

Rochester [USA] Oct. 19th 1860

Dear Brother,

You will be thinking long ere this that I have entirely forgot you, and it looks almost like it, but in the providence of God I am still able to take the pen and scrawl a little to you, to let you know how we are all, and how we are getting along. We are all in good health at present, blessed be God for his unwearied goodness towards us. Agnes is got quite well again, and the little boy is well. We call him Willie. He has got 6 teeth and can almost stand alone by a chair, he is going to be a sturdy boy if spared. He is pretty stout fed on cow's milk since 4 months old. I sent you word that I would write after harvest but I did not get at it then. We had a splendid harvest fine weather and a good crop. We were a little over three weeks with it, and I took a notion to have it thrashed early this year, so I got it done right after harvest. I had 335 bushels of wheat and 376 bushels of oats, and I am glad that I got it done then, as it has been some heavy rains of late and wets the stacks bad. There is not such a thing as thatching grain in this country, that I have seen or heard of. I.W. Hyslop has a large crop this year but the have not thrashed yet, after thrashing I had to get my hay cut and stacket, and that has kept me busy up till this time. I have been ploughing for the last three days, and if spared I will have to stick to it before the frost sets in. We cannot plough in winter as you can. We generally get it all done in the fall. I have little that will be of any interest to you at all. I sold one of my mares. She was very small but handsome. She raised a fine colt but I kept it. My other mare that I expected with colt had two at 9 months so the were dead when I seen them, but she was well herself. I should have liked she had lived, as it is rather a strange thing. There is great changes taking place among our relations of late. This is a world of changes. I was very much surprised to hear of my Uncle's death, it comes to us here unexpectedly, for we seldom hear of a person's illness but you spoke of his falling away in a letter you sent me. It is pleasing to think however that he died the death of righteous. God grant that it may be so with us all that our last end may be like his. I hope that God will be a husband to the widow and a father to the fatherless. You must let me know how they are getting along, if John is able to take care of the farm. But what surprised me most was the end of John Crocket. I read and could hardly believe what I did read. A man like him possest of sound reason and good understanding. To think that he took away his own life. It seems to me that his physician is to blame in not having him sent to a place of safety. I see by the papers that it has been perfectly evident that his mind has been in a bad state for some time. It is undoubtedly a great blessing to have the use of reason. You must if spared to write send me all the particulars about his death, if he was in want, or afraid of coming to want, or what seemed to bear so heavy upon his mind. Poor man. I always thought highly of Johnny, he seemed when at Corsock like a father to me. Used to come down on Saturdays to take me up with him. It is most distressing to think of his fate. Send me word how Uncle is at Lochfoot, and also how Mrs Hyslop at the Gate is, if she has got her reason restored to her again and all particulars. Was you at Glasgow at the Synod. I had a paper from them. It gave an account of the proceedings of the Synod. It must have been interesting to hear and see Williams there coloured Brother as Mr. McGill termed him. I have got a good many papers from you of late. I wish I could return you the same compliment but our local papers is not worth looking at. I sent you a paper from Rochester the last day I was up, for I had not yet a letter wrote, as my ink was all dried up, the cork being out and seeing it so seldom. I am almost out of the way of handling a pen. I have not made any since the last you had. You will be hard to make it out, but I will try and do as well as I can for it rains hard, and it is a good inside job. You must tell Anne to fetch over her little Sam and let us see him and I will give him a new suit of clothes. It so far off I cannot send him anything. He will be running all over by this time I expect. You might come over and see us and get a load of wheat. I can give it you. It would make fine (Scons). I do not know what it will be worth this winter. At Winona it is at present worth 3s sterling. If we only had the Liverpool market within reach we would soon get rich. This part of America grows fine wheat. There is going to be a great struggle this fall in the electing of a president between the Democrats and Republicans. I do not trouble myself about politics much, but if I am spared this fall I believe I

shall vote and try to get in a Republican. I should like to see the Black man have his liberty as well as myself, and I think if a Republican president can be elected, that there will be no more slave territory, and I think that confine it to where it is it will soon become unprofitable and kill itself. It is a great curse to this country. I have nothing more at present that will interest you. It is quit raining and William is going to Rochester so I will draw to a close and send this short epistle off. Agnes has been now twice in a very poor state and also a very dangerous one, inflammation of the brain, the first she was three months ill, this last time two. It is an awful disease. She is just like to kill her best friends clear out of her mind. You would not think to see her that there was much wrong with her but never at rest just like a crazy person. She is quite well now blessed be God for his goodness towards us. You must not in writing say anything about her being out of her mind for she thinks that she is all right and we are all crazy. But I must have done. You must give our united love to Father and Mother and Brothers and Sisters, and yourself and family and all enquiring friends. Forgive me for being so long in writing. Do not follow my example. Write soon and send all the news.

Great love to you all we remain

your loving Brother and Sister

S.A. Crocket