

Tonawanda Dec 11/56

Father Dear Sir it being a rainy Morning
And not having much to do by the way of
trade I thought I would rite you a line
not being much accustomed to writing friendly
letters it is something of a task but trying
to make the best of it I commence by saying
that of all the Earthly blessings that we can
enjoy myself and Family are at the present time
in possession of. Health and next a
competence of this worlds goods to make us
comfortable, having as I do believe at the same time
a grateful feeling to my creator preserver and
generous Benefactor. Causing time to glide on
smoothly with me, one thing I knowe I aint to
have done before this time, or one of two things
either come down and see me and mother,
or ritten to you, but it has ben quite difficult for
me to get away I have not ben out of the village
but twice since I was down to your place last
April about the 16th and that was down to the
falls I had business there or I should not have
went at the present time I think it more difficult
then ever to leave on the account of there not being
but one grocery on the corner on this side of the
Creek. About two weeks ago at between 3 & 4
in the morning I was awakened by the cry of fire
I was told that Morses Grocery was burning =

And that Wm. would go next. I supposed it was impossible to save it. I come down and found my Grocery broken open and some goods out in the street and the danger all over. I soon put all things to rights again. Navigation is now closed leaving some vessels in our Harbor which proverbially is as good a worse as there is in the State we have now a Distillery nearly completed which is calculated to employ 50 or 60 men and use up 800 Bush of grain a day they expect to find 1200 Hogs at a time they have a hoppen 500 feet long built of Brick. it will increase the business of the place materially there are other improvements having been made this Season calculated materially to help the place.

I think my business has been growing better this fall and winter I am very well contented at present we have not seen a sick day in our family this summer the children go regular to school and improve very fast in their studies.

I would like to see you and the rest of the family very much, and intend to come out to your place as soon as I can be my way clear and have business down to Lockport. I would like to have you come up to Tonawanda if you could but I suppose you have stayed to home so long that it would seem almost impossible for you to undertake so big a journey. I would like to have you write me as soon as you get this. please write all the news and about all

the family to home and abroad,
it has been a long time since I heard
any thing from Eneas and Mary pleas ritte
and ritte all the news

From your Son
James W. W. W.
Forwards