

Shelburne 19<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>mo</sup> 1846

My Dear Friend

Joseph Benson Mather

Enclosed is a check I have received from the Acting Paymaster of the XI Regt: as my salary for attendance on the Militia at Watertown Point. I have two checks of Father's but they cannot be sent until they receive his signature as they are payable to order -

Thou hast heard of the danger we were in from fire, it was an awful sight to see the roof of the house in flames not knowing how soon the whole house might be in the same state - but our house & property were mercifully preserved there were many circumstances attending the occurrence which showed the kind interposition of Providence in our behalf - its being so soon discovered, its occurring in the day time, and all being at home & plenty of water in the spot in things temporal as well as spiritual what a debt of gratitude we owe to our Heavenly Father. The letter to Mother enclosing one from Mather arrived safe & we have received the Sugar &c per Lewis. Lewis cannot take our Wheat this

time I do not know if it will be sent by  
any other vessel. there is one coming up the Bay  
tonight. We received a letter from Father stating  
he intended to visit you. Victoria by the <sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> of March  
& we sent a man off yesterday 2<sup>d</sup> day to meet him  
I have never sent word what quantity of <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> am I Lush  
had. In the next parcel please let us have a piece  
of webbing for saddle girths. It should be strong  
and a tin tea-pot ~~from~~ Henry that will hold about  
six cups - We have not lost the sickness from our  
house. Joey is quite strong again but James has  
been & still is very ill, the fright of the fire removed  
his complaint & he was recovering fast but yesterday  
morning he went out with his brothers, and became  
so weak & exhausted by the exertion of walking that  
I fear he has a relapse of his complaint he is very  
ill to night. Mother requires some knitting wools  
& <sup>two</sup> sets of knitting needles, one stout - the other fine  
Joey is quite delighted with his castan hose. Mother  
has made him a Prussian Dress to wear with them  
Mother is very foolish & nervous owing in a great  
measure to the shock of the fire. Mother will thank  
Maria to procure some blue spruce (2 1/2 y<sup>d</sup>) wadded. to  
match the binding sent for the Merino curtains, also four  
happels with Cord of the same colour. My watch does not  
go well care has not been taken to fasten the hour hand  
properly & it shifts about sometimes causing the watch to

stop, this was always a fault & has been prevented it  
by putting a piece of paper so as to raise it close to the  
Deal Plate. About 12 men ran away from the Rodney  
Hills last week. They were excited to it by one of their  
number who showed them an account in one of the  
Books of the Library, were the Misconary in the South Seas  
found a number of Runaway Convicts from Newt. Heals  
on one of the Feejee Islands, the account stated that  
the Natives treated the Runaways very  
kindly, the man told his Companions that he would  
take them away in a vessel to those Islands, they were  
to procure arms & ammunition & having secreted it in  
the Bush when they had obtained a sufficiency they  
were to depart from the Station, called [redacted]  
had his situation in the vessel washed  
out. The projector of the Scheme was of  
course to be Captain a baker was to be steward & so on.  
They commenced by attacking Mitchells Hut near Buxton  
knocked the man down & took his fire arms & ammunition  
but their carrier was short they were soon taken & the  
Captain will be honoured with the highest punishment  
we think the Children much improved under the care of their  
new master. he is very attentive & kind to them, yet firm. he  
is a man of considerable ability, he has had a first-rate Education  
& is possessed of great natural talent, 'twas he who first discovered  
the fire, whilst standing at the table door during a squall of Rain  
which followed the gust of wind that jammed the mouldering  
embers into a glass, we think it was a spark from the kitchen  
chimney that lodged in the shingles, which are so old & decayed that  
you may crumble pieces of them to powder & after Semons saw the  
flames he collected all the men, & he & Spencer went on the Roof &  
applied the wet blankets to the rocks & whilst Tom George put the fire  
out inside - we were in a state of confusion for nearly an hour -

George has gone to the Grange for Mary Madell we expect  
 these home tomorrow. The family we would have returned  
 I sent J. Richardson some of the family but have not been able to collect them this  
 from my previous orders but have not been able to collect them this  
 season. I am going to be ashore about 4 terms of what I mean  
 the year in which they should be reached. get them ready  
 for shipment myself. I have written a note to J. Richardson  
 informing him of these matters but it was not sent.

his copy

Joseph Benson Matter  
 by Liverpool St  
 Hobart-Town

Nov. 28/45  
 20/5/45

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but one blanket was injured by the fire. The wind in the  
 afternoon was so strong & of such a dry nature, that the  
 blankets after being washed & hung on the line, dried  
 with a rapidity quite surprising. We all unite in kind  
 love to thyself Maria & dear little Francis & believe me  
 to remain thy sincere  
 Friend George F. Stone