

Zion, Ill.  
October 24, 1934.

Jesse Crosby,  
Bartle, Cuba.

Dear Brother:

Well at last I seem to be getting about the long promised letter.

First I want to say something about the "letter of release" to you in a personal way; but I must caution you against allowing any hard feelings to enter your mind as a result of the explanation that I feel is partly due you; and more particularly due Nell.

I refer particularly to the long--and I must say--needless and unexplained delay in getting it thru. It was by no means Nell's fault; the word has reached me that some were blaming her for neglecting you after she got here. In Nell's behalf let me say that such is by no means the case. As she <sup>traced</sup> along the way here among us she told us something of the conditions in force; and we readily and quickly agreed that we should do something along the line of what has been done. But we were all up against it to know just how to go about it to make it legal and effective. At the same time I was in great distress myself over the unexpected turn for the bad in the Canadian oil affair. I have several hundred dollars still coming to me that was promised in Feb.; but have not been able to collect a dime. I resigned the whole thing, and afterward two close friends of mine did likewise.

In the meantime Nell's affairs in Portland were not going at all well; and so between us we were very busy nursing our own affairs. But just before I drew the letter of release on April, she wrote me urging me to get actively about something of the kind. In the meantime the family letter had been much delayed; and felt sure that it would contain some information that I felt was still needed.

So I could only pray, and shoot away in the obscurity as best I could; for the final responsibility seemed to rest wholly on me. I started it westward, asking each one to sign it free if possible and if not to make any notations or reservations they might desire; but by all means keep it moving. This was faithfully done by all, and no reservations were registered.

Walter was the last one to receive it; and there it stuck for nearly four months. After a reasonable time I wrote him about it, as to why the delay; but got no answer. Later I wrote again, and still no answer. Then I began getting in touch with the others, as to their possible reservations enclosed; and found that there had been none; and Fan confirmed this by saying that it reached, and left her fully signed, without protest. George, and some of the others wrote Walter to push it along; and finally I telegraphed him; but I was too late in this, for in the meantime he had driven up to Fan's and taken the letter with him, to her; and she sent it on to me.

Fan said that he said he and Vida had signed it freely; and he did not want anyone to think that they had not. But why all the delay; with its consequent needless time and expense upon me is still unexplained. It does not appear to be a matter of opposition; but simply "tomorrow".

So you can see how that the time has gone for me that I would much have preferred to have used writing you. I have written you this in confidence that you will not allow it to cause any hard feelings toward Walter; and with the intention of relieving any mis-

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apprehensions in my direction, and Nell's. My one great desire is that Walter has learned a lesson of the sacredness of these matters; and that he will keep his end of the family Destiny moving in the future. If this is done, I will not mourn over this affair any more--but if not--well wait and see.

Well I have taken up about all my time and strength in this final chapter on the "release" and have not written any letter at all

As to family matters here, things have been going along about the same; George Clark and his partner have put in six 6" wells for the Government out around Chicago; and are now putting in pumps (electric pressure) on them. Allen was working with Frances' husband on his bakery truck during the spring and summer; but now has a truck and route of his own. Joe and Ariel are still in Eau Claire in filling stations. Have just had letters from them to the effect that they may not stay there so much longer. Louie is still at Walter's. Have not heard from Stephen and David for a long time.

David was on the "Morro Castle" some three years ago, and wrote me some letters while there. The editor of of local little mongrel sheet, the "Community News" asked me for something to print about this, so I gave him extracts from the letters; and am sending you a copy of the paper, with the article marked. You will doubtless find some other things therein that will be of interest; and some of them in far more detail than I could possible put them.

As for myself, I have put in the summer here in the garden. It has been awful dry and hot; and most all crops around here have been a failure. I have had to put in many hours with the hose watering; and even then some of the stuff got away from me. The 1st of Sept. the rain began, and for the month there was quite an excess over the average; but this month has been dry again, until the last day or two. We have not had any killing frost here yet; tho farther north in Wis. there has been a lot of ice; and down east there has been a lot of snow.

But I do not expect to remain here with the Clark boys this winter, tho Meda probably will. I making some plans-- not fully mature as yet for some things elsewhere. I am not talking with any one about my real intentions--not even Meda; so you will not feel slighted if I let it rest here with you. I am only saying this much to you, so that you not be too much surprised if there should seem to be undue delay in our mail at this end. I have made arrangements to have it properly taken care of till it reaches me; so you will continue to address as you have always done, unless I should advise differently.

No, I have not read the Haberman books you refer to. I was much impressed in reading the small booklets that I did get from him; and fully intended to follow him up more closely; but have simply not been able to do so. The facts are that I have quite a load of grief to bear over some of the local Anglo-Saxon affairs. They made an awful mess of things as an organization here, a few years ago; but <sup>two</sup> years ago got straightened out quite well; since when they have, growing right along. But last winter I began to find that it was honeycombed with Masonary; and that some of our local high-lights were going a long ways in condoning the accursed thing; even intimating that ~~that~~ Dr. D. had been mistaken, and gone too far in his opposition. One of the main teachers here in America is Dr. Hancock--who is a Methodist minister from near Chicago. He has been coming here once a month; and he certainly a clear teacher of the basic truths involved in latter day Israel. But last winter I learned that he was a Mason. I was very sorry for this, but did not take very strong exceptions to it at first; feeling that he was in a good place to get what he needed. Just before I made the dicoverly

I had loaned him some Zion tracts; some of which went after Masonary plenty hard. Some weeks after this, in one of the local cottage meetings that are held weekly in Hancock's absence, our local teacher (who I understand had once been a Mason) said two or three things that made it very apparent to me that he <sup>was</sup> leading back to Masonary. I spoke right out, and asked him some very plain questions. He dodged the issue mostly, but on the whole left it very clear as to where he was headed. After that I dropped out of the cottage meetings, mostly; as they are mostly held so far on the other side of town that I cannot get there.

LL:00 A. M. Friday the 26th.

I finished the foregoing about midnought, night before last; and have not had time to get at it again til now; and as it is just about mail time; I will have to stop here, and get it away.

There is much more in the line of current events here--some of which have happened this very week that I should like to tell you about in detail, but simply cannot. How I wish for the gift of brevity, such as Mark had in writing his version of the Gospel; *but* as yet I have not been able to find it.

Had a card from Lewis yesterday that he is Miami for the present but he gave no details as to wherefore or how long.

Tell Frank that I have not seen a complete report of the yacht race. It was running along for several days in the daily papers and I suppose that there was a summing up at the last; but I did not notice it; tho I was really somewhat on the lookout for it. I do not have the time to read all the details of current events as they come and go. I just scan the headlines to keep abreast of things and look for some article of summary later. In this case I missed it.

Would be glad to have you tell me something in detail about Lorina and her family. I did not get a very clear understanding from Nell about her. When Walter and Vida visited us several years ago; Vida told Meda (but Walter never said a word to me about it) that Walter was very angry with Lorina for marrying a Cuban; and would not speak to her or have anything to do with her since then. Vida seemed to be quite on Lorina's side of the controversy then; but we do not know anything of what has happened since then. Some one--I think it was Nell wrote me some time ago that Lorina was considering bringing her children to Warm Springs, Ga. next spring. Wish you would tell me in detail about her and her family, as far as you consistently can. I was in correspondence with her for some time; but it finally stopped; and I cannot remember which of us wrote last. Would like to know the details about her sick or crippled child. I have no clear idea of the situation whatever. But I do feel so very thankful that you and she; as the remaining element of our family there; are pulling together.

Tel me too, about church and religous conditions there in Barto and in the American colonies generly. Has there been any real whole souled evangelistic work done there; and would you think that there is any chance of anything being accomplished along that line now.

Love and prayers,

Clarence W Crosby.

*Is Joe Roberts still in Miami, and do you have his address?*