

abolition

Rev. Silas Comfort

Harmony Feb. 25th 1838
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Dear son & once more write you a few lines altho some what discouraged on account of the miss carriage of my former letters yet hoping this may arrive in due time I am permitted to say we enjoy our usual good health yet I feel the age is fast advancing upon me admonishing me I am but dust and must soon be called to give an account of my stewardship my only hope is in the all atoning Lamb of God through whose prevailing intercessions I have been sustained all my life long pray for us that when time is ours no more we may rest together in peace at the right hand of the majesty in the heavens — James Cargill's family is favored with good health except Hannah whose health is poor for the most part of the time I believe they are both earnestly striving for a better and purer world James Comfort's family is in health he has much on his hands of the cares of this world yet he seems to carry a steady hand as if he was determined to make good his retreat to the land of rest David & Charity Lamb lost their youngest child of about three ^{weeks} old it was a daughter they seem both to be stree up in their minds of late but the world has a strong hold on David & some times fear for him Isaac is teaching school here this winter at 14 Dollars per month and is bounded and gives good satisfaction Nancy's health is not good for some time past I fear Isaac lives without prayer and is looking at the ~~failings~~ failings of others and suffering himself to be thus deluded he does not manage his concerns with that judgment I wish he might Nelsons Mary was well the last we heard from them — Elizabeth is still at Bazinovia & Nelson says she makes good improvement in her studies altho her health is not the best Sarah Cargill is at school at Bazinovia she is a good scholar Benjamin Corbkin is dead he died last August he had been sick down the river came home very unwell & died the third after he got home their youngest pair of twins Henry and Aaron has been living arthrus this winter and going to school they have gone home they will have to sell their farm he was owing about 3500 Dollars the estate is owing me 260 Dollars — Joanna Hunt is teaching school at Scurrowsville in Shiga County Pa. at \$2.00 per week she is a good teacher — Nancy Hunt went from Bazinovia with Mrs Hunt to Vermont last fall & is living there this winter Mrs Hunt is living at the painted post working at the Millwright business & Hosea is living with his uncle Adna Bridgman near Elmira on the Chemung Adna has experienced religion & joined the Methodist Church

March 28th 1838 we made a visit last June to our friends at Southport and found them in health Mother Giddenslove & Aunt Sally was smart for them the old lady enquired much about you all and about all our family & left ten Dollars in silver with her ~~her~~ her health is good for so old a person your uncle Edmund made many enquiries about you and how you liked the Country and what you were doing his health is good and your Aunt Lovinas health is also good for so old a lady she is a pious good Christian they lost their daughter Charity a time before we were there she left five or six children — we have built our Chapple it is 34 ft by forty eight ft with gallery on one end and half way on the sides it cost 1375 Dollars & subscribed 400 \$ on condition it should be finished and no debt stand against the House we have ^{paid} 260 Dollars of my subscription the remainder to be paid the first of June next — Mr George Morris of Harpers Ville was the Contractor it is well finished and painted Bro Chapel of Harpers says we have got an excellent ^{chapple} for the money paid & have paid your subscription of ten Dollars it was dedicated the tenth & eleventh of Feb. last by Bro John M Snyder our presiding Elder — we have a bridge across the river at Leesboro it stands at the lower end of the island the benehill is not yet bridged only a temporary one & have no stock in the Bridge but after all these improvements it is poor wicker Leesboro still — the spring is now opened after a very cold December and Feb. Jan. was very mild the ice mostly thrown out so the Bridge has not had a severe trial yet altho the water has been on all the low flats — our wheat and corn was very light last year and our oats also but our hay and potatoes was good we cleared about thirteen acres of new ground & sowed about twelve acres of it in all we sowed about 22 acres of wheat last fall it looks well now for the season we have only 20 head of horn cattle and 3 horse and 22 sheep we let Isaac have 10 sheep or shanes last fall we shall have five or six turns of hay to spare wheat is 1.75 \$ and corn 1 dollar per bushel out to 37 1/2 — you need not say it is hard times for money and it is all laid to Jackson & Van Buren as you well know — the pecc - Anties - Whigs - and abolitionist are flooding our country with shingplasters and hoarding all the specie and crying against Government because it let them have the revenue to help the Bank speculators to cheat the laborers out of their all — of all the isms ~~is~~ was ever acquainted with abolitionism is the most destructive to the peace of society in families neighborhoods and the Churches of God it has divided the Baptist Church and presbyterian Church at Mount Rose Elder Dimmock has preached his farewell sermon for the present at least to the Baptist Church at Mount Rose —

you would not have you believe for one moment that I advocate slavery as
it exists at the south, neither can I sanction abolitionism as prac-
-tised at the north their object is not to emancipate the slave
but they mean it as a hobby to overthrow the democracy of the
Government and to ^{ride} into power and office but they will fail they
cant gull the good sense of the people into their measures
altho they bot much of their strength and say I am the last
Democratic Commissioner susquhanna ^{County} will have
we expect a strong opposition at our next election it
will be a very interesting one a governer to elect and a new
Constitution is laid before the people for their acceptance
or rejection the irascibility of our state consisting of fed-
whigs & abolitionest are all in arms against the new constitution
because it deprives the gentry of their life offices and gives the
right to elect to the people instead of appointment by the
governer - I have dwelt it may be too long on a subject you do
feel but little interest in but I cant persuade myself but you
are a warm friend to your County and its liberal principles
of Constitutional Government as also the peace of the Church
of God I ardently hope you and your Charge may always
be kept free from these isms that so distract the Church and
Societies here and at the North of us

I have said nothing of the state of religion on Lanesboro
Circuit I must tell you it is very low in most places on
the circuit I fear this year will ^{be} a blank or worse than a
blank in point of spiritual improvement among us
permit me to enjoin it on you to write often as you can if you
dont hear from me as often as you would wish accept my thanks
for the favor of the St. Louis Argus it tells at least you are
alive and have not forgotten us - little Sarah Ann grows
and learns her book she can read and spell quite good
Dear son Miss Comfort joins with me in her best re-
-spects to you and Miss Comfort and the Children

affectionately your Father

John Comfort

John Comfort Esq
28 March 1838
Rec^d 28th Apr. m

Single
Rev^d Silas Comfort
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