

After getting things somewhat together
I find I have a little more time to write
& it being the only way I can enjoy you, or you
me I sit down & take up the silent but speak-
ing pen, not that I have anything of interest
to write but as you are so constantly in
my mind I can but devote what little
leisure time I have to my family from
whom I am so widely separated, desiring
for you life health & happiness.

And you my dear children I feel much
for you, knowing that your love for your
father is such that you keenly feel his
long continued absence, & though I am
a great way from you I my heart yearns to be
with you, whenever I can feel at liberty to re-
turn to you, & fervently do I desire that you
may be happy, knowing that there is but
one way to enjoy happiness here in this world
or in the world that is to come, & that is by
living good lives, I know that every day there
will little things arise among yourselves to
try your patience one with another but then
you must think that you are brothers & sisters
& so not get angry with one another, but try
all the time to help each other to do right
& to be good children, not be rough in your
play one with another, but be gentle & kind
then you will be a comfort to you poor
tried mother, instead of a trouble or burden
remember she has many sorrows, many
troubles that you know nothing of think
how you would feel if she were to be taken
away from you, it would not seem like home
any more, no mother to go to for anything
or how, if one of you were to die, how the