

Rochester [USA] Feb. 14th 1860

Dear Brother,

I received your letter in due time after date and was glad to find that you were all in the enjoyment of health and in the use of reason as it found us all enjoying the same precious blessing thanks be to the giver of every good and perfect gift. Well John, I am not going to write you a very long letter at this time. Although I have been a long time in the answering yours, I have been intending to write you for the last 6 weeks, and then again I thought I would wait till I had some important news to send you all. Agnes had another little boy yesterday, a fine little fellow, he seems to be endowed with all the faculties that can be looked for in humanity, thanks me to God for all his goodness and works of wonder towards the sons of man. Agnes is as well as can be looked for. I Hyslop's wife presented him also with a son January 14th, and all is well, and her mother also had a son a week after her and all well, and there is two more within a mile. You will see by this that the far West is peopling fast. We have had a most unusual mild winter so far. I have never seen anything like it since I have been in this country, there has been most no snow the ground bare all the time, but I believe it has not been so healthy. There has been a good deal of sickness in some parts principally inflammation of the lungs, mostly young children, one of our neighbours lost a nice little boy about six months old. There seems also to be considerable disease amongst cattle this winter and very fatal. It is Black leg or some call it the quarter ill. I.W Hyslops has lost one cow and two calves in it. I saw a man yesterday that said in the Township next to us, that is like the parish, that he new of forty that has died this winter of this same disease. We have bled all the young cattle except those that are well along with calves, as it seems to be getting rather a common disease. I would like if you could send us a correct copy of that recipe that we used to give them when about the Bush. I. Hyslop says his father had it. When you next write please send the full particulars how it is used, and the way to make it up and also the quantities for the different ages, it is principally calves that has died this winter. Please write a very plain hand so that we may not misunderstand you, it might prove useful, if we cannot use something as a preventative. I believe it is no use to do anything when you see the animal affected, for it is instant death. I hope if you are spared that you will not forget to send us a copy. I might also mention what our grain market is this winter. Winona is the principal market 45 miles distant, for this section of country. I will give you the prices in your own money. Wheat from 3s to 3s 9d per bushel, Oats 1s2d to 1s3d per bushel, Corn 1s8d to 1s10d. Prices is small this year but one has a small rent above one's head, our taxes was about £1:10s this year. That does not take much making up. A person that is not in debt in this Western world and able and willing to work in the summer months, can make a very easy living. I had 203 bushels of wheat and 322 of oats this last harvest. I will not have many oats for sale. I have three horses this winter feeding off them, one of them is coming 5 years old and one coming 4 and one coming 3. They are all mares and I expect but I am not certain, that the two oldest is with colt, and if nothing happens our cows, we will have three this coming summer If we only had a settled minister such I was used with in Scotland I believe I could be happy but one cannot expect every advantage in so new a country. If our settlers were only all of one persuasion we could have had churches long ago, but you know well how scattering members are in Scotland and the are 100 times more so in this western county that is in connexion with the RP Church, but I am still living in hopes that a minister will come within reach that one will can go and hear with pleasure. I see by the papers that you send from time to time that they are for trying to get Mr Symington to Greenock. Ministers are but men, the most of them looking to the loaves and fishes. It is most likely that he will go if it is a larger stipend. I am glad to hear that you think so much of Mr Hay. I hope you will long continue so to do. I am very much obliged to you for the papers that you send. I could send you some but you would not care anything at all about them her local papers are very poor things yet, but I must have done for this time it is getting so late and I intend D.V. going to Rochester in the morning to get some odds and ends, so I thought I would scrawl you over a few lines to let you know that we are still in the land of the living and in the place of hope. **I was sorry to read the account you sent about Anne.**

All of you must be as kind to her as you possibly can, for he that thinketh he standeth must take good heed lest he fall. He must be a miserable wretch to act as he has done, but vengeance is mine I will repay saith the Lord. If no earthly tribunal will punish him for his conduct, I am glad that he did not marry her. I never thought highly of him and the longer the less. You must give Father and Mother, Brothers and Sisters our united love, and yourself and family. You must let the Creochs folks know, and Jannet Hyslop how we are all. Tell the old folks to come and see their Grandsons and as many of the young ones as can get, but alas distance prevents it. Love to all enquiring friends I remain your sincere and loving Brother & Sister SA Crocket

P.S. Please write soon and send all the news