

Friday, July 14, 1854
Josiah Cady to Lavinia Goodell
Written from Lebanon, Conn.

Dear Lavinia,

I received your kind letter yesterday morning and thank you for it. And rejoice with you all in the interesting news from Maria. Your cup was I suppose overflowing especially your mother. I hope the event will prove a benefit to Maria's health and of much comfort to her husband. I had an opportunity to send the letter to your Aunt Mary yesterday. I thought she would be delighted with the news. I suppose they are rejoicing with you. The name will be Wm. Goodell undoubtedly. It's no time to have Frosts. This hot weather. Let that be for the next when the season will be more suitable. I shall be anxious to know how Maria gets along with my great grandson. It is surely very proper for a man of fourscore to be so honored.

I am sorry to hear that your father is sick. I hope I may soon hear that he is better, and as you have begun to correspond with me you will feel it to be a privilege to continue which will be gratifying to me. You say I must come and see you now you are housekeeping. Well there is no want of inclination to see you. I think my pleasure in the society of my children rather increase, but not so as respect the want in general. If you were not housekeeping I should hardly think of visiting N.Y. this summer. I shall not leave home till after the 1st of Aug. Your uncle I.H. will be here at that time for annual settlement after that I may go to Hartford and possibly to N.Y. if we should all be in the enjoyment of usual health. I shall not think of being long from home if I come to N.Y. Aunt Mary will be disappointed if I don't go to the Phalanx which is some discouragement to my leaving home at all.

I was very glad indeed that your mother was at the wedding and that it passed off as pleasantly. I had no desire to be there myself. Quiet is my chief engagement now. I endeavor to prevent the political surges from disturbing my repose as much as possible. I am often saying God governs the world and that keeps me quiet. Lavinia, if you would have a quiet and happy life and die a peaceful and happy death you must make your peace with God now.

Saturday morning 15th. I shall have a man to send this to the P.O. today and must bring it to a close. Since writing the foregoing I have read a letter from Cleveland. He says that your Uncle Isaac and wife are now with Aunt Lois and that Aunt Lois has been to L. to see Carrie & C. We have had 2 or 3 wet days but think this morn the storm is over although tis foggy. The storms affect my nerves unfavorably. Perhaps my letter is less sprightly in consequence.

I shall want to know how your father gets along so you will write me again soon if it be just a few lines.

Your sincere friend and affectionate grandfather,

Josiah Cady