

Enfield, N.H. May 7th. 1882,

Beloved Elder William,

It is a long time since I have heard anything direct from your Society. Who wrote last I am unable to say, and it may not be much matter. I assure you my love and interest for Shirley is intact, not in the least diminished. I realize more and more the necessity of an expansion and widening of the interest Believers should have in each other, a closer union for their strength and protection. My kindred in Shirley have always been very dear to me, the comforting ministrations from that place are fresh in my memory, none of their value is gone. What a pleasure it would give me, once more in life to see my friends in that "Pleasant Garden" of the Lord, where I have enjoyed many a loving and social season with my precious and beautiful gospel kindred, some of whom still survive, while many have gone to other shores!

Yesterday I received a letter from Eugene Cunningham, who tells me he is teaching penmanship in your village. He tells how nicely he is situated, how pleased and happy he is with you. I hope nothing will occur to lessen his respect for Believers, or cause us to lose our confidence in him. He wishes me to write him, and inclose my letter in an envelope addressed to you. By his request I do so, asking your kindness to present him the inclosed.

To day we open public meeting for the season; we had a very good ministration in our service. Some twenty five spectators gave respectful attention, as is common in our church.

The season with us is cold and backward. Gardens are being planted for future crops. The maple sugar season is past; it has not given a great yield; say to the amount of some three tons to the Society, much of which is retained in the form of syrup, not reduced to sugar.