

Cambridge, March. 4<sup>th</sup> 1859.

My Dear Brother

I have just received a letter from Mr. McDonnell he says you have presented claims for rent, we were surprised as we had not heard of it before, he does not speak of any law suits, and it would have grieved me very much to have heard that there <sup>were</sup> any over the remnant of Property ~~our~~ poor Brother left us, Why have you not written to us, I am sure you would, did you know how glad we would be to hear from you, you would at least have answered my letter. — And Brother Richard it is all too true that we are comparatively strangers, We have never known each other our circumstances and dispositions as members of the same family ought to know each other, Richard it is not for lack of thought on my part, and have <sup>never</sup> wholly relinquished the hope, that some day I should see you, but we are pretty well in years and Providence may never favor so happy a circumstance and it may be that what ever we would say to each other will be by letter, surely there is much that we would like to say to each other about our own trials, good fortunes, &c — Our lives have no doubt been more eventful than would have been had not our Family been broken up, After the death of <sup>our</sup> poor Father, You and James went to live with Grand Father Savage, Elbertine and I went with Mother to her Fathers, our home was far from pleasant Grand Father Died, and the Hagebooms were no more disposed to ~~do~~ right than the Savages were. I learned a trade when I was 15 — You Brother Richard do not know the Hagebooms, but whatever may be their good intentions, they are all inveterate Schelds and Uncle Tobias with his encreasing Family together with his Fault finding, made our home most unpleasant, therefore we removed to Skematilas the 3 Cold Summers which you doubtless remember followed us, nearly every body suffered, we of course were not exempt

we were amongst strangers and Mother's small means were mostly invested in nearly worthless Village Property. Hester Marriad while there, my business did not avail much, I therefore removed to Cassinovia, Hester soon removed father West, and Mother went with her and never left her, while she lived, I was by myself most of the time my health was not strong and dependant upon my own resources for a living, I had my own troubles, for surely not any of the property belong to Mother <sup>Survived</sup> or any of the rest of the Relatives availed me any thing, I went to Canada, and there became acquainted with William Dalton an Englishman by Birth and education, 3 years after we were Married, my husband was in the Mercantile Business and our prospects were fair, they were soon darkened however, the Bank in which was involed our effects broke, he failed in business, but his strict sense of honor prompted him to pay every demand his Creditors brought against him, a want of Capital prevented his ever prospering again in the same business he therefor obtained a situation as Book keeper ~~in~~ employment he followed untill his death, and Oh Richard the dreadful pang I was called to endure, You know what it was you have been called to drink of the dregs of the same bitter cup, you have laid the Mother of your Children in an early grave, but I trust you felt as I did the sustaining power of an unseen hand. — My 5 little girls the eldest but 11 and the youngest still unborn could not of course realize there loss, his worldly effects were very little, but we retained the rich legacy of an unblemish name, I of course could not keep all my Children, my second Daughter went to live in Ghent. Columbus County and a third was adopted by a cousin ~~in~~ Mrs Molyneux Uncle James Fogelboms daughter, the ~~three~~ <sup>three</sup> stayed with me, We moved to Wilson a small Village on Lake, Ont by taking in sewing and keeping Boarders we managed to

live very comfortable, I have two daughters unmarried, my  
youngest Emma has poor health, she has tried teaching  
school but finds her health will not permit,  
I was very much pleased with Esters intended visit to  
Nashvill with the prospect of her becoming acquainted with  
you and her cousins, but when she was ready to start she  
was taken with a severe cold and she is not well now  
and I am afraid that her health would not admit of  
her going South so late in the season, I would like to  
have you write and tell me how you think the Climate of Tennessee  
would agree with us at the North, I read the ~~letter~~ your daughter  
Elbertine wrote to her Aunt Ester, we were all very much  
pleased as I did <sup>not</sup> know any thing about your children or we  
should have written to one of them at the same time we  
wrote to you, but we did <sup>not</sup> know that you had a daughter  
You cannot imagine my dear Brother how delight and gratified  
we all were, as she seemed doubly near an account of her  
being named after our dear Mother, Since our Brothers  
James death my concious has reproved me very much  
to think I have neglected such a great duty in not keeping  
up a Sisterly correspondence with him while living. —  
Emma wishes me to say she intends writing to your  
Daughters soon, ~~When~~ you write direct Cambria  
Wagon County N. Y. as I am a staying awhile with  
my eldest daughter who has 4 children and has  
very poor health, I am in hopes as the warm weather  
commences, she will be better,

I remain as ever  
Your Affectionate Sister

~~Sister~~ Ann Eliza Dutton