Middletown, 18 January 1837

Dear Mr. Whitney,

I must confess that the receipt of your letter from your very obliging brother will alone afford sufficient cause for surprise, but especially when you see it dated at Middletown. Your last letter was received during my stay in New York and Jamaica, when I was detained about 4 or 5 weeks by business, and the answering of it was put off until I should return again to Troy, where I found it much to attend to in consequence of having been so long abroad, that I really had not time, or at least, did not say to myself to write. I shall have more time for writing you, until the time arrived (last Friday) when I was obliged to start for the North for the purpose of collecting, and looking a little after my customery which duty I supposed (until a few days before last) to be performed; but I rather chose that I should come and now I am very glad he did as it will be of great advantage to me. This is the first opportunity, since my leaving Troy, that had offered for writing you, and I am determined it shall not be lost. I shall not be able to write a long letter, I suspect to be about about 4 weeks, during which time I shall go through the whole length of the State, and be at Monticello, and returning, pass through the eastern part of the country.
of New York, I judge. I have experienced some very cold weather last Saturday I rode about 20 miles in an open buggy when the thermometer stood at 24 degrees below zero, but having taken the precaution to bring a buffalo robe with me, I did not suffer at all from the cold, except that the end of that long promenade on my face was a little frozen. How did you spend your New year? I hope you all had a very happy one, as well as a Merry Christmas. I received a letter written on Christmas afternoon from brother William stating that on consequence of having officated in his church in the morning, he had almost entirely lost his voice, and was obliged to stay home that afternoon; since, however, I have heard that he was much better now. He is very impatient in attempting to officiate at all; it might not be thought of it for at least a year to come. Little chance is to be had to perfect the Tong; placed under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Walker, who is an excellent hand to manage boys. I think it is just the place for him.

I made a great many calls on New Year's day, as usual, commencing at 11 o'clock and ending about 5 or 6. It was a great many sunny days. notwithstanding the fact that we never saw the sun all day. The ladies of the city, by the dreadful scandal which happened the night before (an account of which you have no doubt, in the paper), spent Monday and Tuesday quite a number of hours lost a few hours, and

They out of the swing alone. It was a dreadful hard I can allow you—too wished to know about Mr. Stafle. Mr. Stafle was not very good when he left for Western about a month since—she was cheaper, which is the case, but reached the hand in safety after the attack. While the thing was beneficial to him. Mr. Stafle remained in New York and well. He desired me to join him to your behalf, case, when I wrote. So far the winter, they have been quite gay, parties and dinners incessantly—almost—hard, all that just before Stafle, our Regent, was a great affair in a grand military ball. Our course of lectures, and continued this winter, the same as last winter. They are on various subjects very interesting—Mr. Boswell has recently been elected President for our Association. The Rev. Mr. Park has left S. Paul, and

He went to New York with the expectation of marrying Miss Stafle, a sister of Harriet Stafle who was sick for some reason not known the match was broken off by Mr. Stafle. We are at present without a settled Regent and hence Mr. Stafle the Regent, has been supplied by Prof. Peters of Chicago, who has no reason to join, but he will accept a call. He can write more of love to all—and write the word that you may all

Have a very pleasant Christmas and a happy New Year! Kisses to all family.

Your son affectionately,
John.
Aug 26th 1807

My Dear Peter Knuttell,

You are doubtless surprised to hear from me in the month of my absence in Jamaica, in such a manner. Yesterday evening I was informed of your arrival. I had given up all hopes of seeing you this summer, and now that you are so near and it is with the greatest impatience that I submit to the restraint of business which prevents my coming to see you immediately when you arrive. Mr. Rockwell is now absent, and I am more bound to remain as long as I can to the North. So that I cannot possibly leave the store. When I last wrote to Jamaica I expected it would fall to my lot to take this northern trip, but now that you have arrived I am thankful. Mr. Thorne wished to go himself. I am very anxious to see you as soon as possible.
I wish that my mate Wednesday this I shall certainly be able to come down. Oh how much pleasure do I anticipate of once more holding your dear face. Only think it is two years since we last met. I have not a little curiosity to see our brother David. What kind of a body is he? Why didn't you write something about him? But now mind. Is your very own that he right to be as he has certainly shown his good judgment in coming on to claim me as brother-in-law? Well I shall keep this, I cannot bear to think of writing till we meet before I can see you. I wish you could just come by here and see me and I will return with you next week sometime. Why can't you? Little Tommy is well and would be delighted to see you. He spent the day with me on Saturday last. They are to have quite a celebration at Mr. Williams on the 4th July. The matter to be delivered by one of the boys is quite sufficient and I don't know what else. Jimmy will come home in August. She has improved greatly since you last saw her. He is quite a little man now. Miss Mary Smith is here in a visit. Kind love to Miss Kitty.