Stonington. Oct 1. 1852

Dear Henry

I rec yours yesterday & reply to that part which asks for my decision as to a removal to Hartford this season. I rec Mr Terry's letter this week offering the tenement in Pearl street from date to Apl. 1. 1854 at the rate of $400 per annum. As I should expect to make of this but a temporary residence I could not require the fitting up necessary for our purpose of the owner (if it has any) while it is yet not in a condition to occupy. altho' subject to rent at once it would make a rather expensive affair of it. But all this waived. I cannot see it practicable to remove our multifarious establishment to Hartford as well as to provide for what I leave behind at this late season when frost and storms seem to be coming upon us. Your Grandma is yet on her tour No 3 and will probably return to fit up for her annual visit to Lancaster which will occupy us all for a week or two. — And with our family so reduced as it is to your Ma & three children with no visitors for a fortnight, it seems so quiet and so much like home, that I have hardly a heart to disturb the present condition of things. Your Ma is regaining her strength, health and spirits and seems to have time enough to compass her domestic duties. The children at home are all well. And I hope after your Grandma and James get home so as keep house with Tom. to take a ride with your Ma & little ones to Buckstown, Hartford &c.

To commence the labor in our present situation for packing up & clearing out looks too formidable for my energies. Yet if I was well set down in Hartford and comfortably lodged I should be glad of the exchange. Tom's want of occupation is a source of much anxiety to me. He is willing to go to a Mechanic and learn a trade or to do any thing for employment. but finds none. and his time is worse than lost. if lost at all. Anna wants a good school She has about wheedled Mr Woodbridge's stock of Science & Literature, yet she has a mind capable of high cultivation and a disposition worthy of it, but no opportunity of making progress in her present position. And I feel myself without resource, except it be to awaken an interest in some of our benevolent employment Societies to aid me in inventing or suggesting some remedy. I am compelled to turn a deaf ear to the continued and oft repeated questions "What am I to do." For I am at a loss for an answer

although deeply conscious of my responsibilities and anxious to do what I can to promote the best interests of those who look to me so exclusively for counsel and direction as well as support. . . . Under all these considerations I have concluded to decline Mr Fassy's proposition and wait the events of another winter and coming Spring, as we said.

On the subject of Politics. My past experience has convinced me that while it is the highest duty of a Citizen to exercise his rights as an Elector at the Polls as well as to commend his principles and preferences of candidates to all within his appropriate sphere of influence. It is best for a young man to avoid making a business of politics or of acquiring the reputation of being "a politician". There are men who can be hired to do the small work or as some say the "dirty work of the party" who will sing, sport and declaim" for an equivalent, and such instruments are necessary and must be had. But as the market is well supplied with such material, when we add to them the aspirants for smaller offices there is no need for volunteers from a higher grade of society. Old Franklin said that he was a benefactor of his race who caused a spear of grass to grow where none grew before. So I believe that he is a patriot who adds one vote in the ballot box to the Whig ticket that has not been given to it before. But I find that it is easier to get two such votes by kind, quiet and gentle appliances" than one by hurras and shouts of defiance and imitating exhultation. Men of business look with distrust upon new politicians old or young and detest official dependence as the object of ambition. I should deplore the influence of my own example if I thought it would lead my children to imitate even my prominence in political action. The destinies of our country are dependant upon an untiring vigilance of good citizens in our political concerns, while the destiny of individuals may be injuriously affected by being too deeply involved in political associations. I hope you will be discreet in this matter and not allow your generous and patriotic impulses to carry you too far under the control of selfish aspirants who are specious yet regardless of the best interests of their instruments. When they have an object to carry they want men who are fearless of consequences offensive, turbulent and reckless to cry havoc and let loose the dogs of war" upon our adversaries. But when these same leaders come to

select candidates for offices they advise to take up the quiet and unassuming, who have not made themselves obnoxious by our action in the political canvass. It is for this latter class that the former ~~latter~~ Beat the bush. And mere policy would suggest that the proverbial is for "the stile sow."

I have confidence that you will find all these out. and have not said much about it heretofore. I could now add more and more cogent reasons to enforce what I said if I thought it required of me. But dinner is called & I must close

Yours affly

Sheldon Hemenway

P.S. I hand you an order for my dividend on N.H. & Springfield R.R. Stock. If paid enclose me the amt by mail in one Banknote.

Oct. 1. 52

Filler

Political advice
+ a Morning Ex.

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Hartford, Christmas Morn.

My Dear Father

I gladly devote a few moments of this pleasant day to wishing a "Merry Christmas" to the family in general, and to thanking you in particular for Charlie's presence with me and for your kindness in acceding to my request that he should be here this week.

All the boarders at Mr. Risley's, but myself, have gone "home" to spend Christmas, and I should have been forced to eat a Christmas dinner in homesick solitude, had not Charlie opportunately arrived to share it with me, and to reconcile me in some measure to my absence from you all at home. A year ago to day and I lay stretched on the cot bedstead in your bedroom, and dragged through a tedious holiday week suffering from inflammatory fever, but yet it seems as if I would almost exchange my present position with that one, or at least I am very sure that my convalescence at home was a pleasanter season than I have enjoyed this year in Hartford.

The fact that I was to be alone in Hartford to day, added to the thought that it would be pleasant for Charlie to be here, made me so solicitous that you should bring him with you when you came to Hartford. But I may have been too im=

portunate and urged my request too strongly, when I found that you did not wish Charlie to come up here; at least, when I saw Charlie enter the Hotel last evening and found that you had sent him, without coming yourself, purely for my gratification, I felt some unpleasant twinges of my inner monitor that I had urged you so strongly against your own wishes. I hope however that you will believe me grateful for your kindness, and that you will have no reason to regret his visit here. It will be of great pleasure to me even though my delight is a little alloyed by the thought that he is here against your wishes, and I think that he will find something to amuse himself with here, even though I am confined to the office to day as usual, and cannot go around the city with him. I find that he is well stocked with money, although I was sincere in wishing to pay his expenses, but for this kindness also I thank you.

The Rev. Mr. Cox returned from Europe yesterday & preached last evening to a crowded house. Charlie and I went around and saw the Episcopal churches trimmed for Christmas eve. They looked very finely and there was excellent singing at both Christ and St. John's Church.

I have had another talk with Mr. Bunce about changing my place and he informs me that Mr. Ashburner is very anxious that I should remain in my present place and that it is his opinion that I shall be able to learn more in my present place for one year than in the other, as Mr. Williams' place is a regular routine of duties, every day alike, and that after the first

fortnight there will be nothing new to be learned. Indeed Mr. Bunce tells me that I will need no instruction to be able to do the duties of the place, but that if I remain with Mr. Ashburner I shall learn the whole of the modus operandi of Railroad building and will acquire a great deal of information and practice that will be very valuable to me. Mr. Bunce however, does not wish to advise me as to my course, he says that he shall wish me to fill Mr. Williams' place at any rate until he can get some one to take it permanently and that I may be in no haste to make up my mind on the subject as I can take either place I chose. I think that Mr. Bunce has changed his mind on this subject since conversing with Mr. A.

I shall wait until I see you again before I positively decide upon this matter although my mind at present inclines toward remaining with Mr. Ashburner as you at the first advised.

Mr. Ashburner keeps ~~from~~ Christmas, being an Episcopalian and an Englishman but we "Heretics" have to work as hard to day as any other, and it is with difficulty that I can secure time to write even a hasty note home.

The sleighing here is very good and sleighs are flying in every direction and I find there are some beautiful "turn outs" in that line in Hartford. The Livery Stables all send covered sleighs to the depot in place of Hacks, and wheeled vehicles are now a rare sight.

There was a great Hungarian meeting here on Monday night at which young Brace (who was a prisoner in Austria), Rev. Dr.

Bushnell and Rev Dr. Clark, James Dixon, W. W. Eaton and some others spouted considerably. Mr. Clark spoke very well and as it is a new thing in Hartford for Episcopal Clergymen to meddle with such affairs it made a great deal of talk here. Some of the Episcopalians do not like the idea of his interfereing in such matters, but all who heard his remarks were pleased with them. He attends Dr. Bushnell's Sunday evening lectures and is on good terms with the Dr. and is very popular with all denominations here.

I am more and more pleased each day with Mr. Bunce & Mr. Ashburner and feel that I have great reason to be thankful for my situation here. Mr. Bunce especially is very kind indeed to me and Mr. Ashburner is much more sociable and pleasant than at first.

In haste and with another "Merry Christmas" to all at home I must subscribe myself

Your affectionate son

Henry

Thursday P. M. Charlie and myself took dinner with James, by his invitation, at the U. S. Hotel. The dinner it is needless to say was a great one and our appetites are well appeased, and we are better satisfied with the world in general & ourselves in particular than before dinner. I hope that you will be up here before many days, and that if not, I shall hear from you ere long.

H. C. Trumbull

Chas. & Jas.

Monday morning

My Dear Father

Here I am at my office, well, happy and hard at work. – I feel as well as I have felt for a long time, and do not think I shall be sick again very soon.

Mr. Bunce tells me that Mr. Brace has left town and you had better make out that power of attorney to me or to Mr. Bunce, with a power of substitution. If you have already sent ~~another~~ one filled out to Mr. Brace please send another to me by to morrow's mail.

I hope that you will come up here with Mother on the last of this week. Mother will enjoy the trip, and so will you, I think, and it will be a great gratification to me to see you here next Sabbath.

I have written both these sheets in great haste, and I fear you can not make out what I have been writing about, but I must hurry them off by the train, so with Love to all I remain

Your affectionate son

Henry

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[1852]

Hartford, Saturday Morning

Dear Father

Hoping that I may have an opportunity to send to Stonington by the 11 o'clock train, I will hastily write a few lines to assure you that I am once more at my desk in the Station House, well, happy and strong.

I reached New London just in time to take the Hartford train, and Mr. King declined to take any passage money from me over the Palmer Road, which of course did not offend me. — At East Hartford I met Ed Gallaudet, who had walked out there for the purpose of riding in with me. —

The fish that I brought with me were in very nice order and proved very acceptable to the Gallaudets, as all the family were together at home for the first time in many years, and none

of them had ever seen a sword fish or a piece of one. The old maid aunt of Ned, who is deaf & dumb, was anxious to know if it was a piece of a whale that I had brought.

Ask James if he has noticed the death of Capt. Marcy, killed with 80 men under his command by the Comanche Indians. He was the father of Miss Kelly Marcy, one of Miss Strong's scholars, whom I knew quite well and who, having just graduated from school here, had gone with her Mother to meet her father at Washington. Both Miss Marcy & her mother were at Mrs. Perkins' party, which I attended just before I went home. Miss M. is a most excellent young lady, commenced with Center Church and was a constant attendant upon our young people's meetings. She was one of the most generally beloved young ladies in Hartford & all her friends here regret her father's death on her account.

I found Mrs. Risley sitting at the table when I came home (!) yesterday. She is much better & is improving rapidly.

Mr. Burdick has also returned in good health. —

I send one of the Reports of our Road for the last year, not knowing whether you have received one yet. —

They all appear glad to see me at the R. R. Office & I am glad to get back once more feeling as well as I do.

Love to all —

From your affectionate son

A. H. Trumbull

G. Trumbull Esq.r

Stonington

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Hartford, Saturday Morning.

My Dear Mother

As Mr. Willey leaves for Stonington this morning I am enabled to send a few lines in "advance of mail" provided I can find time to write them, which is somewhat doubtful, as I am more pressed for time than I ever was before, as Mr. Ashburner is just preparing his report to the Directors & I am constantly employed in preparing tables &c. for it, and this prevented my reaching Stonington this evening as I had hoped to.

Jack Rodgers came up from New London yesterday, stayed with me last night, and left for New York this morning. I was delighted to see him as he booked me up "with regard to a department of Stonington news that I could not get from every one.

I received Charlie's letter yesterday noon just as I deposited mine in the Post Office and learning from that, that he thought of going to Wms'town via New York, I now write lest I should be understood as wishing him to come by the way of Hartford. I really hope that he will return by New York & Williamsburg as it will be cheaper, full as expeditious and will delight

Prime & Mary and also furnish him an opportunity of seeing a little more of New York than he has seen, and as "Sausages" are now just in season he could cure that throat of his by one visit to the little stalls in Fulton market where "hot coffee & sausages" are sold in lots to suit purchasers —

By the way — this reminds me of a sign, over a store just opposite my office windows, informing the public that "Fruit, Tripe and Confectionary" are for sale in the room below.

I received a letter from Ed Trumbull in Norwich, this week & one from Amos Palmer also. I hope that Amos did not go to New London to day before my letter reached you.

I received a letter from Prime this morning and they are all well at Williamsburg. It is barely possible that Will will be up here to night to spend the Sabbath.

I may not be able to write home to morrow night as James will write and I may have other letters to reply to. I will always write when I have time but I am very much hurried.

In great haste I remain

Your affectionate son

Henry —

P.S. I will send a morning paper to Father by Mr. N.

Mrs. G. Trumbull

Stonington

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