

March 2002

EGBERT MARTINEAU'S LETTERS TO HIS BROTHERS JOHN AND PETER AT THE TIME OF THEIR
FATHER'S DEATH 1822

Dear Brothers

I take pen in hand to inform you of the death of our father who died 17 April. Abraham came after me the same day but I could not get there in time to see him. He died at 1/2 past 4:00 o'clock in the after noon, at which place I did not arrive until five at that same time. O who can describe my feelings, the house and family all weeping, as I sat speechless (musing insuerwng)? on the uncertainty, I said within my self, how feeble a thing is man, it is as if man is but dust and unto dust we must all return. then how necessary to be in ready nes the cold messenger but from every circumstance and from the Moravian preacher himself we may have that reason to hope that some in measure that our father met him rather as a friend than an enemy those who was present at his death said that he conversed calmly and collected but a short period before his disolution said he appeared, said Mr. Housmon as one born again. there was to have been a meeting there the very day of his funeral which was conducted with decency and good order, the vendue is to be on 13 of this instance which I expect to attend, I should expect to meet with you and Peter there. but that will be impossible as you are at so great a distance from us at present. the will runs thus our mother to have the interest of 1125 dollars per annum. the girls to have 375 each except Eleonor which gets nothing. the boys to have the same. Peter and myself, the rest of them is considered to have had an equal share with us, but Cornelius who gets 1000 dollars. Richard Connor and Cornelius are left sole executors of the will how they make out is uncertain. The farm if not sold this spring, Cornelius is to work and farming utensils are retained for that purpose.

Chatham

May 7 1822

Dear brothers

If it is not convenient for both of you to be absent at once, I wish one of you would come home. Peter has not been home in some time so it was Mother's wish to see him home this spring. To brother Peter, it is my particular request as well as my mother's if it is possible by all means come as I have not had the pleasure to see you in some time. I should be glad to know how you have fared since we parted. fate has put asunder as it

were never to meet again, but I hope that providence has watched over you for good and I sincerely hope that this may find you both enjoying good health as well as every other blessing which virtue, prudence, and integrity can besotted. I have had a recurrence of ague and fever again, so much that while I am now writing this, that I am so weak that I can scarcely write intelligibly but you must excuse my blunders. You must not let your heart go yet, do go on a little, but you have what I have not, do watch and guard your steps, a virtuous and tender brother under whose care you cannot go astray, and whose kind admonitions you can keep conscious of his brotherly kindness toward you. May you always live near him which is the wish to do of your sincerely affectionate brother. John Martino, Peter Martino.

Egbert Martino

P.S. I left home a few days ago, the family is well as your children were all well. Please write as often as convenient and I will be more to my promises and brothers.

May 7 1822

Chatham

Dear brothers

If it is not convenient for both of you to be absent at once, I wish one of you would come home. Peter has not been here in some time so it was Mother's wish to see him home this morning. To brother Peter, it is my particular request as well as my mother's if it is possible by all means come as I have not had the pleasure to see you in some time. I should be glad to know how you have fared since we parted. Fate has but summered as it