

Nov 11, 1838

Mr. Wm. Martin
Carpenter
Chipstead near Seven Oaks
Kent
England

Dear Father.

I write these few lines to inform you that I have removed from Hamilton, Upper Canada, to the City of Rochester, State of N.Y. United States of America, and that I am no longer under the thralldom of British Government and I hope I never shall live under it again. I expected that you would learn from the last letter that I wrote to Riverhead that I was working in the States, but I did not know then how soon I might remove to here, I worked constant for 8 weeks + I saved 40 Dollars in that time, took most of my money every Saturday night and I did not loose an hour in all that time; you see times were very bad in Canada all the last summer; so I thought I would start and try my luck and see whether the States were better than Canada or not. I had no particular place in my eye when I started, but I pitched upon Rochester as the first place to land at as a steamboat went direct to there from Hamilton and therefore it was the easiest place to go to; and if I did not succeed there I would go west until I did if I went a thousand miles first, but I got a very good job, and I gave great satisfaction to my employer and he kept me on 8 weeks and then the job was stoped for a while and I had not quite made up my mind to remove this winter, when news came that there was likely to be a disturbance in Canada again and that all the Canada steamers had left off touching at the Yankee forts for fear of being set fire too or seized in some way or other, and so I was left without hardly knowing how I should get home again, but I started to see and if it was possible to get away again when I did get there to remove at all hazards, for I was determined not to take up arms again in Queen Victoria's causes for it is quite evident to every liberal person that the Home Government does not intend to do the Canadas my permanent good or in fact any good at all, and where there was one disaffected last winter there are 50 this, and every one leaving the provinces that can conveniently get away and some making great sacrifices. When I started from here I left on a Friday noon, walked on the tow path of the Erie Canal for 20 miles that afternoon to a place called Brockfort, there I took a Canal boat to Lockport 44 miles, then I took Steam coach on railroad to Lewiston 24 miles, arrived there at 6 o'clock Saturday evening could not cross the Ferry that night stopped at Lewiston all night, crossed the Ferry next morning at 7 o'clock landed in Canada passed the Sentry without any questions, walked 30 miles by sunset part of it on a newly macadamized road no wheres to walk but on the cracked stones; fine walking I tell you, took stage at 7 o'clock and rode the other 20 miles and arrived at Hamilton 4 o'clock Sunday night, next day orders came from Toronto to order out the Militia but they did not order them out right off but tried first to see how many they could raise by enlisting, and there being a great many idle fellows about Hamilton they enlisted pretty freely, and whilst they were doing that I took and packed up my things as quietly and as fast as I could, sold every thing that I could but it was a bad time to sell nobody had any money, left my home in the hands of a friend to let for me if possible, and we left there Friday Nov. 2 (I was there only

4 days.) and we arrived safely here on the 5th it cost me 26 Dollars to get here, but I would not care if it has cost me all I had got clear from them, for I had enough soldiering last winter to last me my life's time I hope, to be used in the manner that we were. I have been here a week and I have not done any thing yet but I am in daily expectation of a winter's job I am paying 1 1/4 Dollar per week for a house of 3 rooms and a good sized garden for the summer. I do not know how it may turn out with us, but we must trust in Providence for we have no one else to put our trust in; and if I have my health I will not starve if it is possible to get my work if I go cracking stones on the road; I am thankful that I am clear from the domination of her Majesties sattellites and that I am a free man. it is my intention if things are quiet in Canada in the spring to go over and sell any property or dispose of it in some way; for there will be no living there till the country is free from British tyranny. The news arrived here yesterday that the Patriots where organizing in Lower Canada that they had had one battle with the regulars, beaten them and taken 60 Soldiers prisoners that they have some French officers lately from France at their head, and that they were rising in every direction I cannot vouch for the truth of it for there as not been time for the news to be confirmed but it is no more than we expect for the Canadian Refugees and Yankees here are continually holding secret meetings for carrying the liberation of Canada into effect and they say it shall be free if they loose the last drop of blood in their veins, in their efforts for its freedom. I write this letter to you sooner than I should where it not that I think you might wish to know what was become of one when you direct to me this must be your directions, City of Rochester, State of New York, United States give your love to Mother, Brothers and Sisters and take the same yourself; and I should be glad to hear from you soon give our love to friends at Riverhead and remember us to all inquiring friends, and we hope this will find you all in good health as it leaves us at present, Good Bye God Bless you all and we remain Your dutiful Son + Daughter
Geo. Fi. + C. Martin

P.S. I have received a Sunday Times 4 weeks ago with the Hyde Park Fair in it you may send me as many papers as you can I intend to take a paper myself next year if I can afford it and then I shall frequently send you one

This is a fine City with a population from 10- to 20,000 inhabitants, there is a great deal of good work done here and great quantity of business of all kinds carried on here, I will tell you more when I write again, it as been very cold this last fortnight a good deal of snow and ice an inch and a half thick, but I am in hope we shall have a week or two of milder weather before winter sets in quite.