Vermontville, Sept. 15th, 1839

Dear Sis,

I received a letter from Prudence a short time ago stating that she was ready at any time to come to Michigan provided I could coax you to come also. I know not your particular objections to this country. If I did I would try to answer them.

First I would say come and see, then you would know more about the country than I can tell you on a sheet of paper.

There is a great variety of soil in the State on the Oak openings. The soil is principally sandy and sandy loam and very productive. The timbered land has a different soil, sandy loam and clay mixed together. I know of no slaty soil about in this region. The land generally has but few stone. The land generally is rolling, no mountains that I know of. The principal kinds of timber are Beach, Maple, Ash, Elm and Oak, Black Cherry. There are most kinds of timber but Hemlock and Spruce.

If you wish to know what we can raise here I can tell you that we can raise anything that will grow in York State. The soil is very good for wheat and corn and potatoes, oats, peas, beans and so on. Anything you want to raise you can. I have got some of the largest onions this year I ever saw. I think we had one for supper cut up in vinigar that filled a bowl full that held one pint jar. You need not labor under fear about what you can raise if it is only put into the ground in season and tended to. We have to go 14 miles to mill. This is one inconvenience of a new country but there is a grist mill raised 7 miles from us. It is seven miles to a saw mill but I expect we shall have one near by next season.

There has been a Canal Surveyor from Lake Erie to the navigable waters of the Kalamazoo. It runs through the center of Eaton County one mile south of where I live.

I do not know but you have heard some frightful stories about the sickness in this country. I have lived in this state three years and have not had the fever again as yet but do not know how soon I shall. There has (been) some few cases in town this season. It has been uncommon sickly in some parts (of) Michigan for the