

Kingsville May 19. 1856

Dear Sister

Yours of the - was received on Friday and other engagements prevented my replying ~~before~~ before now and I am glad to see signs that betoken returning sanity and if those same intervals had recurred long ere this it would have saved me the pain of hearing to dispel some pleasant fancies that seem to be floating in your mind: as I cannot appreciate as I might under some other circumstances the interest you appear to take in my financial affairs now in regard to Colburn I am not in the least disappointed that he is out of employment and I have no idea that he wishes to be employed and in fact I may say I am surprised it is no worse as I distinctly told him and others, years since when yourself and a few others were instilling into his mind with a burning zeal that he was suffering the effects of Tyranny that he was made a martyr to parental Tyranny that he was not bound to submit to such maltreatment and that you were ready and willing to protect him from such fiendish barbarity I then distinctly told him where this course marked out for him to pursue would unavoidably end but that course which was to throw off restraint has unhappily prevailed and we see the result

I do not appreciate as I probably should your kind sympathy in regard to his leaving from the following reasons first he has gone there in opposition to my express commands I ^{now} happen to know that solicitations and entreatments were held out to within 10 or 15 days of ^{his} leaving home for him to leave and enjoy those rights that belongs to him and thereby foreseeing how ~~things~~ things might end I long since took the precaution to inform the public as I now inform you if you stand in need of the information neither to harbor ^{nor} trust on my account as fourthly! considering myself capable of managing my own affairs I will with all difference to the opinions of others claim the right to contract my own debts and will endeavor to provide means to pay them, and fifthly we have a law in this State and I presume in yours providing for maintenance of transient persons or persons having no legal place of residence and if you occupy the position of overseer to such no doubt a draft on the county treasury will be duly honored and respected

But aside from these considerations I am sorry Albion is taking such a course as he is taking I have hoped notwithstanding my fears he would take a more favorable course he might have done well to have Steier in this place but the bent of his own and his counsel prevailed he has chosen his course and placed himself beyond my control and must abide

the consequences of his course I have always
told him as I now tell him that I will do
well by him and assist him to the extent of
my abilities if he will do anything to
assist himself but if he voluntarily and
against my will throws himself beyond my
authority or control he must rely on his
own resources I think he is perhaps not past
recovery (although fast approaching that point)
and perhaps yours and Anne is the only counsel
that can reach him and that may possibly change
his course. but I do not flatter myself but
very little as I think there is great danger
I have learned from his own admissions about 2
weeks since that he was not only occupying
very dangerous ground but that his associates
were of the most debasing character such
as congregated around such places manufac-
-turing places as Lee where the mass becomes
a sink of corruption and ruin. I thank
you for the information your letter has
brought me and should be pleased to be
informed of events as they occur that I
may be better prepared to act in the premises
than I now and I think his leaving here was
the worst course he could have taken and
the result has justified all of my expec-
-tations. I remain truly yours
A. M. Ferguson
W. J. Bourgeois

P.S.

Now can acquaint Albion with
what part of this you think best
and proper yours W. G.

CHAUTAQUA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY