

# Palmer Letters

Compiled and Transcribed by John P. DuLong and  
Patricia A. (McGuinness) DuLong

Palmer Letters, a collection of 27 letters between various members of the Palmer, O'Toole, Hoskins, and Taaffe families of Ireland, India, and Michigan, between 1841 and 1883. The originals were in the possession of the late Emma Jane Conklin, MD, Troy, Michigan. Photocopies and typescript copies are in the possession of Patricia Anne (McGuinness) DuLong, Berkley, Michigan.

Many families preserve and cherish heirlooms and papers that reveal something of their history. The Hoskyns, Conklins, and McGuinnesses were indeed fortunate to have kept a collection of letters that would leave behind so many clues about their Palmer ancestors. Without these letters, it would have been difficult, if not impossible, for us to reconstruct the history of the Palmers given the destruction of so many documents back in Ireland.

The provenance of the Palmer Letters is that they passed from Caroline (Hoskyns) Hoffman in New York, the daughter of Margaret O'Toole by her first marriage to Edwin Bennett Hoskyns, to Marguerite McGuinness, the daughter of James Hubert McGuinness and Emma Palmer. Emma was the daughter of Margaret O'Toole and her second husband Thomas W. Palmer. Mrs. Hoffman gave the Palmer Letters to Miss McGuinness before the latter left on a trip to Ireland in 1939 to see her ancestral homeland.<sup>1</sup> In turn, Miss McGuinness gave the Palmer Letters to her niece Emma Jane Conklin, MD, the last known owner of the letters.<sup>2</sup> Thus, the Palmer Letters had remained in the family for over a century. Dr. Conklin let us photocopy all the Palmer Letters and gave us permission to use the letters in publication. The letters were returned to Dr. Conklin, but since her death in 2007 the original letters have unfortunately disappeared.

It is very difficult to read some of these letters because of the handwriting and the way they had been written. The most challenging ones were written horizontally across the page and then turned sideways and written vertically over the first part of the letter. This was done to conserve paper and postage, but it makes it extremely difficult for the modern reader to interpret the script.

The letters are put in chronological order and assigned numbers. Several of the letters, especially from Robert Taaffe, are not intact and are missing dates. We have

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<sup>1</sup> Around that time Miss McGuinness made a typed transcription of the letters.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Conklin was married to Norman A. Nelson, MD, but she retained the use of her maiden surname. She was the retired Executive Administrator of Wayne County General Hospital (Eloise).

carefully examined these partial letters for internal evidence suggesting their chronological place. Among the letters are a promissory note and a shopping list. Though not letters, we included them in the transcriptions as they were part of the original collection of Palmer Letters.

The transcriptions were done using the original letters. Before returning the letters to Dr. Conklin, we photocopied them. We thought we would have a chance to view them again in the future to clarify any transcription issues. But this was not to be. Had we known that they would eventually be lost, we would have had them professionally photographed.

Whenever possible we have identified people and places in footnotes of the transcriptions. However, there are many mysteries remaining in these letters that we hope others will be able to decipher or that we will eventually resolve. Please contact us if you have any insight into the content of these letters.

Most of the letters are from Major James Palmer (1780-1850), Inspector General of Prisons and Lunatic Asylums in Ireland (1821-1846) and Superintendent of the Convict Service (1837-1842) which transported criminals from Ireland to Australia. He was either writing to his son Thomas W. Palmer, to his relative Edwin Bennet Hoskyns, or to James Buchanan, the British Counselor in New York City. The Major played an important role in the history of Irish prison and lunatic asylum reforms and has been the subject of scholarly studies.<sup>3</sup>

Thomas William Palmer (ca. 1822-1865) was born out of wedlock, but the letters make clear he was the son of Major Palmer. Although the Major was married to his first wife, Ellen de Renzi (ca. 1765-1827) at the time of Thomas's birth, she was too old to be his mother. Other evidence suggests that his mother may have been the Major's second wife, Eliza Nash (?-1852) whom he married in 1827. Thomas married around 1848 to Margaret O'Toole (1817-1905), the widow of his friend and relative, Edwin Bennet Hoskyns (1804-1848). The letters of recommendation the Major wrote to Mr. Buchanan provides information about Thomas's earlier travels in India and Australia and his desire to settle in North America. While the Major would have preferred Thomas to settle in Canada, his son moved to Dexter, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, to be near Edwin and Margaret.

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<sup>3</sup>Richard J. Butler, "Building the Irish Courthouse and Prison: A Political History, 1750-1850," PhD Dissertation, University of Cambridge, 2016. Richard J. Butler, "Rethinking the Origins of the British Prisons Act of 1835: Ireland and the Development of Central-Government Prison Inspection, 1820-1830," *The Historical Journal*, 59, no. 3 (Sept. 2016): 721-746. Melinda D. Grimsley-Smith, "Politics, Professionalization, and Poverty: Lunatic Asylums for the Poor in Ireland, 1817-1920," PhD Dissertation, University of Notre Dame, 2011. Rebecca Sharon Lawlor, "Crime in Nineteenth-Century Ireland: Grangegorman Female Penitentiary and Richmond Male Penitentiary, with Reference to Juveniles and Women, 1836-1860, Master's Thesis, National University of Ireland, 2012.

Thomas eventually moved to Putnam Twp., Livingston Co., Michigan. The letters reveal that Thomas made several trips back to Ireland to visit his parents.

Some of the letters are from Major General Henry Wellington Palmer (1828-1891), CB, to his brother Thomas or his niece Priscilla Palmer. There is also a letter from Lt. Col. James Palmer [Jr.] (1797-1879), the eldest but illegitimate son of Major Palmer to Capt. William O'Toole regarding the death of his half-brother Thomas. Robert Taaffe (ca. 1816-after 1870), a Dublin solicitor, and the widow of Priscilla Palmer (1830-1855), the Major's daughter, is the writer of several long sad letters.

The last letter, no. 27, is particularly interesting in the clues it provides concerning the O'Tooles. This letter is from Capt. William O'Toole (1827-1893), a steam ship captain, to his brother John O'Toole (1816-1903) and his sister-in-law Margaret (Gregory) O'Toole (ca. 1825-1909) in Jackson, Michigan. Their sister was Margaret O'Toole, the widow of Edwin Bennet Hoskyns and Thomas W. Palmer, who moved to Jackson to be near her brother John. In this letter we learn that William's brother, Laurence, and son, John, were also in the merchant marine. The nautical careers of several of the O'Tooles have been verified in master's certificates we have located in our research. Letters no. 18 and 25 also contain hints about the O'Tooles.

Lastly, in the course of our research we discovered many other letters and original documents written by or about the Palmers, their relatives, and their friends. We are using the information we have found to write a book on Major James Palmer and his ancestry. In the book we plan to transcribe a few of the documents bearing the most interest and put them in a separate appendix in the book. We will of course also be including an appendix with transcriptions of all the Palmer Letters. Meanwhile, we have published an article summarizing the lineage between Thomas W. Palmer and James II, King of Scots, in which we use one of the Palmer Letters.<sup>4</sup>

Should you have any questions or information regarding the Palmer Letters or the families mentioned in the letters, please contact us:

John P. DuLong and Patricia A. (McGuinness) Dulong  
1510 Applecroft Lane  
Holt, MI 48842-1981  
(248) 541-2894  
dulongj@habitant.org

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<sup>4</sup> John P. DuLong and Patricia Anne (McGuinness) DuLong, "Thomas W. Palmer, 1822-1865, of Ireland and Michigan: His Descent from James II, King of Scots," *The Genealogist* 19, no. 1 (Spring 2005): 44-61.

<http://habitant.org>

Note: John P. DuLong, Ph.D. (Sociology) is retired from Henry Ford Health System where he did network and computer support for the Sladen Library and Lam Archives. He is a genealogist who specializes in French-Canadian, Acadian, and Métis research and has published many articles on these topics. For several years he has been assisting his wife, Patricia A. McGuinness, a retired nurse from the Veterans Administration, research and write about her Anglo-Irish and Scottish ancestry, including the Palmers, O'Tooles, McGuinnesses, Veseys, Hamiltons, and Maxwells.

Version 1.0, 17 October 2023



*List of Palmer Letters and Items*

<b>No.</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Whole or Part</b>
1	William G. Mathews, Dublin Castle	Col. Martin, Niagara District, Canada	8 Apr. 1841	Whole
2	James Palmer, Dublin Castle	James Buchanan, British Consul, New York	9 Apr. 1841	Whole
3	Hungerford Hoskyns [?], Liverpool	Edwin Bennet Hoskyns	14 Apr. 1841	Part, start
4	James Palmer, Dublin	Edwin Bennet Hoskyns, Dexter, Washtenaw Co., Michigan	11 Sep. 1841	Whole
5	James Palmer, Dublin	Thomas Palmer, Dexter, Michigan	4 Apr. 1842	Whole
6	James Palmer, Dublin	No addressee	No date	Part, end
7	James Palmer, Dublin	James Buchanan, British Consul, New York	14 Aug. 1845	Whole
8	James Palmer, Liverpool	James Buchanan, Late Consul, New York	7 May 1847	Whole
9	James Palmer, Douglas, Isle of Man	Thomas Palmer	26 Feb. 1848	Whole
10	Henry Wellington Palmer, London	Thomas Palmer	14 May 1850	Whole
11	Robert Taaffe	Thomas Palmer	About Feb. 1855	Part, end
12	Robert Taaffe, Dublin	Thomas Palmer	3 May 1855	Part, start
13	Robert Taaffe, Dublin	Thomas Palmer	11 May 1855	Part, start
14	Robert Taaffe [?]	Thomas Palmer [?]	About Aug. 1855	Part, middle
15	Robert Taaffe, Dublin	Thomas Palmer	7 Dec. 1855	Part, start
16	Robert Taaffe	Thomas Palmer	Mid-1850s	Part, middle
17	Henry Wellington Palmer, Madras, India	Thomas Palmer	25 May 1856	Whole
18	L. J. Nowlan, New Orleans	Margaret (O'Toole) Palmer	26 May 1856	Whole

<b>No.</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Whole or Part</b>
19	Robert Taaffe	Thomas Palmer	Aug. 1856	Part, end
20	Robert Taaffe [?], Dublin	Thomas Palmer	12 Aug. 1856	Part, start
21	Robert Taaffe, Dublin	Thomas Palmer	11 Aug. 1857	Whole
22	Henry Wellington Palmer	Thomas Palmer	About 1862	Part, end
23	C. [Chandos] Hoskyns, Hereford	Thomas Palmer	11 Oct. 1862	Whole
24	Henry Wellington Palmer	Thomas Palmer	Probably before 1865	Part, end
25	James Palmer [Jr.], Rathmines, Dublin	William O'Toole, Wicklow	17 Feb. 1868	Whole
26	Henry Wellington Palmer, Aberdeen, Scotland	Priscilla Palmer [living in Putnam Twp., Livingston Co., Michigan]	7 June 1869	Whole
27	William O'Toole, <i>S.</i> <i>Upupa</i> , London	John O'Toole, Jackson	4 July 1883	Whole
Item 1	Ransom S. Smith	Thomas W. Palmer	20 Oct. 1855	Whole
Item 2	Tuomey Bros. & Gregory	Margaret (O'Toole) Palmer	30 Oct. 1874	Whole

Updated 22 December 2022

***Letter No. 1***

Letter from William G. Mathews, Dublin Castle, to Colonel Martin, York Grand River, Niagara District, Upper Canada [Ontario], 8 Apr. 1841, Palmer Letters, no. 1:

Dublin Castle  
8<sup>th</sup> April 1841

My dear Colonel,

I received your hasty note ~~and~~ written upon the eve of your embarkation at Liverpool; I trust you arrived home quite well and found Mrs Martin and your dear children in good health.

Mrs Edgeworth, My Sister, Wife and daughters all write in kindest remembrances to you, thank heavens we are all well, I regret to add that poor Stoker had been dangerously ill, with an affliction of lungs but is Just now pronounced out of all danger.

Allow me to introduce to Your friendly notice the Son of an old and worthy friend of mine, Major Palmer, who is one of our principal Government Officers, the Gentleman who is the bearer of this has made up his mind to settle down some where in the locale of Toronto and any aid and advice you may be pleased to afford him, will be gratefully felt by my Dear Colonel, Your faithfully attached Friend

William P Mathews<sup>5</sup>

Col<sup>l</sup> Martins  
& & &

[Written sideways down the letter]

My relatives the Batchelors beg to be very strongly recommended to You W.P.M

[The following was not photocopied, but noted when transcribing, this letter was addressed to:]

Colonel Martin  
York Grand River  
Niagara District  
Upper Canada

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<sup>5</sup> This is probably William Peter Mathews, Esq., the secretary of the Board of Charitable Requests, Dublin Castle.

Favored by Palmer Inspector General

Dublin Castle  
8<sup>th</sup> June 1841

My dear Colonel, I received your hasty note  
sent written upon the eve of your embarkation  
at Liverpool, I trust you arrived home quite  
well and found Mrs Hartin and your dear  
children in good health.

Myself with My Sister, Wife  
and Daughters all unite in kindest  
remembrances to you, thank Heaven we are all  
well, I regret to add that poor Stokes had  
been dangerously ill, with an affection of lungs  
but is just now pronounced out of all danger.

My darling little daughter is well and  
wishes to hear from you very much  
I am  
Dear Sir

Allow me to introduce to your friendly  
notice the son of an old and worthy friend  
of mine, Major Palmer, who is one of our  
Principal Government Officers, the gentleman  
who is the bearer of this has made up his  
mind to settle down some where in the  
locale of Enonto and my friend and advice you  
may be pleased to give him will be gratefully  
felt by my dear Colonel, Yours faithfully attached  
Wm. J. Matthews

*Letter No. 2*

Letter from James Palmer, Dublin Castle, to James Buchanan, British Consul, New York, 9 Apr. 1841, Palmer Letters, no. 2:

{Seal}

Dublin Castle

9<sup>th</sup> April 1841

My D<sup>r</sup> [Dear] Friend,<sup>6</sup>

You were on a former letter of mine more than kind to a Lady I introduced to y<sup>r</sup> [your] acquaintance at New York. Such kindness generally brings the person who gives it into more demands on his capital—However I trust the present request will not give you more trouble than your advice & protection for a few days in New York—to the Bearer my eldest son, who is proceeding to upper Canada to Locate himself amongst the many settlers from father Land—He is 19—He first went to sea in an Indiaman, was at Australia, Calcutta, China, & had returned Disliking the Sea—& now chooses this life—such changes are not generally wise, & Impart want of decision & perseverance—not as I think in this case—His character is steadiness & prudence—& no wildness whatever: He is well Disposed and harmless, a thinking lad, & no bad habits except those of our common nature, & I hope He fears & loves His Master—tho he has shown no decision on this all important subject. He was much regarded by His Captain at Sea—& is respected by his companions & neighbors now.—

He is proceeding to Michigan near the boundary to visit a young Englishman a W<sup>7</sup> Hoskyns, also a relative, settled there, to obtain his experienced advice, & aid in choosing a Location—

What I wish you to do is to give him sound advice for his conduct in a new Country—also as to where about he should settle, if you have turned your mind to

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<sup>6</sup> His friend is James Buchanan, magistrate and diplomat, 1772-1851, he was made Her Majesty's consul in New York in 1816. *Dictionary of Ulster Biography*, entry for James Buchanan, <http://www.newulsterbiography.co.uk/index.php/home/viewPerson/1895> (accessed 6 Oct. 2022).

<sup>7</sup> This appears to be W, possibly William, but we know that Edwin Hoskyns settled in North Lake, near Ann Arbor, Michigan, and is probably the one he is referring to here. Edwin is referred to in the next paragraph. Edwin Bennet Hoskyns, the son of John Hoskyns, MD, and Caroline Ellen Ribton, born about 1809, died 24 August 1848, Dexter, Michigan. Edwin was the grandson of Sir Hungerford Hoskyns, 6th Baronet. Edwin was also a relative and friend of Thomas. Edwin's mother, Caroline Ellen Ribton, was the daughter of Allan and Hannah (de Renzi) Ribton, and Hannah was the sister of Ellen de Renzi, the first wife of Major James Palmer. Charles William Ryall, "Descendants of Mathew de Renzi, of Cloghbamen," <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/r/y/a/Charles-W-Ryall/ODT1-0001.html> (21 Aug. 2002).

that Subject—& perhaps you could give him a letter of Introduction to some friend or settler at or near Toronto, or Montreal—who would look after him occasionally—I do not like his going to the Back Woods—& wd. [would] prefer his Locating near Toronto or some good town with amiable neighbors: I propose to assist him by degrees with about 500£ He takes with him 150—& can draw on me as he purchases & gets on—I wish him to purchase fm. [from] 1 to 200 acres with house & offices & 20 or 30 acres reclaimed—to start at once, & begin, instead of being idle a year—Edwin Hoskyns in Michigan is son of our D<sup>r</sup>. [Dear] friend [John] Hoskyns who is now a Doctor in Dublin—you will also have to conduct him by advice up the Hudson & how to get to Michigan.

I hope there is no fear of War w<sup>th</sup>. [with] America—The Temple of Janus sh<sup>d</sup>. [should] be shut for ever now—We have had enough of such mischiefs—chiefly caused by false religion, Priest Craft,—& Tyranny; We are in great anxiety [for] him ab<sup>d</sup>. [aboard] the Steam Ship President—It is feared she is gone.

Should steam improve, & I be spared a year or two I shall probably visit America & you & I may meet again in this short uncertain world—& in another I apprehend we shall meet on the one ground of happy & certain Hope—however we may differ (if we do) about non Essentials.—

Tho<sup>s</sup>. [Thomas] is to draw on me as he may want, as even if otherwise prudent. I would not get an order on any of the American or Canada Banks now, as the monitary affairs of both Countrys [sic] are so unsettled & unstable. Should you come across my Son now or in future assist him for the sake of

Y<sup>r</sup> [Your] Sincere & aff<sup>c</sup> [affectionate] friend  
James Palmer  
Insp<sup>c</sup> [Inspector] Gen<sup>l</sup> [General]  
of Prisons, Ireland

P.S. a son [Hungerford Hoskyns] of Doctor [John] Hoskyns who was before in America goes w<sup>th</sup> [with] my son—<sup>8</sup>

[Envelope:]

J<sup>s</sup>. [James] Buchanan E<sup>s</sup> [Esquire]  
British Consul

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<sup>8</sup> For more on the immigration of Edwin and Thomas, see letters from Hungerford Hoskyns (Dublin) to his cousin John Arkwright (Harewood, England), 12 May 1842 and 6 Apr. 1843. Hoskyns Letters, between various members of the Hoskyns and Arkwright families of England, Ireland, and Canada, 1832-1857. Transcriptions prepared by Hungerford R. L. Hoskyns, Avon, England. Originals kept in the Herefordshire Record Office. Typescript copies in the possession of Patricia Anne (McGuinness) DuLong.

in US  
New York

[The following lines were written with a different pen and a more modern hand:]

This is a letter written by my Great Grandfather about my Grandfather living in this  
Country  
Angela M Graves-  
My Grandmothers name was Mrs Margaret Palmer

Dublin Castle  
9<sup>th</sup> April 1841-

My dear Friend

You were on a former letter of mine more than kind to a lady I intended to acquaint at New York such kind of generally brings the person who gives it into more demands on his chest - However I trust the present request will not give you more trouble than you advise & protection for a few days in New York - & the Member my eldest son who is proceeding to Upper Canada & later himself amongst the many settlers from father Land - He is 19 - He first went to sea in an Indiaman, was at Antwerp, Chertea, China, & since returned doubling the sea - & now shows the life - such changes are not generally wise, & he has want of decision & perseverance - not so I think in this case - His character is steady & prudent & no wild or chattering: He is well disposed & humble, a thinking lad, & we had habits except those of our common nature, & I believe he fears & loves his Mother - He has shown us decision on this all important subject. He was much agitated by the Captain at sea - & is respected by his companions & neighbours now - He is proceeding to Michigan near the boundary to visit a young Englishman a Mr Hodgson, settled there, to obtain his experienced advice, & aid in showing a location - What I wish you to do is to give him some advice for his conduct in a new Country - also as to where about he should settle, if you have turned your mind to that subject - & perhaps you could give him a letter of introduction to some friend or settler at



near Toronto, or Montreal - he would take after  
 him occasionally - I do not like his going to the  
 Wash Woods & w. paper his locating near Toronto  
 or some good town with amiable neighbours: I propose  
 to assist him by deposit with about 500£ the taxes  
 with him 150 - & can draw on me as he purchases  
 & gets on - I wish him to purchase of 12 200 acres  
 with house & office & 20 or 30 acres meliorated -  
 to stock it at once, & begin, instead of lying idle a year -  
 Edwin Halyburton in Michigan is son of our old friend  
 Halyburton who is now a Doctor in Dublin - you will  
 also have to conduct him by advice of the Anderson,  
 & how to get to Michigan.

I hope there is no fear of War in the America -  
 The Temple of Justice sh. be shut if ever now - We  
 have had enough of such misdeeds - chiefly caused by false  
 religion, Priestcraft, & Tyranny; we are in just severity  
 from all the them. His Religion is found when you  
 should strain imposture, & I be spared a year or  
 two I shall probably visit America & you & I may  
 meet again in this part of mountain world - &  
 in another I apprehend we shall meet on the  
 one ground of Liberty & certain Hope - however  
 we may differ (if we do) about non Essentials.  
 That is to draw on me as he may want,  
 or any of the American or Canada Bankers  
 order on any of the American or Canada Bankers

now, as the monetary affairs of both countries  
 are so unsettled & unsettled. Should you  
 come across my son now in future expect  
 him for the sake of

Oct. a son of Doctor Hobbins  
 who was born in America years  
 ago my son -

of Lincoln & aff. friend

James Palmer  
 Sub. Genl. of Arisons, Island

J. Buchanan Jr.  
 British Consul  
 New York -

This is

A letter written by my Great Grandfather  
 about my Grandfather's trading in this  
 Country

My grandmother's name was Mrs Margaret Palmer  
 Angela M. Graves

***Letter No. 3***

Letter fragment apparently from Hungerford Hoskyns, Liverpool, England, to Edwin Bennet Hoskyns, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, 14 Apr. 1841, Palmer Letters, no. 3:

Liverpool 14<sup>th</sup> of April – 41

My Dear Edwyn

I wrote to you about a fortnight ago telling you that young Palmer and another young man were going out to you: and I told you at the same time that there was a possibility of my accompanying them – I hope you rec.<sup>d</sup> my letter; for if you did not, this one will take you rather aback, as we sailors say – I now write to tell you that young Palmer and the young fellow, his farm servant, of whom I told you in my last, with myself and a young gentleman, a nephew of Mr. Tisdall's, whom you may remember in the exchange church, are now in Liverpool, having taken our passage to Quebec with the intention of going right up to you; and that you may consequently expect to see us / God willing / in from ten days to a fortnight after the receipt of this letter which will of course travel much quicker than we can, as it goes by the mail – This would be almost enough to tell you if you have received my last letter – But as there is always a possibility of a letter going astray I shall explain a little – Major Palmer's son as I told you in my letter to you last autumn is going to settle either in Canada or your neighbourhood as we shall judge best. Major Palmer wishes him to be near you if possible; but that we shall decide on when we see you – And in the mean time I want to advertise you that we wish if possible to put up at your house, paying you of course for our board and lodging, while we look about, preparati[ve] to deciding what we shall finally do – If you can receive us into your .....

[Second page is missing along with a signature. However, this letter was probably written by Hungerford Hoskyns, brother of Edwyn Bennet Hoskyns, who was known to have accompanied Thomas Palmer to Michigan from other letters.]

Liverpool 14<sup>th</sup> of April - 41

My Dear Edinger

I wrote to you about a fortnight ago, telling you that young Palmer and another young man were going out to you: and I told you at the same time that there was a possibility of my accompanying them - I hope you rec'd my letter; for if you did not, this one will take you rather aback, as we sailors say - I now write to tell you that young Palmer and the young fellow, his fair-servant, of whom I told you in my last, with myself and a young gentleman, a nephew of Mr. Tisdall's, whom you may remember in the exchange church, are now in Liverpool, having taken our passage to Quebec

with the intention of going right up to you, and that you may consequently expect to see us <sup>God</sup> willing, in from ten days to a fortnight after the receipt of this letter which will of course transit much quicker than we can, as it goes by the mail — This would be almost enough to tell you if you have received my last letter — But as there is always a possibility of a letter going astray I shall explain a little — Major Palmer's son, as I told you in my letter to you last autumn is going to settle either in Canada, or your neighbourhood as we shall judge best. Major Palmer wishes him to be near you if possible; but that we shall decide on when we see you — And in the mean time I want to advertise you that we wish if possible to put up at your house, paying you of course for our board and lodging, while we look about, preparatory to deciding what we shall finally do — If you can receive us into your

***Letter No. 4***

Letter from James Palmer, Dublin, to Edwin Hoskyns, North Lake near Dexter, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, 11 Sept. 1841, Palmer Letters, no. 4:

89 L<sup>r</sup> [Lower] Bagot<sup>St</sup>  
11<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>t</sup> 1841

My D<sup>r</sup> [Dear] Edwin,

I received your letter of 5<sup>th</sup> July & was delighted to find you did not forget old times, & I assure you it gave me great pleasure to think My Son Tho.<sup>s</sup> [Thomas] was under your kind protection – I think you will find him an honest good lad, & for his age a little addicted to folly of all kinds as most young men – He commences as a settler under great advantages, & thanks to you & Hungerford & Chandy he has made I think a good & safe purchase – I hope he may not change, for many reasons, as in a few years your land & neighborhood must increase in value much. I have written this post fully to Thos - & I am quite satisfied to purchase the land you recommended for him – make the best bargain you can - & get reasonable time as you propose for the payment as he is to draw on me for other matters at once – However in any case yours & his order on me at any number of days sight shall be duly paid, & I leave it entirely to you. I suppose on y<sup>r</sup> [your] showing this or my letter to Tho<sup>s</sup> – to any Banker for Merchant in Dexter you could get money for your orders on me – time the bills ∞ that they wont come at once, but in any case I will pay them – If you approve of his purchasing the 40 acres to join the Lake (as Hungerford recommends) make the best bargain you can for it, & let his farm be complete – He may draw a bill on me at once for the 65£ you mention or for 100£ & settler to pay the owner of the Marsh in a year or so the balance – but you must draw bills on me , as you want cash an I do not like sending out bills from this - & I cannot send gold as no one is going. – Matt Finns wife is ab<sup>t</sup> [about] to lie in, & of course cannot well move till ab<sup>t</sup> Xmas - but I will send him as soon I can – Y<sup>r</sup> [Your] father dinned with me yesterday, they are all – Chassy & sister are in England – As soon as I can I will try & get something suitable for y<sup>r</sup> [your] father – but my interest & power are small - & we have a New Ministry now. Sir R<sup>t</sup> [Robert] Peele & his whole party – I w<sup>d</sup> [would] not be surprised if I live & have my health if I took a short trip to America yet – Remember me to your Lady, tho I do not know her personally – It was a great pity the loss of Tho<sup>s</sup> things for sale – I hear young Tisdale is home but I have not seen him – I was ags<sup>t</sup> [against] his going with Hung<sup>d</sup> [Hungerford] - & Tho<sup>s</sup> always – Let Tho<sup>s</sup> write to me regularly & it will always give me pleasure to hear from you -

Always my d<sup>r</sup> [dear] Edwyn  
Y<sup>rs</sup> [Yours] faithfully  
J. Palmer

[Letter addressed to:] Edwin Hoskyns E<sup>s</sup> [Esquire]  
North Lake  
Dexter  
Michigan  
U.S. of America

My Dear Edwin

89 2<sup>d</sup> Bay St  
11<sup>th</sup> Sept 1841

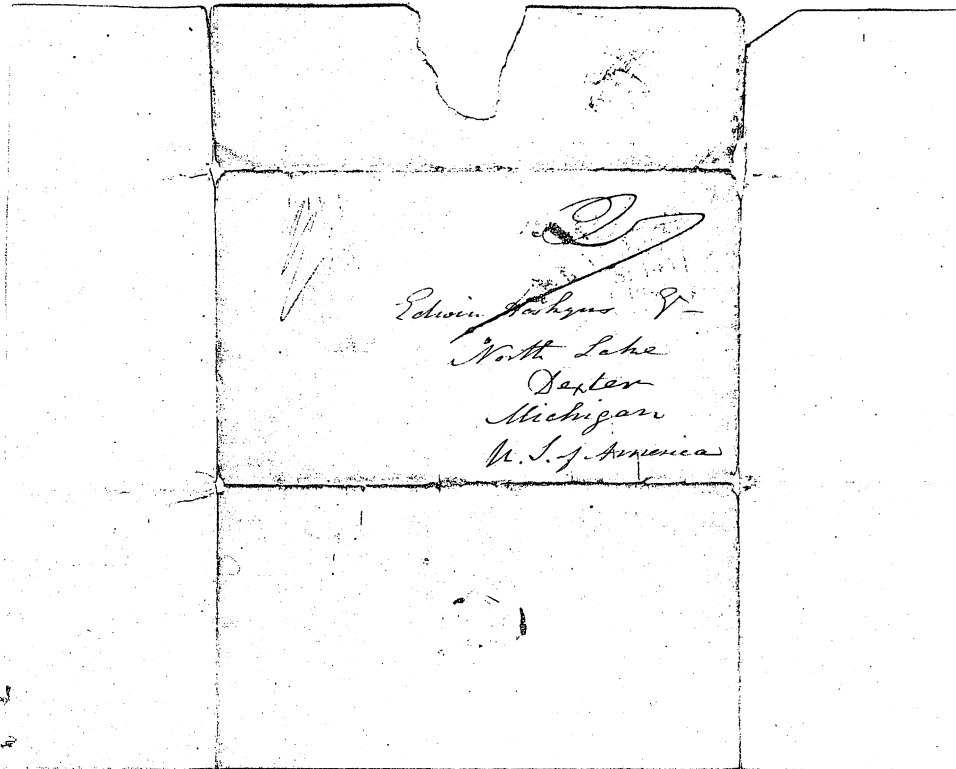
I received your letter of 3<sup>rd</sup> July & was delighted to find you had not forgot the times, & I assure you it gave me great pleasure to think by Mr. Thos. was under your kind protection. I think you will find him an honest good lad, & for his age an little addicted to folly of all kinds as most young men. He commences as a settler under great advantages, & that I you & George & Charles he has made I think a good & safe purchase. I hope he may not change, for many reasons, as in a few years your land & neighborhood must increase in value much. I have written this just fully of Thos. & I am quite satisfied to purchase the land you recommended for him - wish the best bargain you can - & get reasonable time as you propose for the payment, as he is to draw on me for the money at once - However in any case yours & his order on me at any number of days sight shall be duly paid, & I have it entirely at your disposal - I suppose on showing this or my letter to Thos. to my Banker or Merchant in Boston you



could get money for your orders on me -  
 time the bills so that they wont come a  
 once, but in any case I will pay them - If you  
 inform of his purchasing the 40 acres I join  
 the Lake (as Douglass recommends) make them  
 but again you can get, & let his farm be  
 complete. He may draw a bill on me at once  
 for the 65£ you mention or for 100£ & with I pay  
 the owner of the Marsh in a year or so the balance -  
 but you must draw bills on me, or you wont  
 cash as I do not like sending out bills from  
 this - & I must send John or no one is going, as  
 Matt Finns wife is all to be in, & of course must  
 all move till all comes - but I will send  
 her as soon as I can - My father dined with  
 me yesterday, they are all - Chaps & sister are  
 in England - as soon as I can I will try & get  
 something suitable for father - but my  
 interest & power are small - & we have  
 a new printing row. In N<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>o</sup> Park & his whole  
 party I w<sup>d</sup> not be surpris'd if I live  
 & have my health if I took a short trip  
 to America yet - Please me to your  
 lady, tho I do not know her personally -

It was a great pity the life of this thing  
 for sale - I have going Tinsdale is home  
 but I have not seen him - I was of this going  
 with May<sup>d</sup> & this always let this write  
 to me regularly & it will always give me  
 pleasure to hear from you -

Edgemoor  
 always yours faithfully  
 J. Palmer



**Letter No. 5**

Letter from James Palmer, Dublin, to Thomas W. Palmer, care of Edwin Hoskyns, North Lake near Dexter, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, 4 Apr. 1842, Palmer Letters, no. 5:

89 Lr [Lower] Bagot St  
Dublin  
4<sup>th</sup> April 1842

My D<sup>st</sup> [Dearest] Tho<sup>s</sup> [Thomas]-

We were all happy at receiving another letter from you dated 6<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> [February] last - & you cannot write too often as every acc<sup>t</sup> [account] of you & your proceedings gives me pleasure. I loose no time often consultation with Hungerford in answering you as to the farm called Sullivans - Henry does not set the same value on it that Edwin does - but recommends me to submit much to Edwins judgement, & I do value Edwins opinion - yet I cannot get over my own prejudices ag<sup>t</sup> [against] taking too much Land - I know many split on that Rock, at home & abroad - that is more Land than ones Capital & Industry can manage - Edwin may think that I have plenty of cash for this - but you know the reverse - Thank God I have enough for present wants, & can if I have[?] lay by a little for each of you - but my ready money is gone for you - with except 100£ w<sup>ch</sup> [which] Insured my life for 2000£ in case of accident, for the 2 young ones at home - However each quarter brings in something, & I will you know as I have often said, do anything that is for your good - as I know if your brother & sister were in distress you would help & divide with them to the last shilling, as they would with you I trust - at heart such is my wish, & I have recommended it to you all: - I have little more to say all the purchase you propose - but to do so if necessary to your welfare & happiness. & in that case don't purchase the other land we spoke of & put off y<sup>f</sup> [your] Barn till better times - 600 Dollars is a large sum for bad land - & as to the future town, it is too distant a speculation. You may leave America & go to Canada yet - You should always keep that in mind, & purchase nothing or expend no money, that will not meet a ready Sale at any time you wish to part with it - not hunting for purchasers - as others are - with this advice I leave it entirely to yourself, & if you draw on me I will pay y<sup>f</sup> [your] bills as I have already done, & by this time, persons in Dexter & Ann Harbor [Arbor] should know y<sup>f</sup> [your] drafts on me are as good as the Bank note & letter - as it insures Trade - This is the way I like to do business - get as much time as you can, but if you draw at even 20 days sight your bills shall not be dishonored. - I hope Chandy has got something by this - I could get you a letter to The Commissary General at Kingston - but I suppose it wd [would] only get you a clerkship: I prefer your remaining an independent farmer, & I doubt much if you could do better than remain where you are - I have thank God escaped Gout all winter, Hal & Prisy are well, with an occaxional cold, & Mama is well, but lately

had a bad attack of giddiness in her head & I had Crampton to see her – we have 2 horses, & I sold the boy horse & purchased a strong young good one – I am to dine this day with The Tory Lord Lieutenant, Lord D'Gray<sup>9</sup> - I am turned a complete Tory. more than yourself if possible – we had our show of cattle again last week – at Dub. Society – our fowl are gone to the bad since we left baynish[?]. I show a colt & lost, & ran up Molinworth St. like you, when I saw it going af [after] me. I put in also for butter for M<sup>m</sup>[Madam] Mohan but she did not send any – I shall please God go to Buxton in July as usual, as it does me good - & I hop in 2 years to have Hal an officer – & in 2 after that to marry Prisy to some good man - & then away I suppose to the Happy hunting grounds – or if spared & in health go see you – Doctor Hoskyns & all his family re well, I wish I could get something for Him & Hungerford; but really I have no effectual Intent, & these things in gift of format are few & picked up in a moment – I have had a quarrel with my Colleague Doctor White the New I.gen<sup>l</sup> [Inspector General] of Prisons;<sup>10</sup> He is a Roman & a nasty disagreeable man - Self conceited to a degree, so I cut him – I think He will be put out this Summer, as I hear & believe ther is to be but one I.Gen<sup>l</sup> [ Inspector General] kept & 2 Deputys [sic] If he behaves himself he may Get one of the Deputys. Sir Rob<sup>t</sup> [Robert] Peele is carrying all his measures in Parliament with great Majorities – The India News is very bad – our Troops murdered & beat in Afganistan – but 10,000 Men are going out & Englands Flag will wave over all India, & conquer wherever it is unfurled –<sup>11</sup>

On to Matt. Finn I am somewhat surprised, but not much, as Hungerford warned me of such being the result before you started – I could not have thought it, but let it be a lesson to us not to trust anyone – I sent his letter to his wife & enclosed is her answer – I know nothing or wish to know nothing more of Him – He has a Changeable mind & will never

Do any great good in the world –  
Hire men when you want then &  
put trust in no one - & keep y<sup>r</sup>[your]  
Powder Dry. John Lamb<sup>12</sup> is well &  
all y<sup>r</sup>[your] friends ask after you –  
Dean of Kilmainham is dead, & Allison  
Governor & the Convicts will be sent to

---

<sup>9</sup> Thomas Philip de Grey, 2nd Earl de Grey, was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from 1841 to 1844.

<sup>10</sup> Captain Francis White, MD, was appointed to be the other Inspector General of Prisons and Lunatic Asylums upon the death of Major Benjamin Woodward in 1841. He was very much concerned with the treatment of the mentally ill and critical of the Major. The bane of the Major's existence near the end of his career as inspector general.

<sup>11</sup> This is a reference to the disastrous retreat from Kabul, Afghanistan.

<sup>12</sup> John Lamb was a messenger the Major used in the prison service. He was alleged to be the illegitimate child of the Major, which Palmer denied vigorously.

Smythfield, w<sup>ch</sup>[which] is fitting for them & Lamb of Enchillen [Enniskillen ?] will be Governor if I can do it- Lewy Nash,<sup>13</sup> the Cap.<sup>t</sup> [Captain] Commodore & all are well – old Moulds & all that set are alive & poor as ever – As to your going into Lodgings, I can give no opinion, only to consult Edwin, & do whatever you think is best – I have great confidence in your good sense & upright conduct & can only say my daily blessing & prayers go with you wherever you are & whatever you do – Remember me affect<sup>ly</sup> [affectionately] to Edwin & his wife & Chandos -& bless me ever y<sup>r</sup> [ your] aff<sup>t</sup> [affectionate] father

J.<sup>s</sup> [James] Palmer

Hals & Prisys love –

I suppose you have drawn on me before this for some money all I can say if so, or when you do I will not fail you as long as I have it, & thank God all goes well with us at present -

[Addressed on outside of folded letter to:]

Tho<sup>s</sup> W. Palmer E<sup>s</sup> [Esquire]  
care of Edwin Hoskyns E<sup>s</sup> [Esquire]  
North Lake  
Dexter  
State of Michigan  
U.S. of America

[Broken seal in wax on paper.]

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<sup>13</sup> Llewellyn Nash is the brother of Eliza Nash.

By J. T. H. S.

89 St. Bagot St.

Dublin

4<sup>th</sup> April 1842

We were all happy at receiving another letter from you dated 6<sup>th</sup> Feb last & your comment on the other as every act of you & your proceedings gives me pleasure. I took no time after consultation with Humphreys in answering you as to the farm called Bullisams - Henry does not set the same value on it that Edwin does - but recommends me to submit it to Edwin's judgment, & to hold value Edwin's opinion - but I cannot get over my own prejudices as to holding so much land - I know many who are capital & industrious can manage more land than once capital & industry can manage - Edwin may think that I have plenty of cash for present but know the reverse - Thank God I have enough for present wants, & can if I like try by a little for each of you, but my real money is gone for you - with credit 1000 £ at present my life for 2000 £ a case of accident, for the 2 young ones at home - However each quarter living in something, & I will, you know as I have often said, do anything that is for your good - as I know of you brother & sister men I do tell you I would help & divide with them to the last shilling, as they would with you I trust - at least such is my wish, & I have recommended it to you all - I have little more to say about the purchase for purpose - but to do so if necessary to you will save & shipping, & in that case I don't purchase the other land as a job of & put off of Barn till later times - 600 Dollars is a large sum for bad land - & in the future town, it is to be a speculation - you may lose America & if it could be got you should always keep that in view, & purchase nothing, or expend no money, that will not meet a ready sale at any time you wish to part with it - not hunting for purchasers - as there are - with this advice I have it entirely to yourself, & if you draw on me I will pay of bills as I have already done, & by this time, persons





believe there is to be but one Sped letter & 2 Sped  
 If he believes himself he may get over the Sped  
 Sir Robt. Peel is carrying all his measures in Parliament  
 with great Majorities - The Public news is very bad -  
 our Troops murdered & lost in Afghanistan - but 10,000  
 men are going out of England & Solag will come over  
 all India & conquer whenever it is ordered -

As to Mr. Fenn I am somewhat surprised that you  
 much, a strong wound me of such kind the result before  
 you started - I could not have thought it, but let it be a lesson  
 to us not to trust any one - I sent his letter & his envelope  
 & enclosed in his envelope I have nothing more to know  
 nothing more of him - He is a dangerous man & will never

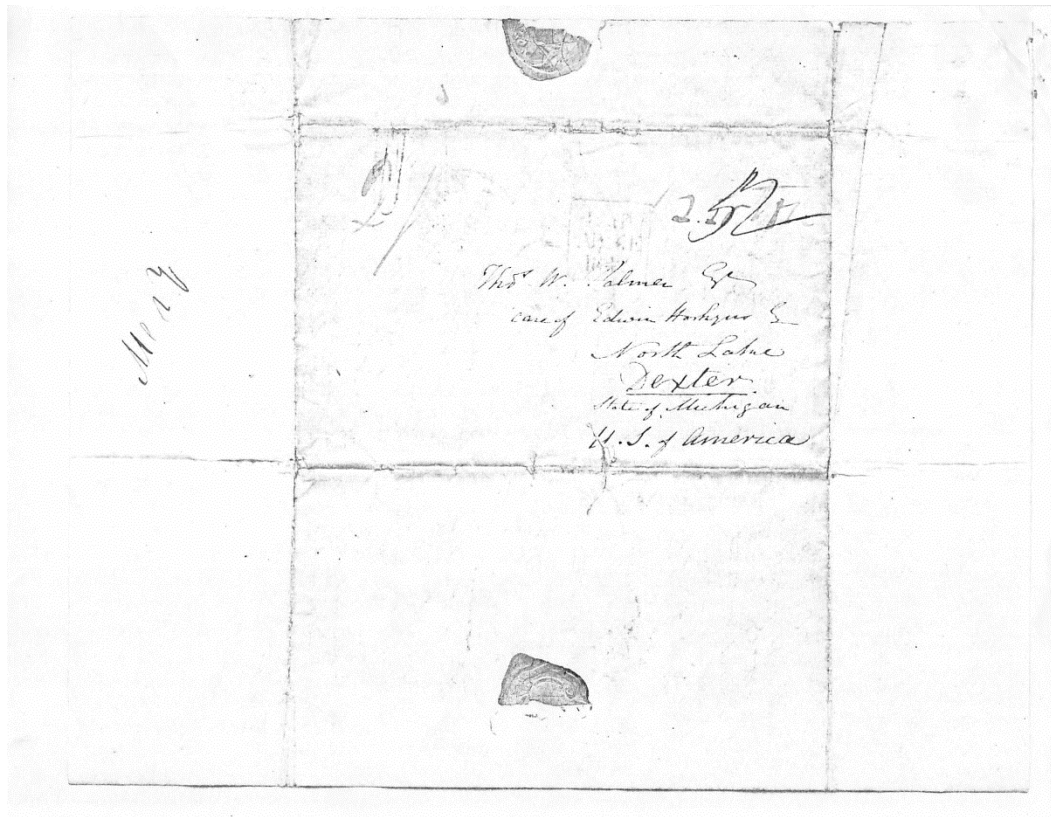
Do any part good in the world -  
 His men who you went there  
 & put them in no one place  
keep 4 powder dry John Lamb  
 is well & all 4 friends well  
 after your Dear of John Lamb  
 is well & all in good health

of the Committee will be sent to Southfield, & is getting  
 for them & Lamb of Southfield will be forever if I can do it -  
Henry Nash, the Capt. Commander & all are well -  
old Maule & all that at an slice & poor is even -

As to your young into Lidings, I can give no opinion,  
 only to consult John, & do what you think is best -  
 I have great confidence in your good sense & upright  
conduct & can only suggest daily blowing & prayer  
 go with your dear you are what you are dear John  
Mr officer L. Edson & his wife & Charles & John

John & Prings love - from even of off father  
 I suppose you have heard of me  
 before this for some months  
 all I can say is so, or when you do  
 I shall not fail you as long as  
 I have it, & think good all your well with us at New York

J. Palmer



**Letter No. 6**

Letter fragment from James Palmer, Dublin, probably written to one of the Hoskins brothers, 1840s, Palmer Letters, no. 6:

[Front page with date and address missing.]

enquire [sic] for me where they get Slate Blue & Starch in upper & Lower Canada

–

Is it manufactured there –

would such a samples sell there, if sent out – and what would be the value of it in Canada –

could much be sold there –

could Starch be sold & at what Price per Cent –

Write me an answer to these questions in about a week or so after you arrive at Little York – as you can hear all there – say Now you like the Country & can I do anything for you at home –

Dear<sup>st</sup> [Dearest] your letter

Major Palmer

8 upper Mount St.

Dublin

[Back fold of sheet written in pencil by different hand – “Uncle Palmer” then in smaller writing this medicinal recipe:]

210 grains

½ oz [ounce] Quinine or

30 grains of Quinine to given

ten table spoon fuls of water:

add thirty drops of dilute

sulfuric acid two

table spoon ful to be taken

three times a day –

at this rate a person would save

nine gaining a day : but you

may take nine or even ten

grains twice a day – in dried pill

Dilute sulfuric acid is

made by taking one part of the

strongest sulfuric acid of

commerce, and mixing it

with seven parts of water -

[This fragment of a letter was probably written to one of the Hoskins brothers who settled in Canada in the 1840s.]

engine for new steam things - State Blue & Black  
in Upper & Lower Canada -

Let it manufacture there -  
could make a sample & sell there if sent out - and  
what would be the value of it in Canada -  
could much be sold there -  
could stock be sold & at what price per cent -

Write me an answer to these questions

in about a week or so after you receive a  
little book - as you can have all these - say  
how you like the country & can I do anything  
for you at home -

I am your little  
Wm. Palmer  
Upper Mount St  
Dublin

Wm. Palmer

**Letter No. 7**

Letter from James Palmer, Dublin, to James Buchanan, British Consul, New York,  
14 Aug. 1845, Palmer Letters, no. 7:

92 Bagot St  
Dublin  
14<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> [August] 1845

My D.<sup>r</sup> [Dear] Buchannan –

It is so long since we communicated together that except for the Christian Bonds that unites us you would necessarily forget your numerous friends in Ireland; I cannot however forget y<sup>r</sup> [your] kind attention to a Lady I gave an introduction to you some years ago and I am glad of an opportunity of again expressing my recollection of you, & informing you that I still endure my Lords blessing hold fast the precious truth of everlasting life in His Kingdom, though His Merits and Love to a lost Sinner otherwise: I do trust my d.<sup>r</sup> [dear] friend & brother you hold on also by this same Anchor, & that we shall meet in Glory – To you & me the evening & sunsett [sic] of our Pilgrimage is nearly over - & I now at 65. – am only waiting my call.

I am but little of our old Companions, some are fallen asleep – Tho<sup>s</sup> Kelly<sup>14</sup> still alive & traveling same road – D<sup>r</sup> G. Carr alive but soon united with worship of Intellect & comply [?completely] silenced, but all is for Gods Glory –

I write this merely to Introduce to you my Eldest son Tho<sup>s</sup> [Thomas] Palmer, who has been settled on a purchase of Land in Michigan near Dexter, for some years - He came to see me last year, & returns via New York & the Hudson & rail Road to Dexter – 7 miles from his farm –

Your acquaintance & comitenance [sic] will be inestimable [?] to Him & I beg to introduce him – His stay in New York will only be a day or two - & sh<sup>d</sup> [should] he pass your way again He will call upon you – You will find him I think sensible, steady, & prudent for his years 23 – He likes America, & y<sup>r</sup> [your] conversation & advice will do him good –I place great confidence in Him & am not without good hopes that He Loves the Lord & looks for His coming –

In this Land we have nothing but strife, popery, & folly – well for us there is another beyond the Flood-

---

<sup>14</sup> This is Rev. Thomas Kelly, a dissident religious leader.

Our Queen is gone on a visit to Germany for 3 or 4 weeks, Parliament just up - & Rail Roads & money is the present Idol in this Kingdom -

I am still working in my occupation as In<sup>sp</sup> :[Inspector] Gen<sup>l</sup> [General] of Prisons & we are improving - I think you have gone too far in Separate System & Y<sup>r</sup> [your] confinements are too long:- If you have leisure write me a line any time - directed as above.

I am most anxious to get the bearer a good wife, as I dread a young man in the back woods marrying unequally - I expect him home again in Spring for a month or two for this purpose - tho I have not found an eligible one yet - nor has he which is the principle person to consult -

Finall [Finally] my <sup>dr</sup> [dear] friend The Peace of God & Our Lord Jesus be with you & remain w<sup>th</sup> [with] you -

Always faithfully Y<sup>rs</sup> [Yours]  
J<sup>s</sup>[James] Palmer

J.[John] Hoskyns is well - & head Doctor in Dublin - Th<sup>s</sup> [Thomas] knows him & his -

[Addressed to:]

J. Buchanan Esq<sup>r</sup> [Esquire] - British Consul New York [bottom left corner:]  
J.<sup>s</sup> Palmer IGPAS [Inspector General of Prisons and Asylums]

92 Beaufort St  
Dublin  
14<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup> 1815

My G. Buchanan -

It is so long since  
we communicated together that I wish  
for the Christian Board that unite us  
you would mercifully forgive your  
numerous friends - Ireland; I cannot  
traverse of his attention  
to a Lady I gave an introduction  
to you some years ago, and I am glad  
of an opportunity of again expressing  
my recollection of you, & hoping you  
that I still retain my dear blessing  
hold fast the precious truth of eternal  
life in His Kingdom, though His Mercies &  
Love to a last summer (therein): I do  
trust my G. friend & brother you had or else  
is this our labour, & that we shall meet  
in glory - To you & me the evening &  
smell of our Religion is not by our  
& I now at 55 - am only waiting my call.  
I can but little of our old companions,  
some are fallen asleep - I shall still strive  
& breathe some and - I G. can also, but  
some would with wishes of intellect & completely  
silenced, but all as for gods glory -  
I write this merely to introduce  
to

to you my Eldest son Thos.  
Palmer, who has been settled on  
a purchase of Land in Michigan  
near Dexter, for some years - He came  
to see us last year, & returned via  
New York & the Hudson & rail Road to  
Dexter - 7 miles from his farm -

Your acquaintance & countenance  
will be creditable to him & I long  
to introduce him - His stay in  
Yorke will only be a day or two -  
& he'll be back your way again - He  
will call upon you - You will find  
him I think sensible, steady, & prudent  
for his years. 23 - He likes America,  
& if conversation & advice will do  
him good - I place great confidence  
in him, & am not without good hopes  
that the Lord will prosper his  
labors in this land in harvest  
nothing but sheeps, Pigeons, & fowls -  
will for us there is another beyond the  
Island - Our Duesen is gone on a visit  
to Germany for 3 or 4 weeks, Palmar



sent up - & Prail Reads & money  
in the present school - then Hydrochloric -

I am still working in my occupation  
as Lib: fund of Prisons & am now  
improving - I think you have given  
too far in separate system & of  
experiments are too long - You have  
connected with me all lines of time  
directed as above.

I am most anxious to get  
the lease - a good wife, or I had  
a young man in the back woods  
managing unequally - I expect  
him home again in Spring for  
a month or two for this purpose -  
This I have not found as desirable  
any yet - nor has he shut in the  
simple person to consult -

Yours truly & friend  
The Dear of God & our Lord Jesus  
be with you & remain as to you -

Always faithfully yrs

J. Palmer

J. Hathorne is well - & sends love to you  
We know him & his -

J. Buchanan Esq  
British Consul  
New York  
J. Palmer  
23rd St

***Letter No. 8***

Letter from James Palmer, Liverpool, England, to James Buchanan, British Consul,  
New York, 7 May 1847, Palmer Letters, no. 8:

Liverpool  
7<sup>th</sup> May 1847 –

My D<sup>r</sup> [Dear]Buchanan/

This I think is the third letter I have written to you by my son, who has failed, he tells me from various accidents of time & place, to even hand you one of them – The first was in 1843 I think, when he was going to settle in America as a farmer - & I considered your advice & comitenance [sic] would have been of great use to him in deciding on his Location – He has twice come home to see me & his d<sup>r</sup> [dear] mother who was joined with us in Christian fellowship with Dr. Kelly's Congregation – He is now returning again to New York on one of the Liners & will proceed to Michigan close to Dexter where he has been settled 4 – 5 years - & tho [sic] I know you have left y<sup>r</sup> [your] situation in New York & I hear settled in Canada somewhere, I yet give him another line first because I wish him at his age (only 23) to know you & obtain your acquaintance & advice, & secondly because I know you will be interested to hear of us all & something of the old Country: -

I & my D<sup>r</sup> [Dear] Partner are still permitted by our Master to be Ambers of the Ground & are now only waiting for our D<sup>r</sup> [Dear] Masters Call to that happy Land where sin & sorrow cease, & joy & everlasting happiness await those who know the finished work of Jesus to be all sufficient to secure their reception in His Heavenly Kingdom without reform to their vileness & comonthings [sic] in this world - & who have been taught to love & obey His Will in some degree & to want his approving –

Many of your old friends have gone before us - & some remain still Lingerin on the brink, well knowing that to him is Christ & to die gain – I may well now say this after 66 summers - & finding all in Vanity –

D<sup>r</sup> [Doctor] Kelly still lives & has a few followers in some Church - & but few – Edward Corke if you knew him is still alive & usefull [sic] – I believe you know that Hoskyns & several with him The Lattons again join Walker & they have split again into two sects about some foolish difference I suspect – The Lord permits these differences for some purpose beyond our capacity to see – but I know The Lords people should be together contending for the faith once delivered to His Saints & they will be set when you & I are looking on wondering we did not when here see how it should be –

Were I younger I would go to Canada or America & settle, for England & Ireland are growing worse & worse. I applied in every opposition to God & His Commands & His Gospel – Your friends in Waterford are still together - I saw some of them lately –

You know I became Inspector General of Prisons in 1822 - & served till 1846 – and last year retired on a Pension, worn out in the Service - & I am now seeking for a place to retire to - for my remaining days – or months - I think I will go to Isle of Man or to Scotland – but it little matters where; I only want to get amongst those who Love the Lord, & end my days amongst them – My dear wife & I joy on together in the same faith & Hope; She is Paralytic [sic], but otherwise healthy & only waits for her Lords call – I know not if you rember [sic] her; but she knows you & desires to be rembered [sic] to you affectionately in The Lord- we shall not meet again on earth doubtless, but we shall where sin & Sorrow cease & all will be joy & Praise –

Should my D<sup>r</sup> [dear] Son Tho<sup>s</sup>. [Thomas] deliver this I know you will well welcome him for my sake; & as he tells you of his places & Prospects, you will aid him by council or in any way that occurs to you, but above all in showing Him that in all Lands there are those who Love & fear God & who depend solely on this finished work of Jesus for Wisdom, Rightoussness [sic], Sanctification, & Redemption.

Finale my D<sup>r</sup> friend – may The Lord be with you & in ours to the last, supporting in the struggle & Increasing Our Faith –

Always affec<sup>ly</sup> [affectionately] & faithfully y<sup>rs</sup> [yours]  
In The Lord  
J<sup>s</sup>. [James] Palmer

[Addressed on back page of letter:]

Forward by Tho<sup>s</sup>. [Thomas] Palmer E<sup>s</sup> [Esquire]–  
Buchannon E<sup>s</sup>[Esquire]

Z Z Z

State Consul at Newyork [sic]

Z Z Z

J<sup>s</sup>. [James] Palmer

Liverpool  
7<sup>th</sup> May 1847-

My F Buchanan

This I think is the third letter I have written to you by my son, who has failed, he tells me from various accidents of time & place, to see him & one of them - The first was in 1843 I think, when he was going to settle in America as a farmer - & I remember your advice & countenance would have been of great use to him in his or his location - he has since come home to see me & his Mother who was joined with me in Christian Fellowship with Mr. Shultz's congregation - he is now returning again to New York in one of the Lines & will spend 4 months close to Boston where he has been settled 4 or 5 years - & this I think you have left of situation in New York & I have settled in Canada somewhere, I yet give him another line just because I wish him to his eye (only 23) to know you & obtain your acquaintance & advice, & surely because I know you will be attached to him & us all & something of the old language

I & my Mother are still permitted by our Master to be labourers of the ground & are now only waiting for our Master's call to that happy land where in various ways of joy & unending bliss we await those who know the promised earth of Jesus to be all sufficient to their their reception in the heavenly Kingdom without return to their world & unworldly in this world - & who have been taught to love & obey his will in some degree & to wait his appearing -

Many of your old friends have gone before us - & some remain still singing on the bank, well knowing that

I live in Christ & I live again - I may well now  
 say this after 66 summers - & finding all is vanity -  
 & Shelly still lives & has a few followers in some  
 Church - & last year - Edward Cashie of V knew him in still  
 alive & unwell - I believe you know that Hazlitt & they  
 several with him. The letters of John Walker & they  
 have split again into two sets about some foolish  
 chippone I suspect - The Lord punts these differences  
 for some purpose beyond our capacity to see - but I  
 know the Lord will keep them together intending by  
 the faith once delivered to his saints & they will be set,  
 when you & I are looking on, wondering, and did not when  
 here see how it should be -

When I younger I used to go to Canada & America &  
 settle for England & Ireland on giving care & some  
 I suppose in every direction to God & His commands &  
 His Gospel - My friends in Waterbury are still together -  
 I saw some of them lately -

You know I became Inspector General of Prisons  
 in 1822 - & served till 1846 - & last year returned on a  
 Pension, worn out in the service - & I am now seeking  
 for a place to retire to - for my remaining few  
 days - or months - I think I will go to Holy Man  
 in the settlement - but it little matters where, I  
 only wish to get amongst those who love the  
 Lord, & and my days amongst them - My dear  
 wife & I jog on together in the same faith & hope;  
 she is Paralytic, but otherwise healthy & only waits  
 for her Lord's call - I know what of your remembrance

being but she does you & desires to be remembered to  
 you affectionately in the Lord - we shall at next year  
 on earth doubtless, but we shall cheer sin & sorrow  
 cease & all will be joy & praise -

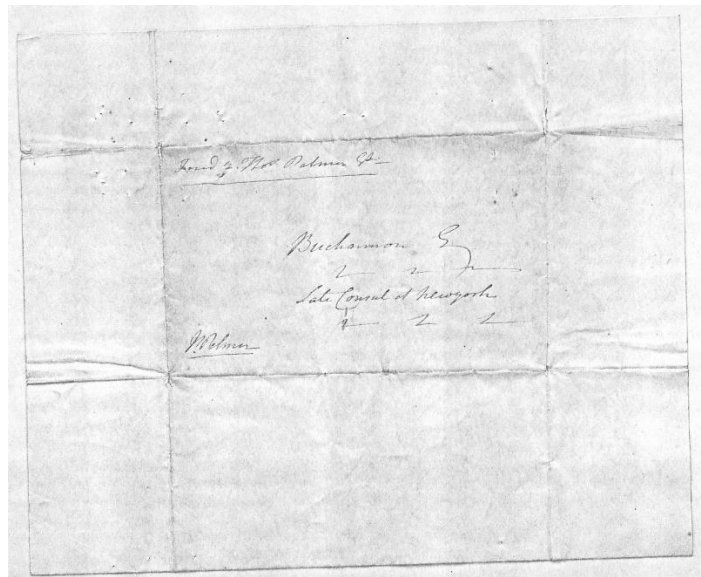
Should my dear Son H.S. believe this I know you  
 will well welcome him for my sake, & he tells  
 you of his plans & parents, you will aid him by  
 Council or in any way that occurs to you, but please  
 all in showing him that in all lands there are those  
 who love & fear God & who depend solely on their  
 finished work of Jesus for Widow, Widowhood, Son-  
ship & Redemption.

Remain my dear friend - May the Lord be with  
 you & me & ours to the last, supporting us in the  
 struggle & increasing our Faith -

Always Affly & faithfully Yrs

In the Lord

J. Palmer



Amos A. Phelps

Buchanan Esq  
Late Consul of New York

W. Palmer



*Letter No. 9*

Letter from James Palmer, Douglas, Isle of Man, to Thomas W. Palmer, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, 26 Feb. 1848, Palmer Letters, no. 9:

Douglas  
Isle of Man  
26<sup>th</sup> Feb. 48/

My D<sup>r</sup>. [Dear] Tho<sup>s</sup> - [Thomas]

We did not hear from you last New York Packet, indeed I suppose once a month is as much as we can expect – unless some good news - & we will regularly do the same – We are all thank God as well as when last we wrote to you, but nothing material has occurred to alter our plans or drive me out of this – My d<sup>bt</sup> [? debtors] seem asleep & I am gradually quartaly [sic] paying the worst – or hardest – about Xmas those 3 bad ones will be paid that is in all ab<sup>t</sup> [about] 500£ will be cleared, & I can then begin with those I ought to pay - & finally if spared 3 – 4 years, which I think likely from my present good health I may be allowed to think of my d<sup>r</sup> [dear] Children – for the rest of my life 150£ a year will keep me & ~ Mama well – This is all without calculating on a Lottery Ticket or any chance, but you know I always expect some turn up in my favor, & I still have no doubt it will come. so now you have my temporal affairs - & as to spiritual I am as ever trusting to my d<sup>r</sup> [dear] Master who I know to a certainty is watching over me & mine, not for our merit – but for Jesus sake, & because he loves us; for why I cannot yet lite [?sic] kind I remind my d<sup>r</sup> [dear] Tho<sup>s</sup> to rember [sic] His Lord in he days of his youth. To pray regularly, to read Bible daily - & trust fully for time & Eternity to Gods promises to be with His own, & to punish His Enemies – I do expect to meet you all in Heaven yet, & there is but one road there, through the merits & mercy of Jesus alone – all else is folly. We may meet here again. Come to us when you like or can. & if you cant suit yourself with a wife. I will pos [possibly] get you one when you come again. fear not.

Prisy went last week to Dublin for 14 days, but it will of course be a month she is very happy there. Hals Rg<sup>t</sup> [Regiment] 74<sup>th</sup> is in Dublin & he is so gay with Castle Balls & I suppose He cannot come to us. I write to both to write you this mail on 29<sup>th</sup> & we will all send news papers, so you will be able to let y<sup>r</sup> [your] friends see the news. –

I think of going to London in April early on road to Jersey & see what I can do – but my movement is quite uncertain yet, & I may stay here all Summer, if left alone, it is so cheep & pleasant enough & healthy. I get a little 3<sup>d</sup> [3 pence] about - & a little club house for News papers – plenty of Scandal & girls without number,

a few with a little cash & all mad for a Husband – Mama loves, & w<sup>d</sup> [would] write if any use; she really loves you & prays for y<sup>r</sup> [your] welfare.

I believe I told you before that Mr. Reynolds is M.P. [Member of Parliament] for Dublin – He may be of use to us all yet. The Hoskyns going on I hear as usual & every farthing they could get, gone in building the Houses, a silly spree indeed – The coal tar is ab<sup>l</sup> [about] giving up I fear for poor Com: but it may stand yet a year by the Attorneys craft – Gogan is at S. Park, seldom goes to Dublin - & never comes here – I think him honest to us & as men go a safe companion & good fellow – Ellen Turner a widow is reduced to keep a school & Boarding House in Carnarvon<sup>15</sup> – The Palmers, Wards, & Nashes as you left them. & Marquesses. There are 14 half pay Majors living here on economy plan – were I as young as some of them I w<sup>d</sup> [would] soon be in Michigan. I know nothing of Chandos Hoskyns He diddled me out of 300£ after all of my experience. well let him thrive on it if He can -

Captain P. [Palmer] is again gone to Sierra Leon. we have not heard from him but wife and children are with him. If he lives He will soon be Major –

Poor Ireland is as bad as ever with starvation & wickedness: Popery and Potatoes are the ruin of Ireland.<sup>16</sup> If both were abolished, she would recover herself – In a very few years, say from 4 to 8. I think from The Prophecies of Daniel, Popery will be first & the Jews restored to their Land - & Church of England be apostolic tho many of the Lords people are in it –

I think I have nothing else to say at present. We will write again next month & tell you all changes as your land is not in your hands, this year perhaps it w<sup>d</sup> [would] be the best time for you to come over – whenever I have a 100£ to spare you shall have it to help you – I know if needful you will take care of Prisy – She has many admirers here, & I think someday she will yet be well married – farewell d<sup>rt</sup> [dearest] may The Lord bless you & help you - & direct you in all y<sup>r</sup> [your] movements – Remember us to your old House Keeper - & Waller & any we know – tell us a<sup>bt</sup> [about] M<sup>r</sup> Hoskyns – Is Gen<sup>l</sup> [General] Taylor to be president - & Scott ordered home after all his victories – such is the world.<sup>17</sup> las Dr. your aff: [affectionate] Governor Palmer

[Post script written sideways on first page edge:]

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<sup>15</sup> The “Turner Journal” confirms that she was in Carnarvon (Caernarvon), Wales, during this time. Ellen Turner, “Journal of Ellen (Thompson) Turner,” ca. 1895, mss., photocopy in the possession of Patricia A. (McGuinness) DuLong.

<sup>16</sup> This letter is written in the midst of the great famine that hit Ireland between 1845 and 1850.

<sup>17</sup> This is a reference to the recent Mexican-American War, 1846-1848.

Trade quite dead here, & at least 200 Bankrupts of large Houses, if the Harvest is good we shall not want Animal flour<sup>18</sup> – I send a Scotch paper for your Scottish neighbors.

---

<sup>18</sup> Animal flour is a bone meal made from ground animal bones.



watching over me & mine, not for  
 our merit - but for Jesus sake, & because  
 he loves us; for why I cannot get till  
 now I received my ~~2<sup>d</sup>~~ <sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> to remember the  
 Lord in the days of his youth. I pray regularly,  
 & read Bible daily - & trust fully for truth  
 & eternity & Gods promises to be with His  
 own, & to finish His promises - I do not think  
 to meet you all in Heaven yet, & there is  
 but one road there, through the merits &  
 mercy of Jesus alone - all else is folly.  
 We may meet here again. Come to us  
 when you like or come if you cant out  
 yourself with wife. I will grow get you  
 over when you come again. For now.

Myself went last week to Dublin  
 for 14 days, but it will be about  
 20 is my hobby there. Halls 14<sup>th</sup> 3/4<sup>th</sup> is  
 in Dublin & he is so gay with little Halls  
 & I suppose he cannot come to us.  
 I write to both to write you this  
 mail on 29<sup>th</sup> & we will all send  
 news papers, so you will be all to let  
 of friends as the news.

I think of going to London in  
 April early on road to Jersey & see what  
 I can do - but my movement is quite  
 uncertain yet, & I may stay here all summer,  
 it is so much & pleasant enough  
 & healthy. I got a little 3<sup>d</sup> club - & a little club  
 House for news papers - plenty of second &

\* Girls without regular, a few with a little  
cash, & all mad for a Husband -  
Marian loves, & w. writes if any man; she  
really loves you & prays for y. w. all of one.

I believe I told you before  
Mr Reynolds is M. P. for City of Dublin - He  
may be of use to us all yet. The Holywell  
going on I have as usual & every fortnight  
they could get some in building the houses,  
a silly space indeed - The coal lot is all  
fining up I fear for corn: but it may  
stand yet a year, by the attorneys in the  
going on in St. Paul, seldom pass to Dublin -  
I never come here - I think him honest  
to us & as much, a safe companion  
& good fellow - Ellen Turner is a widow  
is indeed to have a school & boarding  
house in Limerick - The Palmers, to us,  
& at us as you like them & Margaret.

There are 14 half pay Majors living  
here on economy pension - now I am going  
as some of them I'd own to in Michigan.

I know nothing of Charles Holmes the  
D.D. had me out of 300£ after all my expense.  
will let him thence on it if he can.

Captain P. is again gone to Sierra Leone.  
we have not heard from him but wife  
& children are with him. If he lives  
he will soon be Major -

Don Inland is a bad man as well as the

starvation & wickedness: Potatoes  
 & Potatoes on the ruin of Ireland.  
 If both were abolished, she would  
 recover herself. In a very few years,  
 say from 2 to 8. I think from the  
 Prophecies of Daniel, O'Henry will be  
 the restoration of the Jews restored to their  
 Land & Church of England & restoration  
 the way of the Lord's people are in it -  
 I think I have nothing else to  
 say at present. We will write you  
 next month & tell you all changes  
 as your land is not in your hands  
 then you perhaps it is to the best  
 time for you to come over - when  
 I have a 100% to show you shall have  
 it to help you - as I know if needfull  
 you will take care of Piaz - she  
 has many admirers here, & I think  
 some day she will get to well married -  
 farewell & adieu. The Lord bless  
 you & keep you - & direct you in all  
 your movements - Remember us to your  
 old housekeeper - & Waller & any  
 we know - till us Mr. Hobbes - Mr  
 Gent Taylor & the President - & Scott  
and home after all his victories -  
 such is the world. Love & affection  
 Palmer

***Letter No. 10***

Letter from Henry Wellington Palmer, London, to Thomas W. Palmer, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, 14 May 1850, Palmer Letters, no. 10:

London  
14<sup>th</sup> May 1850

My Dear Tomy

I regret to have to write you word that the poor Governor departed this life on the 1<sup>st</sup> of this month His Death was rather sudden as although I came here the instant I heard of his Danger yet the poor man had Died the day before I got there. Uncle & Aunt Marquess & M<sup>r</sup> Taaffe came over in time for his Interment. Mamma & Prisy go to Marquess'. Who have been exceedingly Kind so far both in promises & acts towards both of them.

I regret also to tell you that he not only did not leave a penny after him but had anticipated his next quarter which poor Taaffe is at the Loss of – The post goes out for America this day so I must conclude although indeed If I had even plenty of time I could scarcely say more. I wish you would write me Directed to the care of M<sup>r</sup> Taaffe. & as soon as I get back to Clonmel Where I am now stationed. I will write to you more fully. In the mean time Believe me ever Y<sup>r</sup> [Your] aff<sup>te</sup> [affectionate] Brother

Henry

[This letter is written on black boarder paper, indicating mourning, and as Henry Wellington Palmer ran out of room on a page he turned the paper sideways and wrote over his earlier text.]



My dear Mr. [unclear] of  
 4 May 1850.  
 I received your letter of the 24th  
 and was glad to hear from you  
 and to hear that you were  
 well. I am well at present  
 and hope these few lines  
 will find you the same.  
 I have not much news to  
 write at present. I am  
 still in the same place  
 and am engaged in the  
 same work. I have not  
 yet seen any of the  
 friends I have written  
 to. I am sure you are  
 all well. I have not  
 much news to write at  
 present. I am still in  
 the same place and am  
 engaged in the same  
 work. I have not yet  
 seen any of the friends  
 I have written to. I am  
 sure you are all well.

man had died the day  
before I got there. Well  
I sent Margus & Mrs  
Laffe came over in  
time for his interment.  
Mamma & Princy go to  
Margus's. Who have been  
exceeding kind to far  
both in promises & acts  
towards both of them.

I regret also to tell John

that he not only did not  
become a penny after time  
<sup>but</sup>  
had anticipated his next  
quarters which poor Laeffe  
is at the top of - The post  
goes out for America this  
day so I must conclude  
although indeed if I had  
more plenty of time I could  
scarcely say more. Think  
you would write to me

My dear Mr. Leaffe. I  
 have just received your  
 letter of the 14th inst. &  
 am glad to hear that you  
 are well. I am well at  
 present & hope these few  
 lines will find you the same.  
 I have not much news to  
 write at present. I am  
 still in the same place  
 & am engaged in the same  
 business. I have not  
 time to write you more  
 fully at present. I will  
 write you again in a few  
 days. I am, dear Mr. Leaffe,  
 very respectfully,  
 Yours,  
 Henry

*Letter No. 11*

Letter fragment from Robert Taaffe, Dublin, to Thomas W. Palmer, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, probably Mar. 1855, Palmer Letters, no. 11:

[One or more pages missing, no date or address.]

intermission up to the period of her Confinement. How she got this Cold I know not but I am disposed to think it was thus though of Course I only Conjecture it. She had got some beautiful Cochin China fowl from her Aunt Marques for the purpose of having the beautiful Eggs for the little boy, who lives I may say altogether on them as he would scarcely touch any other meat. Well, after breakfast every morning she was in the habit of rushing out from a warm parlour [sic] through a long yard at the end of the house. No. 43 Talbot St., where alas we were so comfortable, down to the stable where she has the fowl without any bonnet or covering on the head, & so far as I can conjecture it was thus, or by some other Sudden Chill, or Checking of perspiration that she got the Cold & Cough, So which I believe her irreparable loss is to be attributed –

She had Colds so often before since our marriage, & she herself was so careless of them, saying when I or anyone Else would speak to her about them, “Oh! God bless you & don’t mind it, it will go” let it go as it came” or words to that Effect, that I really overlooked them myself & allowed her unfortunately to have her own way about them, being myself by her own constant disregard of them brought in a great measure not to mind them as much as I should – The day after her Confine<sup>l</sup>[confinement] – that is Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> – She called for & got a snipe [a game bird] and some Port Wine negas [?] which was contrary to the Doctor M<sup>c</sup>Keever’s orders who had directed that she should have nothing but slope [a thin tasteless drink or liquid food] of which she had, sick or well, a great dislike. Whether her nurse however remonstrated with her or not against giving her the snipe & wine I do not know but it is most probable that Even if she did poor Prisy threw her off her guard by saying in her own manner, which you must so recollect, “Oh God bless you, it will [“] do me no harm I always do get or [“] take these things” meaning that she always got them or took them herself after her former confinements. When the Doctor came the following day, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> & found her So bad I told him what she had Eaten & drank the previous day, he appeared surprized [sic] – saying he had directed her to have nothing but arrowroot & slope & when I added that she was in the habit of taking these things on former occasions, he replied that on former occasions she had not most probably such a very bad or any inflammatory cold as she had in the present occasion. But Alas! These are only human modes of trying to account for the lamentable catastrophe that has left me so forlorn & bereaved. Doctor M<sup>c</sup>Keever a man of great experience & practice as well as skill seeing on Sunday morning the 28<sup>th</sup> that her symptoms were no better aspect than for the 3 preceding days, decreased assistance when I immediately went

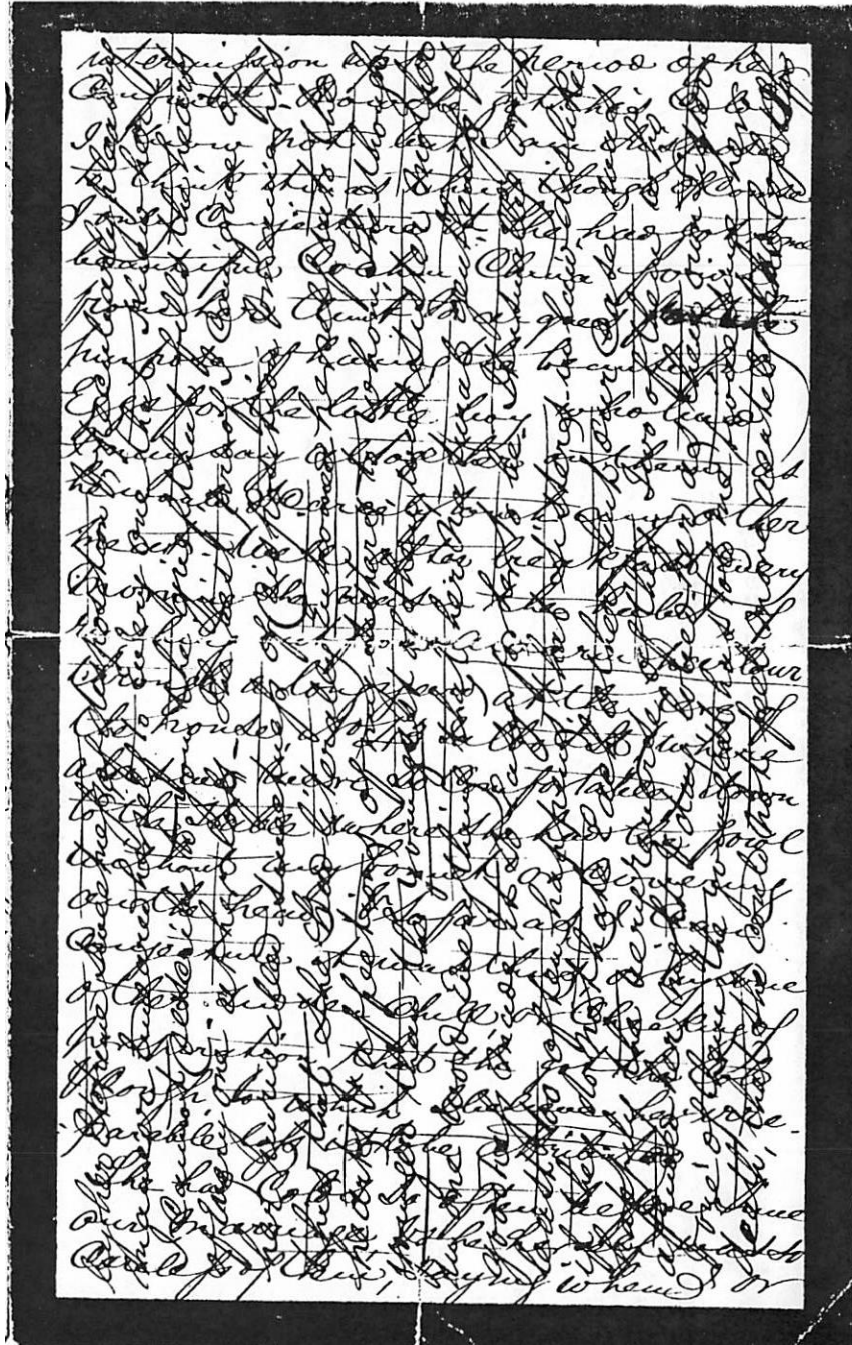
off for Doctor Emory Kennedy of Merrion Square North, the Man of the highest reputation here & who is supposed not to be Surpassed in the world, & at about ½ past 12 O'clock on that day & for the first time, when I was called into the parlour to hear their views & opinions & Kennedy told me in these words "her symptoms cannot be much worse" ) allowed or felt the dreadful thought crossing my mind, that she was in imminent Danger. Even still I clung on hoping "against hope" under the impression that with God's help & with her wiry constitution & naturally healthful little frame of body, combined with her strength of mind & determination so far as in her lay to do all she could to recover. & again Cheer my own & Childrens hearts as well as those of everyone that knew her. But no no, it was not to be & the decree which was spoken. At the moment of her birth, appointing the hour of her Death, was put in force by Him to whom we must all bow – whether with or without resignation. Oh! Such a blank as she has left behind. Not only for me, but for everyone else who Knew her, cannot be well conceived Of all those human beings I Ever Knew – never never did I Know one Male or female who approximated to her in the rare combination of disposition & manner united together in her- She had by her Extreme Sweetness of disposition & peculiarly pleasing manner Endearred herself to Everyone that Knew her – I cannot Describe to you the grief that filled the hearts of Everyone at her loss – The best proof I can give of her unrivalled Sweetness of Disposition & manner is this that She had literally Entwined herself into the hearts & affections of my Sister to whom She thought younger than the youngest of them was Sister mother in one word Everything that her natural gentleness & goodness made it so Easy for her to be – It usually or at least too often happens. that Sisters-in-law dislike if they do not hate Each other, but our case was happily the very reverse of this – Two of them who attended her night & day, loved her as their own Sister & one of them, the youngest had told me twice Since her death, that She could not feel more acutely the loss Of one of her own Sisters than She did Priscillas"- Indeed poor girl She was Evidently totally Knocked up by it - & well she may be for neither herself or the others can in this world supply her loss – Poor Darling Prisey was so Kind to them – a girl amongst them & at the Same time a Mother to them – going with them Everywhere & always trying Some means of amusing them – Last September She & I & 2 of my Sisters & Mrs Marques had a very pleasant trip to Killarney, & as usual, she was the life & soul of the whole party & to think that She the gay young, lively being is gone from amongst us, almost rend<sup>s</sup> [renders] my heart – God help me I Know not what to do or where to go – I have not been at my once happy & now desolate home Since Thursday week nearly a fortnight ago, & never intend to go into it again – It was an Extremely Comfortable new House down near the terminus for the Drogheda railway in Talbot St, if you recollect it – We took it only about 10 months £60 a year, for 3 years - & I am now trying to get my Landlord to take it off my hands for the remainder 2 years – if he does not I must only try & let it for whatever I can get for it – though I fully Expect I will get my own rent for it, it is so nice & comfortable alas no longer So to me – Mr & Mrs Marques have brought me up to stop at Richmond with them Since my poor darling wife was interred – I

Know not what I will do or where I will go – I have offices at 77 Lower Gardner St, where I would wish you to direct me as I need Scarcely Say how glad I would be to hear from the loved brother, as you always were of my poor dear little Prisey - My present inclination is to go into lodgings & once more feel what solitude is – I did not mind it much before my marriage – but now that I have Known & felt the touch & the loss of the best of love – I Shall indeed be, I fear wretched – I have 2 Children one a little boy 3 years & 3 months old – very delicate & Strange to Say he took dangerously ill the very day my own poor angel took ill - & Since has been very poorly – the other little girl is only 14 months old & is yet at nurse – As I have already mentioned to you the little boy, the harbinger of my woes, who was born into this world before his time on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> [January] died on Friday last the 9<sup>th</sup> Feby [February]. So that if my great & merciful Father has sent me a most dreadful infliction on the loss of my dear dear wife, he has been this wonderfully good on taking away the being upon whom I could never look but with Sorrow - I have now written you a long long letter & bitterly on my heart of hearts do I deplore the cause that has made me & not my poor dear little Angel, your Sister, your Correspondent – May God in his Mercy Console me is my daily & hourly prayer

Believe me My dear Thom as Ever

Yours Most Sincerely                      Rob<sup>t</sup> [Robert] H. Taaffe

[This letter is trimmed in black, indicating that the writer was in mourning. Though the date is missing, it is clear this letter was written soon after the death of Priscilla (Palmer) Taaffe on 30 January 1855. It was probably written in March 1855 when their son Robert James Taaffe would have been 3 years, 3 months old being baptized 30 December 1851.]



The image shows a page of dense, cursive handwriting on a grid background. The text is written in a highly stylized, slanted script that fills most of the page. The handwriting is very compact and difficult to read due to the density and slant. The page is framed by a thick black border. The overall appearance is that of a historical document or a page from a manuscript.



*[The page contains dense, overlapping handwritten cursive text, which is largely illegible due to the extreme density and overlapping of the letters. The text appears to be a letter or a series of notes.]*







one of the most interesting things I have seen in a long time  
for the first time I have seen a letter which is not only  
written in a beautiful hand but is also a masterpiece of  
composition. The writer has not only written in a beautiful  
hand but has also written in a most interesting and  
interesting way. The letter is not only written in a  
beautiful hand but is also a masterpiece of composition.  
The writer has not only written in a beautiful hand but  
has also written in a most interesting and interesting way.  
The letter is not only written in a beautiful hand but is  
also a masterpiece of composition. The writer has not only  
written in a beautiful hand but has also written in a most  
interesting and interesting way. The letter is not only  
written in a beautiful hand but is also a masterpiece of  
composition. The writer has not only written in a beautiful  
hand but has also written in a most interesting and  
interesting way. The letter is not only written in a  
beautiful hand but is also a masterpiece of composition.





**Letter No. 12**

Letter fragment from Robert Taaffe, Dublin, to Thomas W. Palmer, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, 3 May 1855, Palmer Letters, no. 12:

77 L<sup>r</sup> [Lower] Gardner St, Dublin  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1855

My Dear Thomas,

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April I rec<sup>d</sup>. [received] yours dated the 1<sup>st</sup> of same month to reply to mine, the date of which I forget same time I believe about the middle of Feb<sup>y</sup>. [February] Conveying to you news, to me a direful task of woe or your poor, ^ or ^ as you ^ more ^ happily describe her “lively, happy, young sisters death” my own poor little darling wife Prisey. God be with her forever. And alas! I have only just returned from laying on her coffin in her vault another of her poor little babies only 17 months old the 10<sup>th</sup>, who died on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, the day before yesterday – She was they all say the image of my own angel wife, fair hair, & Small Sharp intelligent features – delicate poor thing, & got ^ or rather was getting ^ her teeth so hardly that it brought on diarrhea & such other symptoms retching & so that the poor little angel lived only 3 or 4 days & got convulsions, suffered great pain, & departed to her God/ may his holy name be blessed & praised forever/ to join her little Kindred Spirits her brother & sister & poor mamma & now here I am alone with my Eldest [hole in paper -? son who is] 3 ½ years old the 21<sup>st</sup> of this month – God’s hand has [hole in paper -?been] heavy upon me. On the 12<sup>th</sup> July last, my Eldest little girl, d<sup>r</sup> [dear] Elizabeth Priscilla died, after lingering for many months in great torture poor thing & a terrible Charge & put her on poor Prisey’s ceaseless attention – Death Kept aloof from me then until the fatal 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>. [January] & then came with all its horrors to me in its most Dreadful form by taking away from me more far more if I may say so speak than myself, my blessed little wife, the light, Comfort, & sole joy of my house & hearth – then followed her infant in a few days after & now another thus paying me 4 visits in about 9 months or a little over that t[hole in paper -?time] – The Doctor & undertaker are now familiar with me but indeed whilst my latest blow, only opened wounds which are not & never will be closed until the grave closes over myself, I cannot but feel Especially grateful to my Creator for removing her to a happy world from one of woe without knowing the acuteness of mortals sufferings here below or offending her God by sin and when I reflect that she would ^ if she lived ^ without a mother – that [page curled -? magic word] mother, – to guide and watch & tend her childish steps, I [corner curled - ?almost rejoice] that God has removed her from a world of sorrow & sin, [page curled - ? where I] could not tell what Evil might befall her – [corner curled - ? I laid her this] morning with the other little infant on top of her darling mothers Coffin in a bricked up vault. I heard poor Dear Prisey once say only in a passing sort of way, as it were, that she would like to be in a vault & though it cost



something Extra [small hole? -] God knows that I would not spare thousands on her if I could [ ?] ^ afford ^ them, I was anxious to Comply with what I am not quite sure was her Anxious or particular wish, but only actual Expression, but recollecting which I resolved to consult her wishes or fancies, so far as I could even conjecture them – I Did not / though it is I Know all Nonsense) like her dust to be tumbled up in the Clay as we commonly see in Church Yards, bones skulls & &c [ect.] Knocked about – Only the other evening I saw an instance of this in ^ the Digging of ^ a grave of a person only 18 years buried there bones, shroud & pieces of the Coffin tumbled up on a shovel. Long & many a year little poor darling “Prisey’s” (as I used playfully to call her), Coffin ^of ^ Strong oak remain, to cover her loved remains, & may she rise, I & we all rise at the Arch Angels trumpet Sound to Eternal happiness.

My life Thomas, is beyond description Sad & sorrowful On the 31<sup>st</sup> March I left my Kind friends poor Priseys Uncle & Aunt Marquess, & came to lodge in ^ 18 ^ Russell Place if [hole in paper? you] know it on the circular road out of Belvidere Place at [hole in paper ? the corner] of Mountjoy Square- I never returned to my waking house in Talbot St, where my Angel gave up her last sigh – And I did not want a house – in fact it would now be an encumbrance to me without the spirit of my poor wife to rule it – I have got 2 comfortable rooms (if I can say I understand such a word as comfortable) with a closet kitchen &c. [etc.] – at the rate of £ 36 per annum – taking them however only for a quarter to 1 July – I have got an invaluable treasure of a servant who came to me only 20 days before poor Priseys death, with the highest character ^ from a friend who has her sister in service for 13 years^ – She attends to me & my poor forlorn orphan boy with the greatest Care – She supplies so far as that is at all possible the want of a mother to him – being upwards of 40, perhaps 4[hole in paper 49 when transcribed earlier] & very motherly & Kind to him he is very odd ^& delicate ^& requires to be humored - lately he is becoming stronger eating meat, what he never could be got to do during his mother’s life – This woman is always the same – Never makes the slightest freedom presumes upon her position or mine & is as Economical as if & even more so than if my meat bread &c. [etc.] were her own – rigidly & scrupulously honest. God has sent me terrible afflictions indeed – but even this alleviation of an honest faithful servant not one thing before my face: & another behind my Back is under my circumstances a great boom – Absent recently all day - & feeling satisfied that I can trust my child – my most dearly child & living remembrance of my poor wife ^with her^ is some comfort to me. God help me – The only old follower of your family I’ve news of is Anne Wright<sup>19</sup> who came to see my poor little girl interred

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<sup>19</sup> This might be the sister of John or Richard Wright who worked as prison turnkeys. She might be the sister who lived with the Palmers in 1843. House of Commons, “Returns of Reports by the Inspector-General of Prisons and Superintendent of Convict Service, on Complaints forwarded to the Irish Government, between 1836 and 1842, and of Evidence taken relative to the Mode of conducting the Convict Service in Ireland, &c.: Convict Service (Ireland),” *Parliament Papers*, 1843, report no. 547, 42:119.

this morning – God help me I have made frequent & fearful acquaintance to the undertaker in 9 months time – How selfish and Egotistical all these things I have been writing must appear to you to be but I suppose sorrow & grief or rather wretched desolation like mine is always selfish – I am rejoiced to hear that your 3 children are healthy & strong – Poor dear Prisey used often often indeed speak of you & them - & Expressed frequently a strong wish to see her niece & namesake your little girl Prisey – but God had ordained it otherwise, Dear Thomas & on this Earth they never can see one another – It is a most unsupportable need to me altogether - & day by day it grows worse I may say when I think over the absence & loss of all her unrivalled l[hole in paper ?loving]ways & manners, her playful ^always^ cheerful – happy & courteous & most charming disposition I feel most miserable - & to say that I have been deprived of all these things so suddenly & unexpectedly - & my my girl wife taken away from me, I cannot describe my misery – No one to speak to or consult with, or to get consolation from – Oh! No one knows or can Even conjecture it but the sufferer, myself - & then when my little boy reminds me of some of her rhymes, plays, sayings &c. [etc.] &c. - I often feel my heart breaking – Then she was such a wise little creature – so much head and intelligence such an advisor – Would to Heaven I had often taken her advice & I would be happier and better off than I am today – She used often say to me, She wondered I had a Client at all – I was so stiff with them she used to say & never almost inviting one of them to dine & be – Above all I wish I had taken her advice this time 2 years before this dreadful war broke out – which deprived me of a large portion of my means – I was moderately independent then - but have since lost largely for a person of moderate means by one speculation or misfortune or another – that often fretted me and what pains me most my poor wife Prisey used to see me fretting & annoyed in my mind - & this grieves me very much often times – My losses have been for a person of moderate means considerable - & I used often say to her something of quitting the country – However thank God I can yet make out a fair livelihood in it by my profession & some small income – but the worst of it is, that one cannot see where Or when or how this horrid war will terminate – And I would not continue to live here, if I became seriously straightened in means – Poor darling Prisey used to mention often a saying which she said was yours, “When a dog is down Kick him” as the system of the world – many a time did she repeat this when she use to heard me complain or fret about my loss or misfortune - & when I used to observe that the [hole in paper]..sh of it sad – that if one were compelled ^known ^to descend [hole in paper ? upon the] step or two, the world would help you down the steps for the one that a person would descend himself –

I never would from my habits of life and not being very strong be able for the labors hardships or toils of a new country like America, I mean astound or the like for a I could not do a days work in the fields, if I got anything for it- Especially since my broken leg now nearly 4 years ago- the consequence of that was that, for being obliged the 7 weeks ^in bed^without once stirring off my back Even on my side, a comparatively slight injury which I rec<sup>d</sup>. some years ago hunting became a

most serious one indeed, namely irreducible hernia or rupture if you Know what that means – last Oct. twelve months I was very near dying from it 2 surgeons of the greatest Eminence attending on me & my life hanging in the balance for several hours – nearly a whole day – yet by care, & attention to diet & digestion it may never ...

[The rest of this letter is missing. It was obviously written by Robert Taaffe, the brother-in-law of Thomas W. Palmer. The paper is very thin and edges tattered, some bleed through of ink, a difficult to read letter.]







siderately and I paid for them but have since lost largely  
 for a person of moderate means and by one speculation or  
 misfortune or another - I had often feared he would have  
 been ruined by the war - but he has since seen the light  
 to a more prudent course - I had given me very much after  
 times - My father has been for a person of moderate means  
 contented - I should have said to her something of my  
 the country - How long thank God I can get made out to  
 friends - I had put my profession & some small means  
 but the worst of it is that one cannot see where to work  
 or how to proceed in a well terminated - And I was not  
 contented to be here if she were seriously straitened as  
 means - I am Charles Dreyfus used to mention of an essay  
 which she had read going "What a dog's (or man's) life is  
 the system of the world - Many a time did she repeat this  
 to the child which had me complain of her about myself  
 at misfortune - I was I used to suppose that this was  
 the best that of me were compelled to do - I was  
 that I would do to help you - I could not do this  
 for the one that a person would desire himself -

I never wrote from prophets of life and not being  
 very strong he able for the labor hardships or trials of a  
 free country like America and we are allowed to the for  
 counts that do a boy's work in the fields if I got anything  
 for it - especially since my brother's - how nearly it goes  
 to the consequence of that was that if I were obliged  
 to do I would have thought of something off my back - I am  
 on my side a comparatively slight injury which I  
 was some years ago having because a most serious  
 one indeed - namely vertebrae hernia or rupture if you  
 know what that means - last Oct. twelve months ago  
 very near dying from it - I am years of the greatest  
 violence attending on it - I was hanging out the  
 balance for several hours - nearly a whole day  
 yet by care & attention I got it together it may never

***Letter No. 13***

Letter fragment from Robert Taaffe, Dublin, to Thomas W. Palmer, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, 11 May 1854 [sic, 1855], Palmer Letters, no. 13:

-Office 77 Lr [Lower] Gardner St Dublin  
Friday Ev<sup>s</sup> [Evening] 4 O'C[lock] P.M.  
May 11, 1854

My Dear Thomas,

On this day week, I wrote you a very long letter which 'Enclosed a lock of my poor darling, and a small order for £3 of our money on New York the same as the one I now Enclose for her little niece Prisey - Well at a little before 5 In the Ev<sup>s</sup> [Evening] I sent my Servant from my lodgings 18 Russell Place, with it to post So as to Catch the L.pool [Liverpool] Mail of the following Day Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> - My little boy insisted on carrying it for his uncle, as he said, & though that was no Excuse for her allowing it to be lost or Even taking her Eye or hand off it - She or he, or both between them lost it on her way down this St Somewhere between the Corner of Sumner hill & Talbot St - When she came back & told me of it I thought my head would burst with annoyance - It was marked Post paid & she returned me the shilling. If she were a rogue or a liar, nothing was Easier for her to do than to come back & Say She had posted it & to have pocketed the Shilling - but her truth & integrity Are So rigid & Exact that She did not do what would have for Ever Saved her from all blame - for I never could have detected the lie or the theft - This truthfulness took a great deal of the Sting out of it - & it only shows the value & advantage of truth under All & Every Circumstance - She is in fact invaluable to me - a very steady decent honest person - & takes the greatest Care of my poor little Solitary bird, my orphan boy Robert - the last of 4 children - I mentioned in the letter that on that morning the 3<sup>rd</sup> May I had left lying with her poor darling mother, & the Child of Sorrow who was born last Jan<sup>y</sup> [January] a little girl born in Dec<sup>r</sup> [December] 1853 17 months old, who was very Delicate & got her teeth so hard, that she got Some diarrhea which carried her off in a few days, She died on the 1<sup>st</sup> May - this God had been pleased from 12 July last to 1<sup>st</sup> May to take from me my 3 little Children & blessed be his holy Will & name for Ever My poor darling wife - that loss of losses which there is no repairing - I have been in a terrible State Ever Since She died - poor thing, I have had nothing but trouble Ever Since. & loss upon loss, as if her Death was to be the precursor of Every misfortune. God be with her Angelic Spirit for Ever - fortunately She was on angel to me - To say that my state is misery & desolation itself is nothing. I cannot Describe it -

I mentioned a great many things to you in my letter. the lost one which I trust in God, may never the less have gone forward to you & may perhaps reach you



with this – If it was found by any person with the Slightest feeling, or the Smallest pretensions to honesty, it had been Of course posted to you but perhaps not in time from the hour at which it was lost between 5 & 6. I suppose About ½ past 5. – to go by that Evenings post from here which closes at 6 – Consequently if it had been posted at all, it will reach you, I incline to think with this – I rec<sup>d</sup> [received] your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> April on the 23<sup>rd</sup> - & was very unEasy at not sooner hearing from you, as I thought Your reply ought to have come sooner – But I suppose I am mistaken in this – Do not forget to write the moment this Reaches you as I shall be most anxious to hear if the lost letter has reached you – What annoys me Most about it, is the loss of poor Angel Priseys hair, & the Exposure of all my private feelings, woes, & affections, which I shall not go over in detail in this – I also mentioned to you not to mind post paying your letters to me –

I got the Enclosed order from McBride's of Abbey St here at the corner of Lackwell St – out Explaining to them the loss of the first – which they gave me to understand, will not be paid without satisfactory references or coming through as Bankers – You will observe they have written the word Second between red lines – If any rogue found & opened my letter it was as such a late hour of the Ev<sup>g</sup>. [Evening] That it is almost impossible being payable only in New York, it can have gone forward until at worst tomorrows L.pool [Liverpool] Mail. & Consequently this letter will go by same Mail as it – Yet I hope & trust it has fallen into honest hands & that it will reach you safely. Do not delay a moment in letting me know if it has reached you – As I am Most unhappy about its loss.....

[This letter is missing a signature; however, the address and internal evidence indicates that it is from Robert Taaffe to Thomas W. Palmer. The year on the letter is clearly 1854, but the context indicates that it was written after the death of Priscilla (Palmer) Taaffe on 30 January 1855.]

Office 77 St James St Dublin  
Friday Eof 4 O'Clock P.M.  
May 11. 1854

My Dear Thomas,

On this day week I wrote you  
a very long letter which enclosed a  
lock of my poor darling, and a  
small order for £3 of our money  
on New York the same as the  
one I now enclose for her little niece  
Pusey - Well at a little before  
5 in the Eof. I sent my servant  
from my lodgings 118 Russell  
Place with it to post. So as to  
catch the N. York Mail of the following  
day Saturday the 12th - My  
little boy insisted on carrying  
it, for his niece as he said thought  
that was no excuse for her allowing  
it to be lost or even taking her eye  
or hand off it. She or he or both  
between them lost it on her way  
down the St somewhere between  
the corner of Summer hill & Talbot  
St - When she came back I told me  
of it & I thought my head would burst  
with annoyance. It was marked  
Post paid & she returned me the  
shilling. If she were a rogue or  
a liar nothing would ease her  
to do them to come back & say

She had proffered it & to have proffered the  
 shilling - but her truth & integrity are  
 so right & exact that she did not do  
 what would have for ever saved her  
 from all blame - for I never could  
 have detected the lie or the theft.  
 Her truthfulness took a great deal of  
 the sting out of it - but only show  
 the value & advantage of truth under  
 all & every circumstance - Her  
 in fact invaluable to me - a very  
 steady decent honest person. It takes  
 the greatest care of my poor little  
 solitary bird, my orphan boy Robert -  
 the last of 4 children - I mentioned  
 in the letter that on that morning  
 the 3<sup>rd</sup> May she had left lying with  
 her poor darling mother, to the Child  
 of sorrow (who was born last day)  
 a little girl born in Dec. 1853  
 14 months old who was very delicate  
 & got her teeth so hard that she got  
 some diarrhoea which carried her  
 off in a few days. She died on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
 May - thus God has been pleased from  
 12 July last to 1<sup>st</sup> May to take from  
 me my little children & bless his  
 his holy will I name for ever my  
 poor darling wife - that loss of losses  
 which there is no repairing - I have

been in a terrible state ever since she died - poor thing, I have had nothing but trouble ever since. Oloperon lof, a silver cent was to be the precursor of every misfortune.

God be with her Angelic Spirit for ever - for truly she was an angel to me - I say that my mistake is misery & desolation itself is nothing I cannot describe -

I mentioned a great many things to you in my letter, the lost one which I trust in God may nevertheless have gone forward to you & may perhaps reach you with this. I fit (was found by any person) with the slightest feeling, or the smallest pretensions to honesty, it has been of course posted to you but perhaps not in time from the hour at which it was lost between 5 & 6. I suppose about 1/2 past 5, to go by that evening's post from here which closed at 6. Consequently if it has been posted at all, it will reach you. I incline to think with this - I rec<sup>d</sup>. your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> April on the 23<sup>rd</sup> - I was very unkindly at not sooner hearing from you, as I thought your reply ought to have come sooner - but I suppose

am mistaken in this. Do not forget  
 to write the moment this reaches you  
 as I shall be most anxious to hear if  
 the lost letter has reached you. What  
 annoys me most about it is the loss  
 of poor Angel Busby's hair. To the Depo-  
 sition of all my private feelings, losses  
 & afflictions which I shall not go  
 over in detail in this. I also men-  
 tioned to you not to mind post paying  
 your letters to me.

I got the enclosed order from  
 Mr. Brice of Abbeyst here at the  
 corner of Lake Street. On explaining  
 to them the loss of the first which they  
 give me to understand will not be done  
 without satisfactory references or  
 coming through a Banker. You will  
 observe they have written the word  
 second between red lines. If any  
 were found to have my letter it was  
 at such <sup>late</sup> an hour of the day that it  
 is almost impossible (being payable  
 only in New York) it can have gone  
 forward <sup>at the</sup> until tomorrow. P. Hood  
 Mail. Consequently this letter  
 will go by same Mail as it. Yet I  
 hope & trust it has fallen into honest  
 hands & that it will reach you safely.  
 Do not delay a moment in letting  
 me know if it has reached you. As  
 I am most unhappy about this loss

**Letter No. 14**

Letter fragment from Robert Taaffe, Dublin, to Thomas W. Palmer, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, probably Aug. 1855, Palmer Letters, no. 14:

...black mantel piece in the little parlour [sic] where I handed her that watch, & She looked into my Eyes those windows of the Soul & Saw the Earnest & deep Emotion with which I regarded her, She appeared so pleased poor thing at my fond and heartfelt Devotion that – When I think over all this, I cannot Describe any feelings now - & then I ran Down to Fleetwood to see it, where about this very time 7 years I & Uncle & Aunt M [Marques], went to visit poor Papa & Mamma & Prisey, & where I first offered her in single hearted sincerity, as devoted as fond U as admiring a hand & heart as Ever yet was tendered to a woman, Oh! When I saw the very Armed Chair in which She sat. The very furniture or room Scarcely Changed in anything & when I walked about some of the walks near the little quiet seaport of Fleetwood I sat down & wept while I thought my very heart would break on a lonely retired walk called the “Copse”. to think that She the gay, young, cheerful, Kind, gentle laughing Prisey has left me for Ever – but no My Good & Merciful God, in thy all bounteous mercy & goodness, thow wilt yet in thine own good time re-unite me to her & her little ones in that place the glories of which “Eye hath not seen, nor Ear heard” as St Paul says – Oh! Indeed my love and attach<sup>t</sup> [attachment] to her were truly romantic Uncle & Aunt M. [Marques] say, & I believe not untruly, that “a romance could be written about it”- but alas ! who could depict the tragedy that I am Every day suffering. Since her Death only 7 short months ago today – It looks to me as if it were 20 years, - I say this without any Exaggeration of my feelings – I was lately ill with a slight feverish cold which I was battling off for some days, but had ultimately to go to bed for a couple of days, - & though broken in Spirit U health Ever Since this Day 7 months I had not until this slight attack occasion to go to bed for 2 Days, yet when, for the first time Since her Death I found myself stretched on a sick bed, then did I feel bitterly her loss, & frightfully her absence to soothe & comfort me, & to do one little thing or other for me –To a wretchedly sensitive mind like mine, all the reflections on the once sweet but now bitter past, which haunted and afflicted one in those 2 short days, rendered me truly, truly miserable – I thought on by-gone Days, how on the day when Surgeon Hutton, was setting my broken leg only 4 short years before she the angelic comforter of my pains & sorrows, stood by my bedside holding my hand and as I Screamed with pain at Huttons turning & twisting my poor fractured limb, She like an angel pressed my hand, & looked & Spoke Some words of comfort, which I now well remember relived my pain of half its suffering – And When I reflect that when I again fall ill, or want her blessed aid and comfort, that I Shall have it not, I ask my self what is to become of me. I hang my head in Sorrow & tears – If anyone told me that this dear little being had So wound herself round Every fiber of my heart I would not have believed it – I often think I never was half good Enough to her – Never a frown never a Scowl never a word of reproach or bitterness came across or

Escaped her Sweet stunning brow U Smiling lips – Oh! Good God, is it any wonder that I should thus grieve & fret & Sorrow after Such a being – When I look around me & see the devils or fools of women that are to be seen Everywhere & Compare them to my own poor wife in intellect manner & disposition, I feel that she Stood alone, unrivalled, not to say unsurpassed – In one word, She was worth her weight in gold whilst it would require the weight of gold of one of such being as I have mentioned to make them Even tolerable – As I said before I think of little since poor dear Prisey & I doubt not a brother that she Dearly loved will make allowance for her wretched widowed husbands lamentings [sic] over her untimely grave – HowEver [sic] you my dear Thomas may distant from the Doctrine of praying for the death I am Sure you will at least respect the sentiment that brought one to Exclaim & pray “May our Most Merciful Lord Jesus grant her Eternal rest & happiness, & may the light of his glory show its brightness round her blessed Spirit forEver [sic] – for truly she was the model of a good Child the best of wives and the tenderest [sic] of mothers – I often dread getting sick & dying & leaving after me to a cold heartless wicked world, my little boy without his mother – It will be 2 years next Oct<sup>r</sup> [October] Since I was suddenly attacked with illness in a great measure brought on by my own negligence & which in a few hours left my life hanging in the balance - God forgive me I often am tempted to wish I had been taken U that She were left to take care of him – She would have had Enough to support herself & him - & I would have been saved all my present Sorrows, & I humbly hope, at rest – Sometimes when I look upon the face of my poor little Child I am half tempted to wish he too were taken from a world in which, if he lives he is sure of a load of sorrow under any circumstances – But as wishing for anything in this way that is not consonant with God’s will is Sinful, I should only say “his will be done & not mine! –

I am greatly obliged to you for your long & minute account of America – I perfectly understand your description of it - & in Some respects half anticipated it – I am deeply pained to learn what you say about the harvest this year in America the sudden break up of the weather – which has also been very broken here at the critical part of the season – they say here that the harvest particularly ...

[This letter is missing both its beginning and ending pages. However, internal evidence suggests it is from Robert Taaffe to Thomas W. Palmer. This letter was probably written in August 1855 because it refers to Priscilla (Palmer) Taaffe’s death seven months before in January 1855.]



black mantle piece; in the little parlor  
 where I showed her the watch & she looked  
 into my eyes those windows of the  
 soul & saw the earnest & deep emotion  
 with which I regarded her. She appeared  
 so pleased & soothed at my fond and  
 heart felt attention to her. When I think  
 over all this, I cannot describe my  
 feelings now. When I saw Crown  
 Blackwood to see it, where about this  
 very time 7 years I & Uncle & Aunt M  
 went to visit poor Papa & Mamma &  
 Prissy, where I first offered her  
 in single hearted sincerity, as devoted  
 as I find I am admiring a hard & heart  
 as I find yet was tendered to woman  
 Oh! when I saw the very ornate chair  
 in which she sat. The very furniture  
 of room  
 scarcely changed in anything & when  
 I walked about some of the walks near  
 the little <sup>quiet</sup> tea port of Blackwood, I sat  
 down & wept until I thought my very  
 heart would break, on a lonely & tired  
 walk called the "Copse". to think that the  
 gay, young, cheerful kind gentle  
 laughing Prissy had left me for ever - but  
 no my good Merciful God in thy all  
 boundless mercy & goodness, thou wilt  
 yet in thine own good time, re-ignite  
 me to her & her little ones, <sup>in last place thy goodness</sup> who have "seen"  
 "hath not seen nor ear heard" as St.  
 Paul says. Oh! mutual my love and  
 a heart to her yours truly romantic  
 Uncle & Aunt M. say, I believe not



not truly that "a Romance could be written  
 "about it" - but alas! who could depict  
 the tragedy that I am every day suffering  
 since her death only 7 short months  
 ago today - It looks to me as if it were  
 20 years - I say this without any exagger-  
 -ation of my feelings - I was lately  
 ill with a slight feverish cold which I  
 was battling off for some days but had  
 ultimately to go to bed for a couple of  
 days - I thought broken in spirit & health  
 Ever since this day 7 months I had  
 no thought but of going to bed on a  
 to go to bed for 20 days yet when for the  
 first time since her death I found  
 myself stretched on a sick bed then did  
 I feel bitterly her loss & frightfully her  
 absence to soothe & comfort me, & to do  
 one little thing or other for me, 'Is a  
 wretchedly sensitive mind like mine  
 all the reflections on the sweet but  
 how takes part, which haunted and  
 afflicted me, in those 2 short days  
 remembrance truly, truly miserable -  
 I thought only gone days how on  
 the day when Surgeon Hutton was  
 setting my broken leg only 4 short  
 years before she the angelic comforter  
 of my pains & sorrows stood by my  
 bed side holding my hand and as I  
 there came with pain at Hutton's  
 turning & twisting my poor fractured  
 limb she like an angel pressed my  
 hand & looked & spoke some words  
 of comfort which I now well remember  
 relieve my pain of half its suffering.

and when I reflect that when I again  
 fall ill, or want her blessed aid and  
 comfort, that I shall have it not, I  
 ask myself what is to become of me.  
 I hang my head in sorrow & tears.  
 If any one told me that this dear letter  
 being read so would herself proud every  
 fibre of my heart I would not believe  
 it - I often think I never in my  
 half good thought her - never a frown  
 never a scowl never a word of reproach  
 or ~~disparagement~~ came across or escaped  
 her sweet sunny brow & smiling lips.  
 Oh! good God, how it grieved me that  
 I should thus grieve & fret & sorrow after  
 such a being - When I look around me  
 to see the devils or fools of women that  
 are to be seen every where I compare  
 them to my own poor wife in intellect  
 manner & disposition I feel that she  
 stood alone unrivalled, not to say  
 unsurpassed - In one word she was  
 worth her weight in gold whilst it  
 would require the weight <sup>of the gold</sup> of one of such  
 beings as I have mentioned to make that  
 even tolerable - As I said before I think  
 of little save poor dear Pious & I could  
 not abate that the dear ~~dear~~ loved will  
 make allowance for her wretched widowed  
 husband's lamentings over her ~~unfortunate~~  
 grave - How long you my dear she may  
 may dissent from the doctrine of praying  
 for the dead I am sure you will at  
 least respect the sentiment that prompts  
 one to exclaim & pray "May our most  
 merciful Lord Jesus grant her eternal

rest & happiness & may the light of his glory  
 shed its brightness round her blessed spirit  
 forever. for truly she was the model  
 of a good child the best of wives and  
 the tenderest of mothers. I often dream  
 of getting sick & dying & leaving a poor  
 a cold hearted wicked world my little  
 boy without his mother. It will be 2  
 years next Oct. since I was suddenly  
 attacked with illness in a great measure  
 brought on by my own negligence & which  
 in a few hours left my life hanging in  
 the balance. God forgive me if I often am  
 tempted to wish I had been taken & that she  
 were left to take care of him. She would  
 have had enough <sup>to support</sup> herself & him & I  
 would have been saved all my present  
 sorrows & I should hope at rest -  
 Sometimes when I look upon the face  
 of my poor little child I am half tempted  
 to wish he too were taken from a world  
 in which if he lived he is sure of a  
 load of sorrow under any circumstances.  
 But as wishing for anything in this  
 way that is not consonant with God's  
 will is sinful I should only say "his  
 will be done & not mine."

I am greatly obliged to you for your  
 long & minute account of America.  
 I perfectly understand your description  
 of it. In some respects half anticipated  
 it - I am deeply pained to learn what  
 you say about the harvest this year in  
 America & the sudden break up of the  
 weather which has also been very broken  
 here at the critical part of the season.  
 They say here that the harvest particularly

**Letter No. 15**

Letter fragment from Robert Taaffe, Dublin, to Thomas W. Palmer, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, 7 Dec. 1855, Palmer Letters, no. 15:

77 Lr [Lower] Gardner St Dublin  
Friday Dec<sup>r</sup> [December] 7. 1855

My Dear Thomas,

Rather than lose a post more than one (Ire avoidably lost last Saturdays) after rec<sup>t</sup> [receipt] of yours of the 5<sup>th</sup> ul<sup>t</sup> [ultimo – in the last month] which I rec<sup>d</sup>. [received] on the 27<sup>th</sup> ul<sup>t</sup> [ultimo] I sit Down within only an hour of 6. oC. [o'clock] the Post hour to acknowledge the rec.<sup>t</sup> [receipt] of your letter, & its sad intelligence of the loss of your little boy – about the same age as my own, I shall not attempt to condole with you on the loss for condolence is almost as I sadly Know, altogether impossible in such cases – God helps us from the cradle to the grave it is after all little Else but Sorrow, Sorrow, Sorrow - There is how Ever one consolation your bereave<sup>t</sup> [bereavement] – Your poor little angel Never committed Mortal Sin, & is free from the possibility or rather the Certainty of immeasurable Sufferings in This weary, weary World. I too was very near again, as I thought, losing my little boy lay<sup>n</sup> [laying] feverish Cold or what they call gastric fever, which he had an attack of for 3 or 4 weeks lately. He was most constantly, & Kindly attended to but it is so miserable a thing to look at such little Creatures suffering & crying & pining away, that one wishes them sometimes in their heavenly father's bosom at Peace & rest – I begin to think when anything is the matter with him, on the Sorrows, & Sufferings that in any Event awaits him in this pilgrimage of woe & above all the Snares & Sins he may fall into after I am gone Perhaps, or Even if God spares me Over him – for how many Children with all a fathers care run into Sin & Crime. When I look at his little innocent face at night as he lies asleep, in his little beside my own. I think on his poor dear little mamma & my own desolation and nightly utter a prayer to his Saviour [sic] to take him to himself Rather than that he should live to Sully his Soul by one Mortal Crime – It must have been harrowing to your feelings to be looking at your poor little fellow for 7 or 8 days in pain & Suffering - Indeed I do truly sympathize with you in your loss though to Excess sympathy in such a case is difficult indeed. I am glad indeed beyond expression to hear your little girls have recovered from their attack of the same Disease. How my own poor departed angel wife would have grieved for your loss, if she had lived until Now. She was so attached to you, more so than to Henry, though she loved him too. But my Dear Thomas your loss is truly your Childs gain. And if you only Knew what the "loss of losses" is, the snatching from you, by the stern but just & indisputable decree of the Great Almighty, of your very life blood I may say, one's own dear cherished wife, then, then alas would you Know Suffering in all its insupportable horrors. & above all when the blow is as sudden & unExpected as it is heavy the

feeling is beyond Conception much less description. It is a feeling of an Exquisitely Excruciating Character & cannot be at all defined – As to the loss of Children father, mother, brother, sister, or Else however good or amiable, believe me, who have buried 3 little innocents in 9 months time, that I feel or felt their loss literally as nothing Compared with my own my incomparable darling Prisey the idol of Everyone, the Center of attraction in Every place & society with rich & poor, high & low – I have often thought & so Expressed myself to several since her death, - & it is no figure of speech to say so, - that I could go & with my own hands Scrape up the Earth with my own nails, 6 feet deep for the graves of 20 children &, as many fathers & mothers. if it were possible to have them, than to think or let the thought near me Even, of losing Such a wife as poor Prisey, - She stood alone in almost all respects, unEqualled & matchless – If she were not positively handsome in face, as I always thought her, her beautiful features were so regular, so classical & so intellectually Expressive, as vastly to surpass the wax doll stupid & inexpressive beauty of some women. & when I speak or think of her manner, temper & Disposition, She was beyond all praise – “without a shadow and without a parallel” as Charles Philips said in one of his famous speeches with Respect to Napoleon – Poor, poor thing I often wonder how I survive her Especially when in the Course of this year, now about to close, & to me unequalled sorrows. I have had superadded to her direful loss, Calamities & sorrows & misfortunes without almost a moments cessation Continuing to this day. God helps when I think back on the first day of this year, & I recollect a Shoemaker who for many years made boots for me being in my parlour in Talbot St & She poor thing splitting her sides, laughing at me abusing & blowing up the man for his disappointments & ...

[The last pages are missing, but this is obviously from Robert Taaffe to Thomas W. Palmer.]

77 to former St Dublin  
 Friday Dec. 7. 1833  
 My dear Thomas,

Rather than lose a post more than one (I unavoidably lost both Saturdays) after rec<sup>d</sup> of yours of the 5<sup>th</sup> ult which I rec<sup>d</sup> on the 27<sup>th</sup> ult I sit down to write only an hour or so of the Post how to acknowledge the rec<sup>d</sup> of your letter bet<sup>w</sup> sad part<sup>s</sup> of grief of the loss of your little boy about the same age as my own. I shall not attempt to condolence with you on the loss for condolence is almost as sadly known altogether impossible in such cases. God help us from the cradle to the grave it is after all else but sorrow sorrow sorrow. There is how ever one consolation you have rec<sup>d</sup> your poor little angel never committed mortal sin & is free from the possibility or rather the certainty of unnumbered little sufferings in this vacary <sup>vacant</sup> world. I was very near a fainting fit thought, losing my little boy by a feverish cold or what they call gastric fever which he had an attack of for 3 or 4 weeks lately. He was most constantly & kindly attended to. but it is so miserable a thing to look at such little creatures suffering & dying & going away that one wishes them sometimes

in their heavenly father's bosom at  
 peace & rest. I begin to think where  
 they is the maker sent him on the  
 sorrows & sufferings that in my talents  
 await him in this pilgrimage of woe  
 & above all the suared & sinned he may  
 fall into after a am gone perhaps  
 even if God spared me over him for  
 how many children with all a father's  
 care run into sin & crime. When I look  
 at his little innocent face at night as  
 he lies asleep in his little bed side  
 my own I think on his poor dear little  
 Mamma & my own desolation and  
 mightly utter a prayer to his Saviour  
 to take him to himself rather than that  
 he should live to tully his Saul by one  
 mortal crime. It must have been  
 harrowing to your feelings to be looking  
 at your poor little fellow for 7 or 8 days  
 in pain & suffering. Indeed I do truly  
 sympathize with you in your loss  
 though to keep sympathy in such a  
 case is difficult indeed. I am glad to hear  
 beyond the opinion to hear your little girls  
 have recovered from their attack of the  
 same disease. How my own poor  
 departed angel wife would have grieved  
 for your loss if she had lived until now  
 she was so attached to you more so  
 than to Henry, though she loved him  
 too. But my dear Thomas your loss  
 is truly your child's gain. God bless

you only knew what the "loaf of loaves"  
 is - the blatting from you by the  
 stars but just blind in the deceit  
 of the great Almighty of your very  
 life blood & may say, my own dear  
cherished wife, then then Alas would  
 you know suffering in all its in de scri pt ions  
portable horrors. & above all when  
 the blow is sudden & unexpected  
 as it is heavy the feeling is beyond  
Conception (which less de scri ptions.)  
 It is a feeling of an in ex tr in si ble ex pe ri en ced  
thing Character & cannot be at all  
 defined - As to the loss of Children  
 father, mother, brother, sister, or else  
 how ever good or amiable, believe  
 me who have buried 3 little innocents  
 in 9 months time, that I feel or  
 felt their loss literally as nothing  
 compared with my own my in de scri pt ed  
 noble darling Prissy the idol of  
 everyone, the Centre of attraction in  
 every place & society with rich &  
 poor high & low. I have often thought  
 to ex pe ri en ced myself to several since  
 her death - but it is no figure of speech  
 to say so - that I could go & with my  
 own hands scrape up the earth up to  
 own nails to feet deep for 10 children  
 & as many fathers & mothers, if it were



you only knew what the "loss of loves"  
 is, the snatching from you only the  
 stern but just & indisputable decree  
 of the great Almighty, of your very  
 life blood & may say, "ouch" own dear  
 cherished wife, then then Alas would  
 you know suffering in all its un-  
 -portable horrors. & above all when  
 the blow is sudden & unexpected  
 as it is heavy the feeling is beyond  
Conception which lends description.  
 It is a feeling of the most terrible excruciating  
Character & cannot be at all  
 defined - As to the loss of Children  
 father Mother, brother, sister, or else  
 howling food or animals, believe  
 me who have buried 3 little innocents  
 in 9 months time, that I feel or  
 felt their loss literally as nothing  
 compared with my own my incompre-  
 hensible darling Priscy the idol of  
 everyone, the Centre of attraction in  
 every place & society with rich &  
 poor high & low. I have often thought  
 & so I prepared myself to several times  
 her death - but it is no figure of speech  
 to say so - that I could go & with my  
 own hands scrape up <sup>up to</sup> the earth to my  
 own rails & feet deep for the graves of children  
 & as many fathers & mothers, if it were

**Letter No. 16**

Letter fragment probably from Robert Taaffe, Dublin, to Thomas W. Palmer, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, mid-1850s, Palmer Letters, no. 16:

## 13

she is nice girl enough & well educated too) – no girls for me after my own poor Prisey – the quarter he refers to even though distantly, is a widow lady. I suppose aged about 43 – with considerable fortune without children – I suppose her to have property to about £ 3000, or £ 4000 perhaps ^and a yearly income - ^ but to be candid with you I dread the idea of a second marriage at all, & nothing under Heaven would induce me to marry at all or dream of it, but to better my own poor Prisey's little boy - & for her sake & her memory's sake to provide a comfortable means of support for him at present & above all a provision for the future – I dread the possibility of my dying & leaving him to a cold heartless world with my means considerably reduced too – but if I even were to entertain the idea at all, it would be only upon this condition that I got all her property, & not settled upon herself- & probably this might not be consented too, & if not I would not have her on any account – Besides affording the means of a provision for the future for my own Prisey's little boy, it is true it would afford me the means of obtaining peace of as to my own pecuniary affairs & probably ^enable me to^ do myself & others a service – but the other view of the question is this – All my life I have been in the habit of judging things places & people above by contrast & ^the^ memory of the past always has been & always will be present to a mind formed like mine - & I do dread, were I to entertain this matter seriously for the only 2 objects I would even desire of it for my child's or rather my poor Prisey's child's & my own worldly welfare, that after a while when pondering over the gloomy past, I would fall into a state of feeling of a most dangerous nature – God help me! I scarcely know what to do under all circumstances – This woman is the widow of a gentleman who lived on St Charles St. off Mountjoy Square who lived on his property & never had any business or profession – I often say to myself, if I should think of such a thing all – poor dear Prisey would be always present to my mind - & I would be always contrasting the past & the present times & persons – which might become a source of fearful mischief – She is a person of respectable & ladylike exterior but as with to compare to Prisey, as to use a vulgar phrase, “chalk is to cheese”- Many a one would be glad to get her – but alas! I don't care anything about her or for anything but what I have mentioned to you – My heart is in my own darling wifes vault, should providence ever decree that my hand should be again given to another – Such is my nature and I cannot help it or alter it; if I were to be shot for it –

I have said so much of this affair to you, you will perhaps set it down as certain or likely that it may take place but most solemnly I assure you I have not done the slightest thing, nor do I know this moment, whether I even shall or not - & as I said before if the property were to be settled on herself I would as much think of

marrying her as I would my own servant – Poor Prisey used to say the only thing that could ever induce her to marry a second time, would be to serve her childrens interest – and tormented as I am by this on the whole faithful & honest but most ill tempered and cantancorus [sic] servant & her obstinacy together with the prospect of getting extricated from my present I cant well call them embarrassments – but at all events not as prosperous a state of things as I once enjoyed I sometimes turn it over in my mind but as I have already said this probably this lady might require her property to be settled on herself, & in that case I would no more marry her than I would marry my servant, not but that she is a ladylike & very proper and respectable person in every way, but as I neither care for her nor – could I ever care a pin for another after poor Prisey, I would not dream of her at all but for the reasons I have stated – I dont know indeed for certain if she would have me least she might not be thought as highly of, as indeed she never could be by me, as the only one that ever possessed or ever will possess my heart and its every throb – moreover I would not on acc<sup>t</sup> of my intimate friendship with M<sup>r</sup> Scully, who is also this lady's friend, think of having anything to do with her & break off on acct of any difference about her money & property and its settlement – lest they might both, particularly M<sup>r</sup> Scully think, that I was only looking after her money –

Now my Dear Thomas, give me your unqualified opinion and the advice of a brother on this affair which after all may never be seriously thought of by me – It is considering my disposition and the wife I once had and her incomparable qualities, a most dangerous experiment for me to think of marrying again at all under almost any circumstances or form any object - & again protest most solemnly that nothing but a wish to obtain a mode of escape from my present most annoying position in every way, which is undermining my health and making me most unhappy would induce me for a single moment, even to contemplate this matter – but I have few or none & may say to consult about it – and therefore ask you as a brother for a candid and unfettered declaration of your opinion and advice upon it

-

I was never forgetting to give you Henry's address – it is –

Henry W. Palmer Esq.  
 Captain 74<sup>th</sup> Highl<sup>drs</sup>  
 Neilgherry hills  
 Jackatalla  
 Madras, East Indies

[Internal evidence suggests that this letter is from Robert Taaffe to Thomas W. Palmer. This letter was written after 30 January 1855, the death of Pricilla (Palmer) Taaffe, and before 12 August 1856, the next dated letter sent by Robert to Thomas.]

13

She is nice girl <sup>enough</sup> & well educated  
 too) - no girls for me after my own poor  
 Priscy - the quarter he refers to even  
 though ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~tractly~~, is a widow lady. I  
 suppose aged about 43 - with considerable  
 fortune, just without children - I suppose her  
 to have ~~perhaps~~ <sup>perhaps</sup> to about £3000, or £4  
 000 perhaps - but to her <sup>and a goodly young</sup> Candis with you  
 I dread the idea of a second marriage at  
all, & no thing wiser Heaven would  
 induce me to marry at all or dream of it,  
 but to better my own poor Priscy's little  
 boy - & for her sake & her memory's sake to  
 provide a comfortable means of support  
 for him at present & above all a  
 provision for the future - I dread the  
 possibility of my dying & leaving him to  
 a cold hearted world with my means  
 considerably reduced too - but if I even  
 were to entertain the idea at all it would  
 be only upon this condition that I got  
 all her property, & not settled upon her  
 self - I probably this might be the condition  
 too, if not I would not have her on any  
 account - Besides affording the means  
 of a provision for the future for my  
 own Priscy's little boy, it is true it would  
 afford me the means of obtaining peace  
 of

~~to~~ my own pecuniary affairs & probably  
<sup>quite on the</sup>  
 do myself & others a service - but the  
 other view of the question is this: All  
 my life I have been in the habit of judging  
 things placed & people above by Contract  
 & <sup>the</sup> memory of the past always has been  
 & always will be present to a mind formed  
 like mine - & I do dread, were it to entertain  
 this matter seriously for the only objects  
 I would even dream of it for, my child or  
 rather my poor Daisy's child & my own  
 worldly welfare, that after a while  
 when pondering over the gloomy past, I  
 would fall into a state of feeling of a  
 most dangerous nature - God help me!  
 I scarcely know what to do under all  
 circumstances - This woman is the  
 widow of a gentleman who lived on St.  
 Charles St off Montjoy Square who  
 lived on his property & never had any  
 business or profession - I often say to  
 myself, if I should think of such a thing  
 at all - poor dear Daisy would be always  
 present to my mind - & I would be always  
 contrasting the past & the present times  
 & persons which might become sources  
 of fearful mischief - She is a person  
 of respectable & ladylike exterior but



as a sweet to compare to Pusey, as to use  
 a vulgar phrase, "Chalk is to Cheese".  
 Many a one would be glad to get her  
 but alas! I don't care anything about her  
 or for any thing but what I have mentioned  
 to you - My heart is in my own calling  
 & I don't want, should Providence ever decree  
 that my hand should be again given to another  
 I don't know my nation and I cannot help it or  
 alter it, if I were to be shot for it.

I have said so much of this affair to  
 you, you will perhaps set it down as  
 certain or likely that it may take place  
 but most solemnly I assure you I have  
 not done the slightest thing, nor do I  
 know this moment whether I ever  
 shall or not. I had I saw before if the  
 property were to be settled on her self  
 I would as much think of marrying her  
 as I do of my own servant. Poor Pusey  
 was to say the only thing that could raise  
 and induce her to marry a second time would  
 be to serve her children's interests and  
 to unite as I have by this on the whole  
 faithful & honest but most ill tempered and  
 contumacious servant & her obstinacy together  
 with the prospect of getting a title from my  
 parent I can't imagine call than ever a fancy  
 but at all events not a prospect of a state of  
 things as I now lay you I sometimes turn up  
 over in my mind but as I have already said this  
 probably this lady might be more her property to be

settled on, self, for that case I would no more  
 marry her than I would marry my servant, but  
 that she is a lady like very proper and  
 respectable person in every way but a doctor  
 can for her nor could I lay care a pin for another  
 after poor Friday I would not dream of her at all  
 but for the reasons I have stated - I don't know  
 indeed for certain if she would have one test she  
 might not be thought highly of, as indeed she  
 never could be by me as the vulgar that love  
 professed or lay like profess my heart and its every  
 throbs - nor love who into not on are of my  
 intimate friendship with Mr Scully who it all  
 this lady's friend think of having any thing to do  
 with her & break off on a note of any difference  
 about her money & property and its safe  
 last they might both, particularly Mr Scully  
 think that I was only looking after her money.

Now my dear should give me your  
 unqualified opinion and the advice of a brother  
 on this affair which after all may never  
 so soon only thought of by me - This considering  
 my disposition and the wife I once had  
 and her incomparable qualities a most danger  
 ous experiment for me to think of marrying  
 again at all under almost any circumstances  
 or for any object - I do give protest most solemnly  
 that nothing but a wish to obtain a mode of  
 escape from my present most annoying position  
 in every way which is undermining my health  
 and making me most unhappy would induce  
 me for a single moment to contemplate  
 this matter - but I have few or none being  
 say to consult about it, and therefore  
 ask you as a brother for a candid and  
 unfettered declaration of your opinion and  
 advice upon it.

I had never forgetting to give you Henry's  
 address - it is -

Henry W. Palmer  
 Captain 7th Regt  
 Neilberry hills  
 San Mateo East Indies

***Letter No. 17***

Letter from Henry Wellington Palmer, Madras Presidency, India, to Thomas W. Palmer, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, 25 May 1856, Palmer Letters, no. 17:

Madras Presidency  
East Indies.  
25<sup>th</sup> May 1856

My Dear Tomy,

In a letter from Taaffe rec<sup>d</sup>. [received] a few days ago – He tells me that he has heard from you, and that you have never rec<sup>d</sup>. my letter written to you many months ago. I am not however much surprised at it – as the Post Office arrangements – in this country are very imperfect and unsafe – I find that the last letter I recd. from you is dated April last year, shortly after you heard of the death of our poor dear sister – I loved her very much and miss her long Kind letters greatly. She was almost the last link that bound us to the place we formerly could call home. And there is now indeed little to make either of us care about ever returning. I believe there is now only one of her children left. I long very much to see him – and hope at some future time I may be in a position to be of use to him. Taaffe I have no doubt is the Kindest of Fathers, as he is of friends – I have a very high opinion of him and shall always consider him one of my dearest and Kindest friends, both as the husband of my dear sister and as one that has done me many kind<sup>ns</sup> [kindnesses] He had some idea of going to America or Australia, but I trust he has now made up his mind to stay at home. I think him very clever, and think he must eventually succeed at his profession. I was delighted to hear my dear Brother – that you and your wife and children were so well – depend on me my dear Thos. that would the Lord be pleased to call you before me, that anything in my power shall be done for your Family – but at present I am not in a position to be of use to any one – or the contrary I am in Taafes & Uncle Marques's debt still. Not to a very large amount to be sure – but to yet sufficient to make it a great bore – not having been able to pay them long ago. We have had very little promotion latterly – but our turn will soon come again and if I have any luck I should get my Majority – in very few years – I have a great mind then to sell out and turn my hand to something else. I could get from 5000£ to 6000£ for selling as a major – could I turn it – to better account in America than else where. I am too old to commence hard work – but I could do any light work and think I should rather enjoy it – give me your opinion & advise but say nothing to any one about it – to say truth I am getting rather tired of soldiering, I have now been at it nearly ten years – and although I have been very fortunate and seen the best of it (except the Crimea) yet the life is very monotonous. I have sown all my wild oats – and should now like to settle in life as a married man. And the army is not Suited for married life for many reasons – but chiefly because I have seen very few of the ladies satisfied with one husband – convenient for bachelors – but I



should say a decided bore for those who have wives – My pay is good here 45£ a month. but my expenses something awful! I have not as yet been able to save any money as you are obliged on first coming to this country to contract debts – unless you came with money in y<sup>r</sup> [your] pocket. Which was not the case with me. I have consequently only been getting out of debt since I arrived here – I must now try & save enough to pay Taaffe & Uncle M. [Marques] Although I think the latter might have made me a present of the paltry sum £150. However he either can't or wont. To pay I must. – The European War is over at least – I'm glad of it, as I was not fortunate enough to have been there – I should have been a Colonel now or in my grave had I been in the Crimea when War first began. I cannot say, as you do – that I feel ready to die – I have been a great sinner in many things, I try to repent and pray for pardon. Curious: nearly all my sins and misfortunes have been caused by women. I don't know if it is the case with others but I feel that if I had married years ago – I should now be a better man in every way. It would be useless giving you either regimental or Indian news both uninteresting to you. I am at present stationed at a place called Calicut on the sea coast. The headquarters of the Regt. [Regiment] are on the Neilghurry Hills 150 miles from this – Where I have been the last year, it is the finest climate in the world, but down here it is very hot – I was sent here in command of 120 men as a row was expected amongst the natives, none has however “come off” and I expect soon to return to headquarters. I like my Regt. As much as ever – and altho' [although] I say it as shouldn't I think I am very much liked in it. Which I would not say to anyone but my brother.

There are now few of our old friends at home that either of us care about – and I know as little about them as I dare say you do. Direct to me –

Captain H.W. Palmer  
H.M. 74<sup>th</sup> Highlanders  
Madras  
East Indies

It will be forwarded to me wherever I am. The safest way would be to enclose it to Taaffe to be reposted at home. Remember me Kindly to your wife and kiss all your children for me, I wish very much to see them, and would send them some presents but the postage for such a distance would be more than anything I could send would be worth. However the time I trust in God will come where we shall all meet once more in this poor old world.

I hope you will be able<sup>3</sup> to decipher this scrawl – I have got so into the habit of writing fast that I fear my epistles are scarcely legible.

Write soon – and tell me all about yourself and family –

Seal your letter with paste – Wax melts in this hot country – ever my Dearest  
Tho<sup>s</sup> [Thomas].

Y<sup>r</sup>. [Your] affectionate brother  
Henry

He had some idea of going to America or Australia, but I trust he has now made up his mind to stay at home. I think him very clever and think he must eventually succeed in his profession. I was delighted to hear my dear brother - I hope you and your wife and children here so well - do send me my dear that that should be pleased to call you before we start any thing in my power

Madras Presidency  
East Indies.  
25<sup>th</sup> May 1855.

My dear Tommy  
He is letter from Lauffe recd a few days ago - he tells me that he has heard from you, and that you have never recd any let-  
-ter written to you many months ago. I am not too  
-surprised at it - as the Post Office in-  
-conveniences in this coun-  
-try are very imperfect and uncertain.

I find that the last letter I recd from you is dated April last year, shortly after you heard of the death of our poor dear sister. I loved her very much and miss her long kind letters greatly. She was almost the last link that bound us to the place we formerly could call home. and there is now indeed little to make either of us care about ever re-  
-turning. I believe

there is now only one of her children left - I long very much to see him - and to be at some future time I may be in a position to be of use to him. I have no doubt as to the kindness of Father, as he is of friends - I have a very high opinion of him and shall always consider him one of my dearest and kindest friends, both as the husband of my dear sister and as one that has done me many kindnesses.

for many reasons - but chiefly because I have seen very few of the ladies satisfied with our husbands - comment for bachelors - but I should say a decided bore for those that have wives - My pay is good here 45\$ a month but my expenses something awful! I have not as yet been able to save any money as you are obliged on first coming to this country to contract debts - unless you come with money in your pocket.

I shall be home for your family - but at present I am not in a position to be of use to any one - on the coast theory I am in Jaopha of Uncle Mungwees' debt still. Not to be a very large amount to be sure - but yet sufficient to make it a great bore - not having been able to pay them long ago. He has had very little promotion lately - but our town will soon come again and I shall have some to

I should get my property in very few years - I have a great mind then to tell out and turn my head to something else. I could get from 5000\$ to 8000\$ for selling as a major - could I turn it to better account in America than elsewhere. I am too old to commence hard work - but I could do any light work and think I should rather see you - I have had some opinion of it.

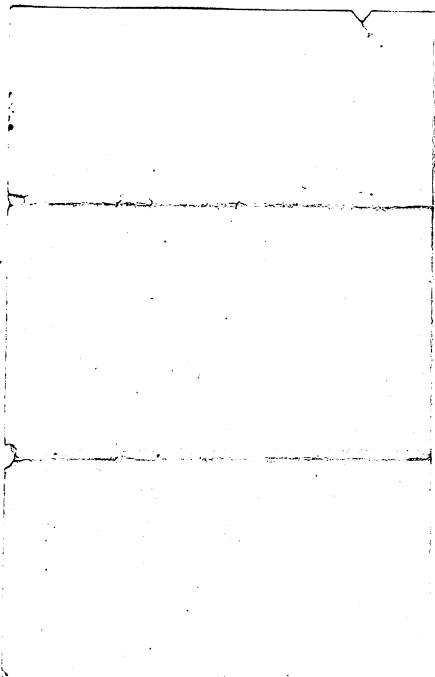
very nothing & any one about it - To say truth I am getting rather tired of soldiering & have now been at it nearly ten years - and although I have been very fortunate and seen the best of it (except the Crimea) yet the life is very monotonous. I have sown all my wild oats - and should now like to settle in to be as a married man and the living is not quite so improved.

been the best seen,  
 it is the moist climate  
 in the world, but down  
 here it is very hot - I  
 have but here in com-  
 -mune of 120 men as  
 a row was expected  
 amongst the natives,  
 how has however come  
 off" and I expect soon  
 to return to head quarters.  
 I like my life as much  
 as ever - and altho' I like  
 it as I should not - I think  
 I am very much liked in  
 it - which I should not  
 say to anyone, but my love

which was not the  
 case with me. I have  
 consequently only been  
 getting out of debt - since  
 I arrived here - I must  
 now try & save enough  
 to pay Jaffe & Uncle  
 M. - Although I think  
 the latter must have  
 made me a present  
 of the paltry sum of \$150.  
 However he either lost  
 or won't to pay I  
 must. - The European  
 War is over at last -  
 I'm glad of it, as I've  
 not got time to

have been there - I  
 should have been a  
 Colonel now or in  
 my prime had I been  
 in the Crimea when the  
 first began. I cannot  
 say, as you do - that  
 I feel ready to die - I  
 have been a free  
 man in many things  
 I try to repent and pray  
 for pardon. Curious!  
 Nearly all my ills  
 and misfortunes have  
 been caused by women.  
 I don't know of it.

the case with others.  
 but I feel that of I  
 had married Jees  
 ago - I should now be  
 a better man in every  
 way. It would be  
 unless giving you either  
 regimental or <sup>naval</sup> ~~naval~~  
 both interesting to you.  
 I am at present stationed  
 at a place called  
 Calicut on the sea  
 coast. The head quarters  
 of the post are at on the  
 Neilgherry Hills 150 miles  
 from this. When I have



I shall be now far  
 of our old friends at  
 home that either of us  
 care about - and I know  
 as little about them  
 as I have any you do.  
 Write to me -

Captain H. W. Palmer  
 A. M. 74 Highlanders  
 Madras  
 East Indies

It will be forwarded  
 to me whenever I can  
 The safest way would be  
 to enclose it to Joseph  
 & he reported out to me.

Remember me kindly  
 to your wife and kiss  
 all your children for me  
 I wish very much to see  
 them, and would send  
 them some presents but  
 the postage for such a dis-  
 tance would be more  
 than anything I could  
 send would be worth.  
 However the time I  
 trust in God will come  
 when we shall all  
 meet once more in  
 this poor old world.

I hope you will  
 be able to decipher  
 this scrawl - I have  
 got to write the letter  
 off writing fast that  
 I fear my scribbles  
 are scarcely legible.  
 Write soon - and  
 tell me all about  
 yourself and family.  
 I feel your letter with  
 parts - very much with  
 hot country - ever very  
 sincerely  
 H. W. Palmer  
 P.S. Affectionate brother

***Letter No. 18***

Letter from Laurence J. Nowlan, New Orleans, Louisiana, to Margaret (O'Toole) Palmer, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, 26 May 1856, Palmer Letters, no. 18:

My D<sup>r</sup>. [Dear] Madam by all the information that I have received from various sources I presume that you are the person that this letter is intended for, that is if you were Miss M [Margaret] O Toole Married to Edwin Hoskins and afterwards to W [William] Palmer I am correct in Any surmise and after an absence of twenty two or three years allow [sic] me to shake hands with you through this medium of a letter the only way that the present circumstances will permit of my D<sup>r</sup> [Dear] M [Margaret] it will give me a great deal of pleasure when you receive this if you will have the goodness to write me a few lines that I may be certain of your Identity although we have been here on this Continent for a quarter of a Century we have never had the first Communication with the close blood that trickles through our veins so seperated [sic] by a few hundred miles makes it look strange although when I last saw you you were a dashing Young Married Woman, and I an active Young man so far as I am Concerned the Case is Changed I am now a gray Headed Man and wearing glasses but with all if you were to see me I think you would Know me. I am living in N. Orleans for the last 16 years with the exception of a few months that I went to Ireland 9 years past at which time I saw all your Fathers family and spent two weeks with him and your Mother and visited all the scenes of my Child Hood, and with your Father we were both boys once more. When I Returned to N O [New Orleans] once more and try out an existence the very best way I Can, I have given up my business and carry on Dry goods and Millinery and by this time I think You must suppose I am Married, and so I am, and M<sup>rs</sup> Nowlan Knows all your family but yourself, as to what sort of a creature she is I will refer you to M<sup>rs</sup> Green the Lady who bears this dispatch to you. I have had no letter from Edenderry for the last four years the last one that I received was that which brought the sad intelgence [sic] of the Death of our Aunt Mary and your sister Mary since which time they have ceased to Communicate with N Orleans in your answer to this you will inform me if you have received any letter from your family and tell me how all our Wicklow folks are, but I forget to mention that I heard from some source that I donot [sic] Recollect my Uncle John and his family were somewhere in the U. S.

Margaret and Eliza Patterson are in business in Edenderry and Patrick & George are in Australia, and so we are I am here and you are there and we are Scattered over the three Continents, but let me enjoy the pleasure of a letter from you that we of this Continent for the future may not be so estranged

How do we Know but that some of Your Children would be nominated to the presidency than I would like to Know my American Cousins tell me what family You have and what are their names and if the Lord had blessed me with any I would

send you their names but I can spare that trouble I have no Children I will conclude hoping that you will Answer this as soon as your Convenience will answer With best Regards to Your Husband & Children I Remain Your affectionate Cousin

New Orleans 26<sup>th</sup> May 1856  
Nowlan

Laurence J.

N B if Your Answer this before the return of M<sup>rs</sup> Green You will please Direct

L. J Nowlan  
N<sup>o</sup> 7 Gleisis Row Paydras Market  
N<sup>o</sup> New Orleans  
La



My Dr. Madam by all the information that I have received from  
 various sources I presume that you are the person that this letter is  
 intended for that is if you were Miss M<sup>rs</sup> D. Locke married to Edward Woodkin  
 and afterwards to Mr. Palmer I am to wit instructed various and often are  
 absent of twenty two or three years allow me to shake hands with you through  
 this medium of a letter the only way that the present circumstances will permit of  
 My Dr. It will give me a great deal of pleasure when you receive this  
 if you will have the goodness to write me a few lines that I may  
 be certain of your identity although we have been here on this continent  
 for a quarter of a century we have never had the first communication  
 with the close blood that tithes though our veins so separated by a  
 few hundred miles makes it look strange although when I last saw  
 you you were a darling young maid-beauty and I an active young man  
 so far as I am concerned the case is changed I am now a gray haired  
 man and weary of years but with all if you were to see me I think you  
 would not know me I am living in N. Orleans for the last 16 years with the  
 exception of a few months that I went to Ireland 9 years since at  
 which time I saw all your Father's family and spent two weeks with  
 him and your Mother and visited all the scenes of my Child hood, and with  
 your Father we were both boys and men when I returned to N. O. and  
 now and try out an existence the very best way I can, I have given up  
 my business and carry on my goods and millinery and by this time I  
 think you must suppose I am married, and so I am and Mr. Newton Rogers  
 are your family but you will, as to when she is I will tell you

I'm certain of your Identity although we have been here on this Continent for a quarter of a Century we have never had the first Communication with the Close blood that tincture though our veins & so separated by a few hundred Miles makes it look strange although when I last saw you you were a dashing young married woman, and I an active young man so far as I am concerned the case is changed I am now a gray headed man and wearing glasses but with all if you were to see me I think you would know me I am living in N Orleans for the last 16 years with the exception of a few months that I went to Ireland 9 years ago at which time I saw all your Father's family and spent two weeks with your mother and visited all the scenes of my Child hood, and with your Father we were both boys one more, when I returned to N O once more and try and unexplain the very best way I can, I have given up my business and carry on Dry goods and Millinery, and by this time I think you must suppose I am married, and so I am and Mr. Nauhan knows all your family but your self, as to what sort of a Deacon she is I will refer you to Mr. Jones the Deacon who bears this Disposition, to you, I have had no Letters from Edward for the last few years the last one that I received was that which brought the sad intelligence of the Death of our Aunt Mary and your sister Mary some weeks since they have ceased to communicate with N Orleans in your answer to this you will inform me if you have received any letters from your families and tell me how all our well loved folks are, but I forget to mention that I heard from some source that I don't recollect Uncle Joh and his family were somewhere in the U S

Margaret and Eliza Patterson are in business in Colorado and probably  
 George are in Australia, and so we are I am here and you are there and we are  
 scattered over the three continents, but let me enjoy the pleasure of a letter from  
 you that we of this continent for the future may not be so estranged.  
 Have do we know but that some of your children would be nominated  
 to the presidency than I would like to know my American Cousins  
 tell me what family you have and what are their names and if the  
 Lord had saved me with any I would send you their names but I am afraid  
 that trouble I have no children. I will conclude hoping that you will  
 answer this as soon as you. Constance will answer with best regards  
 to your Husband & Children. I remain your affectionate Cousin  
 New Orleans 26<sup>th</sup> May 1856  
 P. J. Stewart

N.B. if you answer this before the return of Mrs. Green you will please  
 send  
 P. J. Stewart  
 N. Y. Gleiss's low pay do not make  
 New Orleans  
 La

**Letter No. 19**

Letter fragment from Robert Taaffe, Dublin, to Thomas W. Palmer, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, probably before Aug. 1856, Palmer Letters, no. 19:

the world on such a subject – nor have I, I most sincerely assure you, any intention of Marrying again = but often in the agony of my desolation & vexation & annoyance arising from the torment of lodgings landlords servants, & doing what I never had to Do before attend to household affairs providing breakfast, Dinner, Attending to childs clothes, diet, &c., &c. [etc.] & the thousand & one nameless nothings as poor darling Prisey used to call them of domestic affairs. I say that often when worried to death literally by all these things as well as by trying to attend to my profess<sup>l</sup>. [professional] business & to struggle with heavy losses & misfortunes which seemed to have no limit after my poor wife's Death, it used often to cross my mind, whether I could alleviate such a state of positive misery, that no one could or can form an idea of, by a second marriage of some person of property, not young, - When I would go home in the Evgs. [evenings ] from my office I would be sure to find something or other wrong in some way - & I used to sit Down & wring my hands with despair. & cry for hours thinking over the departed head of my little household – poor angel Prisey, the once bright light of a home, that I can never Know on Earth again – not if I got the finest woman in the realm with £10,000 a year – Believe me this is not the language of romance or Exaggeration I feel it in my heart of hearts – No one Knows in this world of woe What they may have to, or be obliged to do – but I can most unfeignedly [sic] assure you I am just Doing as much towards marrying again as you that are married – More I cannot say – The only thing that Could induce me to Do So, it to better my Childs condition & prospects in life & to obtain, if possible, some relief from a position which it is not Easy to describe – One thing only I can say positively that were any woman to look, think, not to say speak or act unkindly towards the Child of her whose memory, until my death, shall Ever possess this wretched hardened heart & its Every throb, I would quit her with as little ceremony as I would discharge a servant – I have not time my dear Tho<sup>s</sup>. [Thomas] to write more at present – but present my regards to your good wife & your little family &

Believe me Ever yours affect<sup>y</sup>. [affectionately]  
Rob<sup>t</sup>. H. Taaffe

[Obviously another letter from Robert Taaffe to Thomas W. Palmer. Probably written before August 1856, the next letter from Robert to Thomas.]

the world on such a subject. Nor have I,  
 I most sincerely assure you, any intention  
 of marrying again. But often in the course  
 of my desultory & occasional business  
 arising from the torment of lodgings  
 landladies servants, & doing what I near  
 had to do before attend to household affairs  
 providing breakfast & dinner. Attending to  
 Childs clothes, diet, &c &c. & the husband  
 & one name left no things as poor darling  
 Priscilla used to call them of domestic affairs  
 I say often when worried to death literally  
 by all these things as well as trying  
 to attend to my professional business & to  
 struggle with heavy taxes & misfortunes  
 which seemed to have holocaust after my  
 poor wife's death, it used often to cross  
 my mind, whether I could alleviate  
 the state of prostitute misery, that no  
 one could or can form an idea of, by a  
 second marriage of some person of  
 property, not young, - whom I would  
 go home in the eve from my office.  
 I would be sure to find something or  
 other wrong in some way. I used to  
 sit down during my hours in the  
 despair, & cry for hours thinking over  
 the departed head of my little household.

poor angel Pusey, the true bright light of  
 a home, that I shall never know on  
 Earth again. Notif. I got the finest  
 woman in the realm, worth \$1000.00  
 year. Believe me this is not the  
 language of Romance or exaggeration  
 I feel in my heart of hearts - No one  
 knows in this world of mine what they  
 may have to or be obliged to do - but I can  
 not unfeignedly assure you I am just  
 going ahead toward marrying again  
 as you that are married - More I must  
 say - The only thing that could induce me  
 to do so, is to better my Child's Condition &  
 prospects in life & to obtain, if possible, some  
 thing from a position which is not  
 easy to describe - One thing only I can  
 say positively, that were any woman  
 to look think, not to say speak, or act  
 unkindly toward the Child of her whose  
 memory until my death, shall ever possess  
 this wretched old man's heart that every  
 thro' I would give her with a little  
 ceremony as I would discharge a  
 servant - I have not time my dear  
 Tho. to say more at present - but  
 present my regards to your good wife  
 & your little family &  
 Believe me ever your affec.  
 Robt. H. Staffe

**Letter No. 20**

Letter fragment from Robert Taaffe, Dublin, to Thomas W. Palmer, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, 12 Aug. 1856, Palmer Letters, no. 20:

Dublin

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>st</sup> 56

My Dear Tho<sup>s</sup> [Thomas],

I may say this only today that I rec<sup>d</sup> yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> July, though it reached here on I believe the 27 July I was away in England & Paris not on a tour of pleasure, but one or 2 of my sister being in very middling health I was asked to go with them, to see them safe - & of course both duty & inclination forbade me to refuse – though I did not desire to go at all for my pleasure. I could derive in going over places in which I once only 7 short years since spent so many happy hour4s with my poor Prisey. It was indeed a melancholy sort of a journey to me, for every reason, as such on my sisters acc<sup>t</sup> [account] in a sort of way as on my own – as she was the center ^& source ^of all pleasure & amuse<sup>t</sup> [amusement] in Every scene of the Kind & made everyone so happy & pleasant – I missed her sadly indeed – Besides I did not want the expense of such a journey just now; though I traveled as cheaply as I could – When I say I may say I only rec<sup>d</sup>. [received] your letter today, I mean for all practical purposes of replying to it to say I rec<sup>d</sup> it to day only for I can not since my return last week, sooner reply to it, at least I could not send you the money you ask me to lend you until Autumn or until your crops come round to be realized into money. I now however send you a three day order on New York – for 48 dollars 33 cents, which is exactly £ 10, of our money here, that being what I paid for it – So say truth my Dear Thomas it was not as convenient as I would wish to send it to you just now, as my own calls are one way or other heavier than I could wish, under a state of circumstances not so prosperous as I could wish or as they once were. I only hope that it may reach you in time for the purpose you say you require it – As the day is far advanced, & as the mail leaves L'pool [Liverpool] for America tomorrow, I have not time to say all I w<sup>d</sup> [would] wish to you or to write you a long letter in reply to yours. My little boy is tolerably well but indeed only tolerably well, as he is tormented with hives, & he tears & scratches his life out; I don't know what they spring from – but they are most tormenting & ^have ^reduced him very much in size, & condition & he had nothing to spare in either being small & delicate, & possessed of very little muscle or fiber – Moreover [sic] he had I believe or fear got stone in the bladder, at least D<sup>r</sup>. Hutton thinks or at least dreads he has, & is watching the symptoms & appearances to make himself sure before operating –

Let me congratulate Mrs P. & yourself on the advent of the young stranger my godchild – you must be content & pleased with what God sends, though I can well

understand your wish that it had been a boy – Since I last wrote to you I think it was, I had to turn away that devil of a servant I had, she so harassed me everyway, fighting with myself, & everybody else, & the landlady of whatever lodgings I happened to live with – I had then to send the child to my sister & to manage as best I could myself, breakfasting about ½ past 7, running out then, & dining up & down, one day in this tavern, the next day in another & so on occasionally in my sister & so on. & then returning late at night say 10 OC. [o'clock] to bed & then again in the morning as before – I have had my own sorrows & troubles God Knows & they have fallen on me with a weight that no one but one who has similarly suffered can at all appreciate or in the slightest even fancy – I myself often wonder, considering the losses sufferings & consequent agitation & excit<sup>t</sup> [excitement] I have gone through, how I have survived – I cannot by this letter tell you that I have delivered as I intend to do in person by going out to Dalkey, myself the letter to D<sup>r</sup>. H. [Hutton] – I have not had a moment to myself almost since my return – With regard to what I mentioned to you in my last letter about the possibility of my again marrying, & it is only a possibility, I have not done as much as even mention the bare idea of it to any mortal but yourself – M<sup>r</sup> Scully just said to me one day in conversation when I mentioned to him that I had heard our Chief Justice of the Common Pleas Court here who had only lost his wife a few months before, & was upwards of 50 years old himself with a large grown up family well provided for, & £ 5000 a year himself, was thinking of getting married again – M<sup>r</sup> Scully observed he is only doing what a sensible man should – I imagine he was hinting at me seeing the state of suffering and annoy<sup>c</sup> [annoyance] of every sort I was undergoing – but not a syllable beyond that had ever occurred with him or anyone else either.

[Start of section written slanted over top third of first page.]

Write me a line that you have rec<sup>d</sup> the enclosed – I send you a letter which I read from Henry for you – Whatever way he gummed it together or pasted it to my own – could not open the letter in which it was enclosed without cutting his to you in the way in which you will find it, I am not to blame – I got the newspapers – I don't recollect if there is anything else in your letter requiring an ans<sup>r</sup> [answer] – but whether or not I have not time now unless I lose tomorrows mail –

[This letter is not signed, but it is obviously from Robert Taaffe to Thomas W. Palmer. The top third of this letter is cross written over on an angle making it a challenge to read.]





very little trouble or pain. Mr. O. says he  
 had a little pain in the stomach and the  
 bladder, about 30. But how thick or at  
 least fresh he had, I do not think the  
 symptoms of a peccant to make himself  
 sure before operating.

Let me congratulate Mrs. O. on  
 the arrival of the young lady. I  
 hope you will be content &  
 pleased with what she sends, though I can  
 well understand your wish that it had  
 been a boy. Since I last wrote to you  
 I have had to turn away the  
 devil's temptations, he has been  
 every way fighting with me. I  
 everybody else, & this has led to  
 longings & longings to live with  
 I have had to read the Child to my  
 manager, & the Child to my  
 about 72 part of, remaining out  
 up to 1000. One again this  
 in another but on occasionally  
 and last but on, I then  
 night say 1000, & then a  
 in the morning, & I have had  
 own sorrow & troubles for  
 have fallen on me with a weight  
 one but one who had similar  
 you at all up present or

and you. I hope for the  
 - King the object of suffering & Consequents  
 tion & I hope to have gone through, how  
 have succeeded. I cannot let  
 tell you that I have received and  
 to go in person but going out to  
 self, the letter to Dr. H. I have not had a  
 moment to write almost since. My  
 letter - With regard to what I mentioned  
 to you in my last letter about the possibility  
 of my again marrying, I think one  
 possibility, I have not done as usual  
 at least mention the bare idea of it to  
 any one but you. Mr. Scully  
 just said to me one day in conversation  
 when I mentioned to him that I had heard  
 our Chief Justice of the Superior Court  
 Court here who had only lost his wife  
 a few months before, had he paid  
 50 years old himself with a large grown  
 up family well provided for, \$5000  
 a year himself, was thinking of getting  
 married again. Mr. Scully observed he  
 is only doing what a sensible man  
 should. I imagine here at hunting  
 me seeing that state of suffering and  
 anxiety of heart to be cured or going  
 but not a day to be beyond that had  
 occurred with him or any one else.

My return last week, so over reply to it, if  
 I could not send you the money  
 you ask me to lend you to take out  
 or rent in crops come down to be  
 realized into money. I now how ever send  
 you a three dollar and New York  
 for 18 Dollars 33 Cents, which is exactly  
 10 of our money here, that being what I  
 paid for it. I say with my dear Thomas  
 it was not as convenient as I would wish  
 to send it to you just now, as my own  
 calls are one way or other because then  
 I could wish, under a state of circumstances  
 not so prosperous, as I could wish or as  
 they were here. I only hope that it may  
 reach you in time for the purpose you  
 say you require it. As the day is far  
 advanced, & as the mail leaves I pool  
 for America tomorrow, I have not time  
 to say all I wish to go on or to write you  
 a long letter in reply to yours. My little  
 boy is tolerably well, but indeed only  
 tolerably well, as he is to me a little  
 child, he heard Peter's tale's his life  
 out, I don't know what they are  
 doing, but they are most for making  
 money, & I wish him very much in size, I don't  
 know he has nothing to spare in either  
 being small & delicate, & perfect of

**Letter No. 21**

Letter from Robert Taaffe, Dublin, to Thomas W. Palmer, Dexter, Washtenaw Co., Michigan, 11 Aug. 1857, Palmer Letters, no. 21:

77 Lower Gardiner St.  
Dublin  
Aug<sup>t</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1857

My Dear Thomas,

You will doubtless wonder why I have not written to you for so very long a time, especially as I am I believe a letter in debt to you – I find on looking at your last letter that it is close on 8 months ago since I received it – but what between occasional though not, thank God, very serious illness, And pressure of business as other times, and being a good deal Knocked about in one way or other, I really had not always time to write to you, or when I had, as I said before I was not well – Much of the time of a person circumstanced as I am is consumed by going from one place to another, as I have my office in one place, I breakfast & dine in another Place, and finally sleep in another place – such are the fruits upon a mind like mine; after such a sudden and unexpected blow as I received from the hand of Him whose right, and province it is, to inflict such in the death of my poor wife now not far from 3 years ago – Time alas! Does its work surely though slowly, and often as I think of her, & good reason as I have to do so, yet I a in some measure, I cannot say reconciled to my lot, but as it were, enured to it, in some sort of way – The wound is as it were healed, but the mark of the wound remains, & will for ever do what I will, go where I will or in what ever circumstances I may happen to be pleased – Had the agonizing sense of her loss continues ^as^ acutely as I felt it for long long after her death I do not hesitate to say, that I would ere this, have been lying by her side, for the misery and anguish I endured were almost intolerable – Gods will be done he does smite us, as he pleases to show us what we can & must bear & what he chooses to do with us – I scarcely ever go out any where unless on business – A few times only, have I gone to 2 or 3 friends to a quiet dinner or the like, just to prevent them from feeling slighted or offended - but against my inclination –

I often wish I had never Known the happiness of married life, & married to such a being as poor Prisey – If I had not Known it & her, I would have escaped much misery indeed; but it is useless repining – Had she been like all the other women I ever met I would either never have been married, or I would ere this have been, as a matter of necessity, to have a home for myself & poor little boy, have married again – I have been even urged to do so, by some of my best & sincerest friends, who had no object in view by giving me the advice – but my observation has been always, as indeed was my feeling that I dreaded from my heart the making of

contrasts between the past & the present - & this could only lead to unhappiness of the worst kind – Enough about myself – my little boy is growing up pretty, strong & has a food appetite, but is small &, delicately formed though nearly as well formed as his poor mamma – I often gaze upon him to look for his mother in his face; he has I thin a good deal of her side face & so says everyone, but rather resembles me in his front face – he is now nearly 6 years old, & got quite bold and boisterous, & some what self willed - & often amuses me with his little tricks & ways –

I hope your children are well, & Mrs P & also yourself – how is little Priscilla – somehow or other, I shall get a copy of her Aunt's picture daguerrotyped sent to her – I have not heard from Henry for several months indeed I am a letter in his debt too & for the same reasons that I have been in yours –

I think he said ^as well as I recollect^ which last rec<sup>d</sup>. 6 months ago, that he had not heard from you at all –

Have you heard from him? No news here unless terrible doings in Northern India, Bengal, but not near Henry's place, which is Madras – but probably he has been sent there – I sent you last week a newspaper containing a long acc<sup>t</sup>. of the revolt and disbanding of several Sepoy regiments, & their wholesale atrocities & murders of Europeans in Delhi – their treatment of the English ladies and children was horrifying in the extreme – they will or have ere this got their deserts I hope from the European regiments –

I sent you 3 or 4 papers since the year began – I hope you got them – I sent you 2 illustrated newspapers – one of them about 5 weeks ago – Tell me particularly have they ^all^ reached you –

I send you with this letter a very pretty illustrated news dated July 11<sup>th</sup> - I wish much to know if ^it & ^the-^former ones have^ reached you - & by next Saturdays post, I shall send you, a Dublin paper or two containing an acct. of the trial of a man named Spollen for the murder of a cashier of a railway here – It is thought he will be convicted if so, he will be surely hanged at Richmond, Bridewell, as that is now the City prison, since the abolition of Newgate –

If so a gallows will have to be erected at Richmond to your Aunts great annoyance, as it will be the first public execution that has taken place since Newgate was abolished – Uncle & Aunt get on as usual, only they go a great deal into society & see a great deal of most Expensive Company – In a word they are enjoying life as much as they can –

I cannot recollect another word I have to say to you but to remember me to Mrs P. and all your family.

Do you ever hear from Doctor Hoskyns?

I have not forgotten the clothes – but really I had no opportunity or means of sending them – but shall try before long & devise or obtain some means of doing so –

Believe me  
My Dear Thomas,  
Yours sincerely and  
Affectionately  
Robert Taaffe

Tho<sup>s</sup>. Palmer  
Dexter  
Michigan

feeling that I breathe from  
 your heart, the making of Con-  
 trasts between the past &  
 the present. It is not only  
 hard to unhappiness for the  
 worst kind - but even about  
 myself. My little boy is  
 growing up pretty strong &  
 had a good appetite, but is  
 small & delicately formed  
 though he is well formed  
 as his poor mamma. I often  
 gaze upon him to look for his  
 mother in his face, he has the  
 a good deal of the side face  
 He says everyone but rather  
 resembles me in his front face,  
 he is now nearly a year  
 old & got quite bold and  
 boisterous, & somewhat ter-  
 rified. I often am  
 me with his little tricks  
 & ways -  
 Who's your child are  
 well, & I wish I could go  
 now in the Providence.

11 Rome, Jan 10th  
 August 17th 1857  
 My dear Thomas,  
 You will, I doubt not, wonder  
 why I have not written to you  
 for so very long a time. Especially  
 as I could I believe a letter  
 debt to you - I am out of luck at  
 your last letter that it is  
 you & I must at a good time  
 it - but what the reason is  
 though not thank God, my  
 illness, and profusion of business  
 at other times, and he is a  
 good deal distressed about his  
 anatomy or the I really had  
 not a little time to write to  
 you, or when I had a little  
 before I could not - much  
 of the time of a year, you are  
 at home, I am in Providence  
 by going from one place to  
 then, as I have my office in  
 one place, I break fast & dine  
 in another place, and finally  
 sleep in a third place -  
 such are the troubles of a  
 like mine, after such a  
 and his reports below as I

from the kind of this to  
 right and provide it is to  
 such a death of my poor  
 wife now not far from 13 years  
 ago - fine glad! do not work  
 surely, and often  
 and I think of her, a good read  
 as I have to do, yet I am in  
 some measure I cannot say  
 is considered to my lot, but at  
 turned to it in some sort of  
 way - The wound is as it  
 he died, but the mark of the  
 wound remains, & it is for  
 down at the end, go where  
 or he what two circumstances  
 I may happen to be placed -  
 the agonizing scene of her  
 death, I continue to do so  
 for long long after her death  
 I do not hesitate to say, that  
 would be that have been lying  
 by her side for the misery  
 any with I received had, at  
 most tolerable - God will be  
 do, I do not think of the  
 to show us what we can & must

bear, & what he chooses to do  
 us: I scarcely ever go out  
 where unless I am accompanied  
 frequently only, have I  
 2 or 3 friends to a quiet dinner  
 or the like, just to prevent  
 from feeling slighted or  
 offended, but against my  
 inclination -  
 I differ with I had never  
 known the happiness of  
 married life, & I  
 married to such a being a  
 poor Pusey - I had not  
 known of her, and I  
 had to have a deep  
 mystery indeed, but it is  
 a pity - Had she been  
 all the other women I  
 met I would either never  
 have been, or I would  
 have been, as a matter of  
 necessity, to have a home  
 for myself - I do not  
 think the boy have  
 married again - I should  
 have been seen, or  
 to be so, by some of my  
 best friends, who had  
 no objection by giving  
 me the best - but my  
 situation has been  
 always, all I could do  
 to my



of opportunity or means of  
 sending them, but I shall try  
 to forward & devise of  
 obtain some means  
 of doing so. -

Believe me,  
 My dear Thomas,  
 Yours sincerely  
 affectionately  
 Robert Smalls

Mr. Palmer  
 October  
 Michigan

or other, I shall get a copy of the  
 County of the papers & send  
 I sent to her - I have not heard  
 from any for several months  
 since I saw a letter in his  
 debt for & for the same reason  
 that I have been in 3 years -  
 I think he says in his last  
 letter to me that he  
 had not heard from you at all  
 Have you heard from him  
 No news here - unless the  
 doings in North India  
 Bengal, but I do not hear  
 place which I had read but  
 probably he had been sent  
 there - I sent you last week  
 a newspaper containing  
 a long account of the revolt  
 and disbanding of several  
 of the regiments & their  
 wholesale atrocities &  
 murders of Europeans in  
 Delhi - their treatment of  
 the English ladies and  
 children was horrid & in

from the hand of their mother  
 I wish to provide it to my  
 dear mother's death of my poor  
 wife now that I have been  
 a year - I am glad to hear  
 surely that slowly and often  
 as I think of her & good reason  
 as I have to do so, yet I am in  
 some measure I cannot say  
 I consider to my lot, but as I have  
 I would to it in some sort of  
 way - The wound in a situation  
 he had but the mark of the  
 wound remained, & I wish for  
 do what I could, go where I will  
 or no what two circumstances  
 I may happen to be placed - Has  
 the opening ends of her legs  
 continued exactly as I felt  
 for long long after her death  
 I do not hesitate to say that  
 I would see that have been lying  
 by her side for the many  
 long with I believed to be a most  
 terrible - God will be done  
 he does nothing of the kind  
 to show us what we can & must

hear & what he chooses to do with  
 us. I fear I never go out any  
 where unless on business - I  
 frequently only, have I invited  
 2 or 3 friends to a quiet dinner  
 or the like, just to prevent them  
 from feeling neglected or offended  
 but against my inclination.  
 I often wish I had never known  
 the happiness of married life &  
 married to such a being as  
 Priscy - If I had not known of  
 her I do not know how I should  
 misery indeed, but it is indeed  
 I pitying - Had she been like all  
 the other women I ever met  
 I would either never have been  
 married, or I would die that  
 have been, as a matter of neces-  
 sity, to have a home for myself  
 & the little boy have married  
 again - I had been even married  
 to the 2d by some of my best &  
 sincerest friends, who had no other  
 view but to give me the  
 a & vice - but my observation has  
 been always, all I could do



the extreme - they will or  
have or this got their  
orders, I hope from the  
European regiments -

I sent you 3 or 4 papers  
since the year began - I hope  
you got them - I sent you  
2 Illustrated newspapers  
one of them about 5 weeks  
ago - Tell me particularly  
have they reached you -

I send you with this letter  
a very pretty illustrated  
Book, dated July 11<sup>th</sup> -

I wish much to know if they  
will reach you - They will  
be sent by post, I shall send  
you, a Dublin paper or  
two containing an account of  
the trial of a man named  
Shelton for the murder of a  
Cathar of a railway here - I  
thought he will be convicted &  
if so, he will be surely hanged

at Richmond Bridewell, at that  
is now the City prison, since  
the abolition of Newgate -

Also a gallon will have  
to be erected at Richmond to  
form a new great annoyance  
is it will be the first time  
I expect you that has taken  
place since Newgate was  
abolished - Much I am  
set on a subject only that  
is a great deal into the  
Ethiopian Company - In a  
word they are enjoying life  
at what they can -

I cannot recollect another  
word I have to say to you but  
to remember me to Mrs P.  
and all your family -  
Do you ever hear from  
Doct<sup>r</sup> Hoskyns?

I have not for gotten the  
clothes - but really I had no

**Letter No. 22**

Letter fragment from Henry Wellington Palmer, probably while he was in England, to Thomas W. Palmer, Livingston Co., Michigan, about 1862, Palmer Letters, no. 22:

3<sup>d</sup>

The Hanlons I have lost sight of altogether, as indeed I have of most of the old followers and minds, owing to my ten years in Foreign Service. – Edward Grofan died abroad, and the only one of that Family left is Willy, and I know not where he is. – I did my best, but cannot make out quite – clear about Dr. Hoskyn's will, nor of his brother who died lately in England, I fear they are a bad lot, and I have my doubts if they have acted fairly or justly towards Edwin's children. – I'm told the girls have all left for New Zealand – I gave your message to James – He's a queer fellow, very odd, but very like our poor Father in appearance; I know not what has become of his children (he will not speak about them, & I fear they went to the bad) except Ellen who is married to an officer now in the Canadian Rifles, who had a sergeant in my Regt., When I joined, a good sort of man, but a Roman Catholic, which of course James does not like. My regt is under order to come home from India, which alone, and much against my will, has prevented my returning to that country – I cannot think of anything to tell you about myself that would interest you, I am much as usual, in good health thank – God; but in less prospect of promotion than I did years ago, I hope for the best, and will not bore you with my many troubles and difficulties, I send a photograph of myself (did you ever get the other I sent you?) for Prisey, and trust that fortune may in long place it in my power to send her some more substantial proof of my love for my brothers child – Kind regards to your wife, and with best love to your children, hoping now to hear from you, Believe me my dear Thomas, ever your affectionate Brother.

Henry. –

[This letter is missing its front page, but the contents indicate that it is from Henry Wellington Palmer to Thomas W. Palmer. Henry Wellington was posted to England between 1860 and 1864. The letter was written between 1856, when Ellen Palmer had wed Thomas Hanrahan, and 1865, the death of Thomas Palmer, most likely written around 1862 as Henry Wellington Palmer was first posted to foreign service with the 74th in 1852.]

and difficulties. I send a  
 photograph of myself (and  
 you can get the other I sent you?)  
 Mr. Riey, and trust that you  
 - have every one long place  
 it in my power to send them  
 some more substantial proof  
 of my love for my brother's  
 child - I send you a few  
 kisses and with the best love  
 to your children, hoping soon  
 to hear from you, I believe me  
 my dear Thomas, ever  
 your affectionate brother  
 Henry -

3.  
 The Hamiltons I have lost sight  
 of altogether, as indeed I have  
 of most of the old followers and  
 friends owing to my ten years  
 in foreign service. - I heard  
 the Professor died abroad and the  
 only one of that family left  
 is Billy, and I know not  
 where he is. - I did my best  
 but could not make out quite  
 clear about Dr. Hodgkin's wife,  
 nor of his father who died  
 lately in England, I fear they  
 are a bad lot and I have  
 my doubts if they reunited  
 family or pretty Thomas. Edson's

children. - I'm told the  
 Spots have all left for New  
 Zealand. - I have four more  
 to James - there is a queer  
 fellow, very odd, but very  
 like our poor Father in ap-  
 pearance. I know not what  
 has become of his children  
 (he will not speak about them  
 if I hear they hurt to the head)  
 & Capt Allen, who is married  
 to an African wife in the Canadian  
 Rifles, who bears a resemblance  
 in my sight, when I joined,  
 a good sort of man but a  
 Roman Catholic. I think I  
 know James does not like  
 my self is under orders & came  
 home from Mexico, where alone  
 had much against my wife  
 has prevented my returning  
 to that country. - I cannot  
 thank if any thing I tell you  
 about myself that would  
 interest you, I am much  
 as usual, in good health  
 thank God, but see etc etc  
 - next of promotion them of  
 did seem ago, I'll prefer the  
 best and will not bore you  
 with my many troubles

*Letter No. 23*

Letter from Chandos Hoskins, Hereford, England, to Thomas W. Palmer,  
Livingston Co., Michigan, 11 Oct. 1862, Palmer Letters, no. 23:

Broad St.  
Her[e]ford  
11<sup>th</sup> Oct: 1862

My Dear M<sup>r</sup> Palmer

I wrote to my nieces 3 days ago to give notice that I would send this order to Dexter. I will register this letter for the greater security I hope they will immediately acknowledge it – It is a long time since you have written to me & I should be very glad to hear from you. I was?--ing [wondering] I should be very sorry to discourage them but your letters are more explicit & satisfactory. & I should be glad to know what you think would be most for their welfare when they get their little sum of money – it is of great importance to them – for I must now tell you what I was not aware of some time ago, when you asked me the question. Uncle Chandos has told me that he has not left them anything in his will – I know the reason of this & he is not, & was not, when he told me - in a state to be reasoned with in money matters. I was very sorry as I was in hopes they would have got some little help at his death – but, as it is so – I think it is better they should know it now. And it is the more important that they should lay out their capital - small as it is, profitably. I was this day offered for Kilmartin £ 2000. I should hope it will bring more than that – their share is one 7<sup>th</sup> amongst them all. I am certainly of opinion that it would be wise to go to New Zealand – a genial climate where hands are wanting – I hope to go there before long - & my brother & sisters are gone before me, as I have told in my last letter. Your brother Henry complains that you have not written to him for more than a year & a half - & says he has written several letters to you within the last year. He fears you think he ought to help you with money, but says it is not in his power. He wrote to me to ask for news of you. & begged when I should write to my nieces – I would say how anxious he is to hear from you. Pray write to me – you will much oblige me by doing so. & will you tell me of what religion my nephews & nieces are - & which is which. What of this horrible war. Does it effect [sic] you in any way – that is your interest or comfort – for I am sure it is afflicting only to hear of. I have my news to tell you. I may say I am left alone in this country - with no one but an old almost imbecile invalid uncle. He seems now to be getting better in health. & if he continues to improve I will leave him with his other nephews & nieces in spring & go to my own brothers & sisters. for I am very unpleasantly situated here. – What a changed world it is to me since I saw you. Again pray write to me & with love & kind regards to my nephews & nieces & to Margaret - & your children believe me your very sincere friend.

C Hoskyns.

it is afflicting only to hear  
of. I have no news to tell you  
I have long I am left alone  
in this country with one but  
an old almost imbecile in-  
valid male. He seems now  
to be getting better in health, &  
if he continues to improve  
will leave him with his other  
nephews & nieces in Spring &  
go to my own brother & sister.  
I am very unpleasantly  
situated here. What a change  
-ed world it is some time I  
saw you again long with  
time & with love & kind re-  
gards to my nephews & nieces  
& to Margaret & your children.  
Believe me yours very sincere  
friend C. H. Johnson

Brown Mt.  
Newport  
11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1862

My dear Mr Palmer  
I wrote to my niece 3 days  
ago to give notice that I would  
send this order to Dexter.  
I will register this letter for  
greater security & hope  
they will immediately act on  
it. It is a long time  
since you have written to me  
& I should be very glad to hear  
from you. I should  
be very sorry to discourage them  
but your letters are more ex-  
plicit & satisfactory. & I should  
be glad to know what you think  
would be best for their welfare  
when they get their little farm of  
poorly - it is of great importance  
to them. For I must now tell  
you - about I was not aware  
of some time ago, when you  
wished for the signature.  
Wm. Chandler has told me that  
he had not let them see them,

an heb will - I don't know the reason of this & he  
 is not, & was not, when he told me - in a state  
 to be reasoned with in money matters. I was  
 very sorry - as I was no longer they could have  
 got some little help at his death - but, as  
 it is so - I think it is better they should  
 know it now. And it is the more important  
 that they should lay out their capital - small as  
 it is, profitably. I was this day offered for New-  
 Brunswick \$2000. I should hope it will bring more  
 than that. - Their share is one 7<sup>th</sup> amongst them  
 all. I am certainly of opinion that it would  
 be wise to go to New-Castle & - a general climate  
 where humors are wanting. I like to go there  
 before long - & my brother's (as you before  
 me), as I have told in my last letter. Your  
 brother Henry complains that you have not written  
 to him for more than a year & a half - & says he  
 has written several letters to you within the  
 year. He fears you think he ought to help you  
 with money, but says it is not in his power.  
 He wrote to me to ask for news of you, & begged  
 when I should write to my friends - I would say  
 how anxious he is to hear from you. Pray write  
 to me - you will mind - & give me by doing so. I  
 will you tell me of what religious my nephews  
 & nieces are - & which is which. What of this  
 horrible war. Does it affect you in any way -  
 that is your interests or comfort - for I was but



***Letter No. 24***

Letter fragment from Henry Wellington Palmer, probably England or Ireland, to Thomas W. Palmer, Livingston Co., before the death of Thomas Palmer in 1865, Palmer Letters, no. 24:

3d

I am not married, nor likely to be, as in truth from all I saw both at the Cape & in India; it appears to me that men in those countries only marry for the convenience of their minds! – I know not when I may return to India; perhaps some time this year – I like that country well enough – very hot, but soldiers are well p<sup>d</sup>. And well taken car of there. – Being ordered here has put me to much expense for new uniforms, camp furniture, &c. [etc.] &c. –

I am as fond of children as even I indeed would give much to see you & yours, but I hear (now that my leave has been cancelled) it will be long till I have that pleasure. If you could get me a cheap photograph of yourself, wife & children it would give me much pleasure – Robert [Taaffe] does not appear to expect you to pay him the £ 10 you mention; He promised to write to you – I sent you papers from Dublin, & will from here whenever I can – do not mind sending me any. – I sent y<sup>r</sup> [your] letter to Mrs Hoskyns. If you can write to me without prepaying y<sup>r</sup>. letters, do so; I w<sup>d</sup>. [would] Always willingly pay double postage for the pleasure of hearing from you; but I am not sure if they will/ here or in America) forward them unless prepaid. Inquire at the courts. –

Were I to write all I have, or wish to say I w<sup>d</sup>. go on too long to get the letter into an envelope; but I will write again when I hear from you. I hope you will be able to decipher this scrawl; I have much to do her, & you must accept the will for the deed – very kindly remember me to yr. wife & with best love to y<sup>r</sup>.self [yourself] & children believe me my dear Tho<sup>s</sup>. ever your affectionate Brother

Henry.

[This letter is missing its front page, but the contents indicate that it is from Henry Wellington Palmer to Thomas W. Palmer. Must be before 1865.]

I have, or wish to see  
 7 W. go on too long to let  
 the other side - can envelope,  
 but I will write again  
 when I have from you.  
 I hope you will be able  
 to decipher this scrawl,  
 I have much to do here  
 & you must accept the  
 wife for the deed - very  
 kindly remember me to  
 Mr. Wake & the best  
 love to Mr. & Mrs. & Children  
 believe me very dear  
 Thos. your affec.  
 son-in-law Henry.

3<sup>d</sup>  
 I am not married, nor  
 likely to be, as in truth  
 I have both of  
 the Cape & in Africa; it is  
 - please to see that men in  
 those countries only marry  
 for the convenience of their  
 friends! - I know not when  
 I may return to Africa;  
 perhaps some time this  
 year - I like that country  
 well enough - very hot, but  
 colors are well. I need  
 not take care of them -  
 being ordered there there  
 must be too much expense  
 for new uniforms, camp  
 furniture, &c. &c. -

I am as fond of children  
 as ever & indeed would  
 give much to see you  
 & yours, but 5 p.m. (now  
 that my leave has been  
 cancelled) it will be long  
 till I have that pleasure.  
 If you could get me a  
 cheap Photograph of  
 yourself, wife, & children  
 it would give me much  
 pleasure — Robert  
 does not appear to expect  
 you to pay more than £10  
 you mention; he promised  
 to write to you —

Send you papers  
 from Dublin & will  
 from time to time  
 I can — do not mind  
 sending me any —  
 I sent you letter to Paris & back  
 If you can write to me  
 without prepaying the letters,  
 do so; I'd always willingly  
 pay the postage for the  
 pleasure of hearing from  
 you; but I can not see  
 if they will / send or will  
 forward them unless prepaid.  
 I begin at the moment —  
 If you will write all

**Letter No. 25**

Letter from James Palmer, [Jr.,] Dublin, to William O'Toole, Cork, 17 Feb. 1868,  
forwarded to Margaret (O'Toole) Palmer, Palmer Letters, no. 25:

Rathmines  
57 Belgrave Square  
Dublin – February 17<sup>th</sup> – 68

D<sup>r</sup> [Dear] Sir,

As I am one of the Brothers of Poor M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Palmer – Mr Taaffe handed to me your letter and I regretted much to hear of the death of my Brother. The letter written by M<sup>r</sup> Palmer which you speak of was never received by any one here. – I had a letter lately from my Brother Major Palmer who is a Major of the 90<sup>th</sup> Reg in the East Indies, he was well at the time. I send to you his address. for M<sup>rs</sup> Palmer in America – and I shall write to the Major by the next mail and tell him of his Brothers death. and if you will by return of Post let me Know M<sup>rs</sup> Palmers address in America. I will write to her.

I remain  
Yours truly  
J<sup>s</sup> [James] Palmer  
L<sup>t</sup> Colonel

M<sup>r</sup> O'Toole  
Wicklow

Address to me as above on the other side  
[Sheet of paper folded in half and written on sideways like a book:]  
address.

Major Henry W. Palmer  
90<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
Subathoo  
Punjab  
East Indies

Dear Sister I sent you're a dress [sic] to M<sup>r</sup> Palmer in Dublin & he said he would write to you

[Written on back page of the letter:]

Dear Sister I send you the note I got from M<sup>r</sup> Palmer in Dublin you can see what he said about his Brother and you will see his adress [sic] Note I Send you M<sup>r</sup> Taaffe a dress [sic] M<sup>r</sup> Robert Taaffe  
Solicitor 62 low<sup>er</sup> gardiner Street Dublin

My Brother William a dress [sic] is      Captain Wm O'Toole  
4 tivoli gardens  
Cork  
Ireland

My a father lives with William

<p>Dear Sister I send you this note I got from Mr Palmer in Dublin you can see what he said a bout his Brother and you will see his address Note I send you Mr Saaffe</p>	<p><i>Post Office</i> 57 Pelgrane Square Dublin - Feb 17 - 68</p>
<p>a dress Mr Robert Saaffe Solicitor, 62 Lower Gardiner Street Dublin</p>	<p>Yr Sir, I am one of the bottles of 100 Mr Henry Palmer - Mr Saaffe handed to me your letter and I regretted much to hear of the death of my Brother. The letter written by Mr Palmer which you speak of was never received by any one here. - I had a letter lately from my Brother Major Palmer who is a Major of the 90<sup>th</sup> Regt in the East-Indies, he was well at that time. I send to you his address. In Mr Palmer in America - and I hope will write to the Major by the next Mail</p>
<p>My Brother William a dress is Captain Wm O Toole 4 Teroli gardens Co. Wick Ireland My father lives with William</p>	

<p>and tell him of his Brothers death, and if you will by return of Post let me know Mr Palmers address in America. I will write to her.</p>	
<p>I remain Yours truly J. Palmer Colonel</p> <p>Mr O Toole Wicklow address to me as above on the other side</p>	<p>Address Major Henry W. Palmer 90<sup>th</sup> Regiment Subathoo Punjab East Indies</p>
	<p>Dear Sister I send you a draft to Mr Palmer in Dublin and he said he would write to you</p>

***Letter No. 26***

Letter from Henry Wellington Palmer, Aberdeen, Scotland, to Priscilla Palmer, Livingston Co., Michigan, 7 June 1869, Palmer Letters, no. 26:

7th of June 1869 –

My dear Priscilla –

Your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> September last year addressed to us in East Indies, did not reach that country till after I had left it, owing to ill health, It was however forwarded to me in England, and reached me some months after; I would have at once replied to it, but put off doing so till I was able to send you a trifle, and I now have the pleasure to enclose An United States note for fifty dollars, which I trust may safely reach you, and be of some little assistance in your difficulties.

I need not say what with what deep regret I heard of the death of my dear Brother Your Father, but it is some consolation to know that he left this poor world in a frame of mind such as you describe, and I trust he is now in a happier state, where God Grant we may all yet meet. I hope you read your Bible regularly, and carefully, and always recollect God's free salvation even to chief of sinners, who truly believe in the death on the cross of His own the Lord Jesus Christ, who after His resurrection, ascended up to Heaven, where He is, seeing, and ruling all things, till He comes to judge the living, and dead. If you truly believe this, and act in accordance with your belief, you will be happy in this world, and equally so – hereafter I hope you will also use your influence to induce your sisters to read the Bible carefully, and regularly, with prayer, and May God bless; profit to you, your so doing. – Although I have never met your mother, I always heard her well spoken of, and I trust she continues kind, and good to you, and your sisters.

I know so little of the state of society in America, that I am far from fit to give you much advice – beyond – to keep yourself pure, and recollect that poverty is no crime, and all honest means of existence, honorable, and no disgrace. At the same time, I trust that your circumstances are not so bad as to make it requisite to undertake menial work from home, nor can I imagine that your mother would allow you to do so – unless in emergent necessity, which I hope may not arise –

My circumstances are poor enough but whenever in my power, I will gladly send you a trifle to assist you and your sisters. Although I post this to you from Liverpool, I am only here for a short time – therefore address letters to me as +

P.S. When you write address as follows –

---

Captain H. W. Palmer  
74<sup>th</sup> Highlanders  
Aberdeen  
Scotland



that poverty is no crime, and  
all honest means of existence,  
honorable, and no disgrace.  
At the same time, I trust that your  
circumstances are not so bad as  
to make it requisite to undertake  
a formal work from home, nor  
can I imagine that your father  
would allow you to do so, unless  
in emergency, which  
I hope may not arise.

My circumstances are poor enough,  
but whenever in my power, I  
shall gladly send you a trifle  
to assist you and your sisters.  
Although I post this to you  
from Liverpool, I am only  
here for a short time - therefore  
cannot write to you as

7th of June 1869. -

My dear sister, your letter  
of the 29th of September last year  
addressed to me in the East  
Indies, did not reach that country  
till after I had left it, owing  
to ill health; it was however for-  
warded to me in England, and  
reached me some months ago; I  
would have at once replied to  
it, but put off doing so till I was  
able to send you a trifle, and I  
now have the pleasure to enclose  
an United States note for fifty  
dollars, which I trust may help  
wash you, and be of some little  
assistance in your difficulties.

I need not say with what deep regret  
I heard of the death of my dear brother  
your father, but it is some consolation  
to know that he left this poor world  
in a frame of mind such as you  
describe, and I trust he is now in  
a happier state, where God's presence  
is every where. I hope you read  
your Bible regularly, and carefully,  
and always recollect God's pre-  
-tation even to the chief of sinners,  
who truly believe in the death of  
Christ, who after His resurrection, as-  
-cended up to Heaven, where He is, living,  
and ruling all things, till He comes  
to judge the living, and dead.  
If you truly believe this, and act

in accordance with your belief,  
you will be happy in this world,  
and equally so - hereafter -  
I hope you will also give your in-  
-fluence to induce your sisters  
to read the Bible carefully, and  
respectfully, with praise, and thank-  
-God's blessing, and prosper to you,  
your dear abiding. - Although  
I have never met your dear mother,  
I always heard her well spoken of,  
and I trust she continues kind  
and good to you and your sisters.  
I know no better of the state of  
Society in America, than I know  
of your father's fair you much  
advice - beyond - to keep you  
- help poor, and recollect

P.S. When you write  
address as follows -

---

Captain H. W. Palmer  
74. High Street.  
Aberdeen  
Scotland.

---



Jackson, Michigan  
U.N.S<sup>t</sup>. America

~~I have no strong  
news to relate and  
hope you will find  
you and Margaret  
singing and health  
My dear John is  
in the large steamer  
Scotland starting  
between London  
and Montreal and  
I wish with  
passengers and~~



Ld. Upupa London  
July 4/83

Dear John

I hope this will find  
you and Margaret  
well as it leaves all here  
I wrote two letters one  
to Margaret your wife  
and one to yourself

The last voyage I was  
here I may mention  
that I received yours  
and was happy to  
learn ye were well  
I believe I omitted  
in directing these  
letters I mention to  
your Jackson ex  
Morse and so fear  
they may not reach  
you in consequence

I was happy and so  
were all that your  
health continues so  
good I will send  
you a plan of the  
Wicklow Harbour  
in my next letter  
Laurence is in the  
Cormoras steamer  
and I am in his last  
ship Upupa he is on  
the Liverpool line  
and I on the London

leaves all here I was  
 delighted to learn that  
 John and yourself  
 enjoyed such good  
 health I wrote to you  
 and John but believe  
 both letters have gone  
 astray as I omitted  
 in the address Jackson  
 Believe me dear  
 Margaret your fond  
 Brother in law  
 Wm O. Latta



St. Uptonia 4 July / 83  
 Dear Margaret I must  
 excuse myself for not  
 answering your letter  
 I mean that one you  
 wrote for John  
 I hope this will find  
 yourself and John  
 in the enjoyment  
 of good health as it

Ms John O. Latta  
 413 Fairview Drive  
 Jackson, Michigan  
 St. M. S. America



St. Uptonia London  
 July 4 / 83

Dear John  
 I hope this will find  
 you and Margaret  
 well as it leaves all here.  
 I wrote two letters one  
 to Margaret your wife  
 and one to yourself





For value received I promise to pay Hansou  
J G with or bearin one hundred and five dollars  
on the first day of October next with ten  
per cent interest untill the whole sum shall be paid

And I do hereby stipulate, promise and agree to pay Interest at the rate of ten per cent.  
per annum upon each and every of said sums from and after the time when they shall respectively  
become due, until paid in full with such rate of interest, and also to pay interest at the rate of  
ten per cent per annum upon any Judgment, Order or Decree that may be rendered, re-  
covered, entered or made, upon this Note, or the Mortgage bearing even date herewith, executed by  
Messrs. M. P. Palmer

to secure the payment  
of this Note, until such Judgment, Order, or Decree shall be paid in full with such rate of  
Interest. And I do hereby stipulate, promise, consent and agree that Interest at the rate of

ten per cent per annum may be charged, computed, levied, collected, enforced and taken upon  
any such Judgment, Order or Decree and upon any Execution, Writ, Process or Order, that may  
be issued for the collection thereof—or any other proceeding to enforce or carry into effect any such  
Judgment, Order or Decree. And I do hereby further stipulate, promise consent and agree that  
the Court rendering, making, or entering, any such Judgment, Order, or Decree, may render, enter  
or make such Judgment, Order, or Decree, in such manner and terms, that such Judgment, Order,  
or Decree, shall in express terms draw Interest at the rate of ten per cent per annum, and authorize  
the collection of such rate of Interest thereon. And I do hereby remise and release to the said

Executors, Administrators,  
or Assigns, and expressly waive all errors in so rendering, making, or entering such Judgment,  
Order, or Decree, in such manner and terms, as to draw and authorize the collection of such rate of  
Interest thereon; and in issuing any Execution, Writ, Process, or Order, authorizing the collection  
of such rate of Interest. On all sums paid before due, discount at the rate of — per cent per  
annum is to be computed and allowed for such time as the same may be paid before due.

WITNESS I Hand and Seal this Twentieth day of October A. D.  
one thousand eight hundred and fifty four





*Item No. 2*

[This shopping order was found among the Palmer Letters. It gives you an idea of what was purchased in 1874 by the Palmer household.]

*Dexter, Mich., Oct 30 1874*

*Mrs Palmer*

*Bought of Tuomey Bros. & Gregory,*

Buy 472 apples	: 8		37 76
To Book account	D	26 44	
“ Sugar		3 00	
“ 15 y <sup>ds</sup> sheeting	1/-	1 88	
“ 71 – [yd] print	9	6 39	
“ 1 p <sup>r</sup> shoes		3 00	
“ 9 – [lbs] Tallon	8	72	
“ 1 Pail		38	
“ 1 W [white] W[wash] Brush		85	
“ 4 – [lbs] Coffee		1 00	
“ 1 salt cups----		75	
“ 1 ½ - [lbs] Tea	8	1 50	
“ 4 – [lbs] Currants		50	
“ ½ Pepper		20	
“ 2 p <sup>r</sup> Gloves		1 40	
“ 15 2/4 yd Merino [wool]		10 25	
“ 8 - [yd] Cambric		80	
“ 2 Hdkfs		30	
“ 1 – [Hdkfs]		35	
“ 4 spools		25	
“ 1 shovel		4 50	64 45
			<u>26.69</u>

DEXTER, MICH., Oct 30 1874

Mrs Palmer

Bought of TUOMEY BROS. & GREGORY,

By 472 apples	8	3776
To Book account		2644
" Sugar		300
" 15 lbs sheeting 1/2		188
" 71 - Rmsh 9		639
" 1 P Shoes		300
" 9 - Fallow	8	72
" 1 Pail		38
" 1 m m Brush		85
" 4 - leafen		100
" 1 Att leup		75
" 1/2 - Tea		150
" 4 - leurrants		50
" 1/2 Pipers		20
" 2 P Gloves		140
" 15 3/4 qt Milk		1025
" 8 - leaurbic		80
" 2 Hdks		30
" 1 -		35
" 4 spurs		24
" 1 Charol		450
		<u>6445</u>
		2669