

Norwood Green  
near Hipperholme  
Nov 15, 1871

To Mr. Joseph Hepworth Senior  
My Dear Father,

We received your kind welcome letter on the 16th of October and another one addressed to Brother Joshua Wells on the 30th and we are all very much pleased to hear from you and as I am the scribe that is selected to return unto you our compliments and gratitude I will begin with myself. The first you say in your letter that you hope that I have not forgot that I have a father and brothers in the land of the living and you all very anxiously waiting to hear a something from me, also that Brother James cannot tell you all that you want to know. True it is a very difficult task for one to tell something that he don't know himself, neither do I think that I shall be able to tell you all you want to know, Nevertheless, I may perhaps give you rather more satisfactorily information on some particular points but not much, but if I can say anything in regards to anything else that you want to know, that will afford any satisfaction, pleasure comfort or consolation I shall be very much pleased. After I received your letter, I went to Batley at the end of the week. Read the contents thereof to Mother she had some visitors from Halifax, consequently this prevented us from having much conversation, that is in regard to the welcome news that we had from you and as to what I were to say to you when I wrote back to you. It being the council day the following Sunday I thought it proper to defer writing to you an answer until that time. The time came and I had a short talk with Mother, she wished to be kindly remembered to you would like to be with you as soon as possible. She has been rather sick, once she told her sister, Amelia. Amelia was going to write to her daughter Emily at the same time and I guess you hear of it. I think that is all that is or has been rong. So far as I can ascertain, only the inconvenient circumstances that we are placed in, which we ourselves cannot very well control. Mother, Jesse and Alma has been on the strike for wages. Mother was on the strike for a week, Jesse for a fortnight. They gone in again. They did advance the wages 2 schillings per week previous to their striking, but a few of the hands were not satisfied, hence they struck out and the others were looked out. They have gone in again but not with a second advance of wages. Mother and the boys are doing pretty well just know. She says that she intends to come to America the next season if possible. Wether she can come right through or not she will not be able to come right through except there is some assistance from some other source and even if she could come right through she does not wish or desire to do so without calling to see her children. She does not know, however, she would accomplish the task. Tis six months since we heard anything from Sarah. Mother begins to feel very uneasy about her and the last time that Alice wrote she was living with William Woodhead. She told us not to write to her again tell she had wrote to us as she was thinking to remove everyday but she did not know where she would have to go therefore I guess you will have some idea how these things will affect the heart of a well wishing, kind, loveing, anxious



Mother. I never heard anything from my Mother that bore me except what you say in your letters that she is going to send me some money to come out there with. I have not heard any signs of any money only what you say. I think Mother cannot get a confidential scribe to write for her else I think she would write to me or send me some information. Neither does sister Hannah write to me. I do believe that if they could write for themselves that they would do so. There is a portion of truth in the saying of the poet:

All those who would be happy men  
 Here lies a presious portion in the pen  
 Therefore take care and learn to use this tool  
 For he who wants it looks much like a fool.

not that I wish to find fault with anyone that cannot write, not so but merely to show what a great advantage it does aford to those that are fameliar with its use and how awkward and inconvenient it is to them poor dependent creatures that can't write for themselves. I should be glad to hear from my Mother and sister Hannah if they could get anyone to pen them a few lines. I have not heard anything from Richard Bee or Mary Jane since I got the draft. He said then that they were going to a new settlement. I will write to them when I know wether they have got nicely settled. I am like you, I am always anxiously waiting to hear a something from all of you or any of you that think proper or that can or have convenience to write. I fully expected to hear or see a budget from James but I understand pretty near, I guess he is too busy with the girls. Well never, mind, but I'm not so young as I used to be. How do ye think I feel just now?

Now, James, my lad, if you have an time, Just sit down and listen to my merry rhyme.

You may have all the girls that you like by your side.  
 And they too may listen and I will not chide  
 I want thee to tell me what sights thou hast seen  
 Since thee and me parted when at Norwood Green  
 From Pickle Bridge station to Liverpool thou went  
 And how didst thou like the little time that thou spent?  
 You know very well, James, that I've never been  
 Not many miles further than here Norwood Green.  
 I've never seen any shipping, don't know what tis like  
 Because I've never been much further than Wike.  
 And now, my dear lad, you've been over the sea  
 And what thou saw there will thou tell to me?  
 What circumstance occurred that was worthy of date?  
 What sights met thy gaze that thou cant relate?  
 When over the sea thou was quickly wafted o'er  
 Thou wouldst see many sights that thou ne'er saw before  
 From New York to Ogden and then to Salt Lake  
 Thou wouldst see many things that one might relate..  
 If thou rode in the train and it went too fast,  
 Thou would see haystack and tree and all things fly past.  
 If thy mind were distracted while going all that way.  
 That nothing attracted, just hear me I pray..  
 You would get to your home which long you desired.  
 And maybe I guess you would feel very tired.  
 But when you had rested and come to yourself.

Say, did you see nothing on the floor or the shelf?  
 I mean in the house or about where you live  
 That would please us or tease us or make us all grieve.  
 And now, my dear lad, tell us if you can  
 What sights you have seen, there come, that's a man.  
 You need not to bother to put it in rhyme  
 But rhyme if you like, it will just do as well.  
 Write plain as you can so as we can tell  
 Don't say that you can't or you would if you could.  
 Just sit down and try, you will find it more good.  
 The girls they will help you, I know, if they can  
 Because we help Adam and he was a man.  
 They were made for that purpose deny it who can  
 That God created Eve, a helpmeet for man  
 I am what I am whatever betide.

(Longfellow)

This letter was written by Joseph Hepworth, the son of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Hirst.

#### COMMENTS

1. This letter was copied from a copy Mary S. Hepworth of Grover, Wyo. had. She said the spelling was copied as it was on the original letter. I do not know where the original is.
2. The mother that Joseph referred to as seeing in Batley was Ann Hobson formerly Lambert, who married Joseph Hepworth, Sr. They lived in Oxford, Idaho and were buried there. Ann Hobson emigrated on the ship Wisconsin on the 2nd of July 1873, and Joseph Hepworth Sr. emigrated on the ship Idaho on the 7th of Sep 1870. We do not know when Mary Hepworth formerly Hirst emigrated.
3. Amelia, who is referred to on page one, is the mother of Emily Dyson. Emily Dyson married Squire Hepworth. Amelia is also a sister to Ann Hobson formerly Lambert.

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