

De Kalb March 16, 1808

My Dear Sir,

I am exceedingly sorry I missed you on my return from Utica. I was in at Hermius(?) and when your sleigh passed, I saw it and ran after you and hollered, but could not make you hear, for your bells. I have been once to Utica since.

I understand that you have contracted for building a house for Van Buskirk, and that you left word with Mrs. Cleghorn that it was doubtful whether you should come in June. As your brick are all done, and not hearing that you had contracted with a mason to do your work. I wish, if you want that I should get it done, that you would give very particular orders to me, and I will endeavor that they shall be obeyed faithfully.

This is leap year and we already see it's effects. Be not surprised when I inform you that Governor Elijah Stockwell has been to Vermont, and after a courtship of four days, has married Bell's Wife's sister and has got her on to the Patent. Ruth Rich is also married to George Ronney of Ogdensburgh after an acquaintance of about seven weeks. Obadiah Johnson's Bones will escape a lamentation I believe. For his wife appears to be in a very duntish condition. I have to inform you that a man has commenced work on a lot of land adjoining to the Spoore lot. He has a family and says he will move on provided you will let him have the lot. Mr. and Mrs. Cleghorn are well. He conducts very well at present, and has for some time past. We have no sickness in the settlement. My health has never been better.

I remain dear sir your sincere friend and  
well wisher in heart.

Th. B. Benedict

Hon. William Cooper