it is the fashion to harness them as Crossan use to (that is the horses) they always ride the near horse have one ~~rein~~ to the near leader and they do the oxen the same way. They always have a rope around the near ox's horns it look quite good to see a man on an ox with ~~one~~ reins and in Tenn they have bits in the oxen's mouth oxen are ver cheap a first rate pair of oxen only bring about fifty to sixty dollars common thirty to forty five. Horses are also very cheap a very good <sup>one</sup> only bring about fifty dollars. There are but few of the horses that will work in a wagon out here all go on horseback I must close this letter by saying that if you write me a letter on receiving this and I hope you will direct it to Memphis Tenn. remembre me to all

(I have not got Chloes letter yet) Affectionately your Brother & Sister