

Sioux Agency

St. Louis Ind. Ter. 11th Mo 1st 1873

My Dear & Ever Precious Wife & Children

I received your letter 504 a few days since, which is a great comfort to me, to get letters from home is really a blessing, which I believe I may safely say I fully appreciate & am thankful for, I am also favored to continue improving in my health so that with the exception of a little unpleasant squeamishness about the stomach, which I feel much of the time & particularly at night I feel entirely well. I am still helping Howard, with his Office work, he has entrusted me to do some very particular work & I have heard of his making the remark that "Thomas Batley does his work the best of any one who ever did Office work for him, he is so particular," which is pleasant, as you know I know but little about that kind of work, however it is well that I can do it as I have not been as yet in a suitable condition to go out to camp & I feel it to be a good thing that I can take hold of work by which I can make myself serviceable to the cause. I think I shall probably go out to camp pretty soon when the Agent returns, unless the Agent should retain me to help him while Howard goes for his