

Heiborn says Mr. Farwell has arrived with his family & are all at present living in the court house. Says Mr. D's new house will be large & comfortable one of the best in those respects in town. He is very anxious the people should build a new meetinghouse. I don't know where he can keep the organ safely as it is now.

I suppose you have seen the accounts of the terrible fires on the prairie since writing the above I have read the account in the Tribune. It is awful beyond any other fires of the kind in our land, whole towns burned up in many places & 1500 lives lost in 3 or 4 states. And yet some persons won't give a cent to find relief. Dr. Holland won't give. Says people are fools to make such an ado over the Chicago fire. Poor selfish man!

Dear John all well  
I love you  
Your father

Denmark Oct. 17. 1871.

Dear Daughter,  
I have been so busy for a few days that I have written you less than I desired. I helped uncle & set a Mon. paper a chamber yesterday & today he has helped me dig my potatoes on the Little block. And by the way, my potatoes are quite a failure. Those north of the barn will not yield one bush, where they yielded 8 or more last year. I do not think I shall try to dig half of them, in front of the house have done much better, yet are only about half a crop. I have now about 20 bush. of good potatoes, eatable

A good crop would have given  
me 60 to 80 bush. The long drought  
at the time when potatoes need  
rain I suppose is the main cause.  
Uncle Curtis got a circular today  
from his agent in Chicago say-  
ing that in time if he will be  
patient & diligent, he will prob-  
ably get every dollar of his money,  
which includes Mr. Swift's, also.

We rec'd our semi-weekly letter  
to day from H. He seems in fine  
spirits. Said last week that he  
would have to take charge of a. s.  
for their church - he dreaded it  
but supposed he must do it. Wants  
the organ for the s. s. & the church  
choir to borrow it for a while till  
they could get one. We shall send  
it soon but shall miss it, as  
we would a child. We suppose  
it is best to send it, I will prob-  
ly encourage H. to work for the ~~church~~

Our people took up a contribution  
last Feb. for the Chicago sufferers  
got about \$90. to \$100. & the la-  
dies have had a meeting this pm.  
to get clothing together &c. & from  
late accounts there is as much  
real suffering from fires upon the  
prairies & in the forests of Mich. Wis.  
& Minn. as in Chicago. W. James  
at Ann Arbor says the smoke  
from the fires north was almost  
suffocating at Ann Arbor. By the  
way. James boards with C. K. Ad-  
ams. Perhaps Mattie has told you  
that Mrs. Sturges was in Chicago  
during the fire - has been heard  
from all safe but probably has  
lost all she & her little girl had.  
Aunt Lauris is sick & mother  
is there today. Leg for her this  
evening. Mr. Hornby has a  
"crystal" wedding party, this we  
are invited but don't go. - don't <sup>want to</sup>