

Grand Sister

Michigan City Ia. October 20th 1844

I have too long neglected this duty which I am now about to fulfill. I beg you will forgive me this long delay and I will try and act more like a brother. it is a habit I allowed to gain strength by indulgence (as all habits will) & this one of Procrastination this putting off for a more convenient Season how treacherous and seductive it is, but I will make an effort to break the Spell & do better. I have also indulged the fond hope from Year to Year that circumstances would admit of my making a visit to all my friends but thus far I have been disappointed but it is now my intention if spared & prosperous until another Summer that I will make you a short visit. But we know not what a day may bring forth. little did I think when last with you that it would be this lapse of time ere I should be with you again & that some who were then living in the full enjoyment of health I should behold no more in the flesh, but such are the inscrutable decrees of Providence and however painful they may be to us it is our duty and our wisdom to submit to them without repining and with the true Christian feeling of resignation of Holy Job & say with him "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away blessed be the name of the Lord," Catharine's letter brought me the melancholy intelligence of the death of your dear husband. The thought of having written me during his illness but I have never received it therefore I was quite unprepared for the painful intelligence. It would have been a very great satisfaction to me could I have been with him before or even at his last hours but

it was not permitted and I must be resigned and the
more I strive to hold communion with his blessed Spirit and
so to prepare for a joyful meeting when sorrows and separation never
come and it is my sincere and heartfelt prayer that we
may all so live in this world that we may be found
worthy of being a united and happy family in Heaven
There is I believe a communion of Saints or Christians in
a sense which very few I fear realize if we thought more
of departed friends and that they ^{are} not far removed from us
and very possibly cognizant of and watching over us would
it not or should it not have a salutary influence on all
our actions, when we are in the presence of those we love
it is our desire to do all that is pleasing to them and
avoid doing anything that would give them pain
It is not our wisdom then to think much of departed relations
and that they ^{possibly} may be permitted to watch over us in our
journey through life both waking & sleeping and as it were Guardian Angels
over us, by allowing our minds to dwell more upon such things
whether true or false it would have this beneficial result
that we should the oftener think of our frail state of pro-
-bation and consequently ^{be} the more weaned from sub-terraney things
and the better prepared for the great change that awaits us all
The time is short and we shall soon know all, see as we are
seen and know as we are known & if we are wise we
shall strive to live every day as if it were our last then
if we are suddenly called we shall be prepared & if
otherwise it will prove a blessed preparation and render
our last hours more tranquil and happy. How awful
must the dread summons be to those ^{who} seldom think ^{of death} when
they do strive to banish it from their minds

I wrote to our aged Father lately which I hope he
has received, I was in hopes to have received an answer
and this I therefore delayed writing you until now ~~expecting~~
a letter from Father I hope you will write ^{me} a long letter after
you receive this and I promise to reciprocate. I know of
no cause why we should be so much estranged from
each other it is not right and we must not allow it to
be so any more I know and acknowledge that the
fault lies at my door but it shall be there no
more please remember in love to all our dear rela-
tives I have not forgotten them & I hope they have not
forgotten me I shall be glad to receive letters from
any of them that may feel inclined to write me
Please say to Catharine that I will soon write
to her again I am under a great obligation to
her for having persisted in writing to me notwithstanding
my cold neglect, she has proved the
effect of perseverance and she shall have her reward
I have not heard nor seen any of your family that are
in the west only what Catharine wrote me they are far beyond
me but I may in time if I am spared make a tour
farther west in that case I would endeavor to find them
again I beg to be remembered to all and by all in your
prayers and praises and thanks giving for many blessings
and mercies that we have been the recipients of and that
this one may be granted to us to meet again in this world
is the constant prayer of your here to fore neglected but
now repentant & I trust affectionate Brother
A. Barber



Letter from Martha Finches brother A. Barber dated October 20th 1846? From Michigan City _____ (can't recognize the abbreviation) keep in mind Isaac Finch, who's death he is referencing, died 6/23/1845...he should feel contrite

Dear Sister

I have too long neglected this duty which I am now about to fulfill. I beg you will forgive me this long silence and I will try and act more like a Brother. It is a habit I allowed to gain strength by indulgence (as all habits will) of this one of Procrastination this putting off for a more convenient Season how treacherous and seductive it is but I will make an effort to break the spell and do better. I have also indulged the fond hope from year to year that circumstances would admit of my making a visit to all my friends but thusfar I have been disappointed but it is now my intention if _____ & _____ untill another summer that I will make you a short visit but we know not what a day may bring forth. Little did I think when last with you that it would be this lapse of time ere I should be with you again & that Some who were then living in the full enjoyment of health I should behold no more in the flesh but such are the _____ of providence and however painful they may be to us it is our duty and our wisdom to submit to them without _____ and with the true Christian feeling of Holy Job? & say with him the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away Blessed be the name of the Lord Catherines letter brought me the melancholy intelligence of the death of your dear husband. She spoke of having written me of his illness but I have never received it. Therefore I was quite unprepared for the painful intelligence. It would have been a very great satisfaction to me could I have been with him before or even at his last hours but

Pg 2

It was not permitted and I must be resigned and the more strive to hold communication with his blessed spirit and so to prepare for a joyful meeting where sorrows and separation never come and it is my sincere and heartfelt prayer that we may all so live in this world that we may be found worthy of being a united and happy family in Heaven. There is I believe a communion of saints or Christians in _____ which verry few I fear realize If we thought more of the departed and that they are not far removed from us and very possibly cognizant of and watching over us would it not or Should it not have a Salutory influence on all our actions When we are in the presence of those we love it is our desire to do all that is pleasing to them and avoid doing anything that would give them pain _____ it not our wisdom then to think much of departed relatives and that _____ They may be permitted to watch over us in our journey through life both waking and sleeping and as it were Guardian angels over us by allowing our minds to dwell more upon such things whether true or false it would have this beneficial result that we should the oftener think of our frail state of probation? and consequently be the more _____ from subliminary? things and the better prepared for the great change that awaits us all the time is short and we shall soon know all See as we are seen and know as we are known and if we are wise we shall strive to live every day as if it were our last & then if we are

suddenly called we shall be prepared and if otherwise it will prove a blessed preparation and render our last hours more tranquil and happy. How awful must the dread summons be to those who seldom think of death & when they do strive to banish it from their minds

Pg 3

I wrote to our aged Father lately which I hope he has received. I was in hopes to have received an answer ere this. I therefore delayed writing you until now expecting a letter from Father. I hope you will write me a long letter after you receive this and I promise to reciprocate. I know of no cause why we should be so much estranged from each other it is not right and we must not allow it to be so anymore. I know and acknowledge that the fault lies at my door but it shall be there no more Please remember in love to all our dear relatives I have not forgotten them & I hope they have not forgotten me I shall be glad to receive letters any of them that may feel inclined to write me Please say to Catherine that I will soon write to her again I am under a great obligation to her for having persistence in writing to me notwithstanding my cold neglect. She has proved the effect of Perseverance and she shall have her reward. I have not heard nor seen any of your Family that are in the west only what Catherine wrote me they are far beyond me but I may in time if I am spared? make a tour farther west In that case I would endeavor to find them Again I beg to be remembered to all and by all in your prayers and praises? and thanksgivings for many blessings and mercies that we have been the recipients of and that this one may be granted to us to meet again in this world is the constant prayer of your here to fore neglectful but now repentant & I trust affectionate Brother

A Barber

(Looks like an A but I can find no trace of a brother with a name beginning with A)