

/ all private.

Saint Louis June 13<sup>th</sup> 1836

My Dear wife Elizabeth

After a long and tedious journey of forty eight days I arrived at the men's Grove, and a more thankfull set of men you never see, we all felt to rejoice and give thanks to god that we had arrived thus far on our journey in safety, there is three or four families in Mormon Grove they want to get away as soon as possible, there is great excitement in that region between the pro Slavery men and the Abolitionists they are killing and robbing each other as fast as they can what the end will be the Lord only knows, how thankfull the Saints ought to feel that God has given them a mountain home far a way from old Babylon, this Grove is within five miles of the Missouri River about 500 miles from St Louis I came down on a Steam Boat called the polar star in about three days, I have just got cleaned up my upper lip shavers, so to be ready to attend meeting, next Tuesday all the Elders that can get means will leave here for the East, I expect to be one of the number the Lord willing

I hope these few lines will reach you and  
little Fred in good health and spirits  
I expect he begins to talk by this time  
O how much greater the tie of a husband  
a father when they are far from them, what  
would I give could I step in and em-  
brace you in my arms this evening, could  
money hire me to stay from my family  
with the feelings I have now no never,  
were it not for the Gospel, I would  
start tomorrow morning for my moun-  
tain home as fast as steam & horse power  
would carry me, and I would try and  
see you in less time than forty eight  
days, I don't expect you will require it  
of me to write very often, as I have so  
many to write too, that when you hear  
from me through others and know that  
I am doing the best I can for you and  
the church you will be satisfied and rejo-  
ice, tell James the knife & fork he gave me  
was very convenient I always had it on  
hand while others had to hunt theirs at  
give <sup>my</sup> love to all your <sup>father's</sup> family and have a  
liberal share yourself, bid Fred for me  
and I will bid you to pay for it when  
I get home, if J. Williams will have  
an heir in this City in a few weeks by Miss  
Holman pride & pomposity must fall

now I must close my letter by wishing  
you all the comfort and peace you  
can get, I have seen Bro Howberry's  
Bro Thomas he about six feet and a half,  
high looks like a mother brood of,  
he was married a short time ago to a  
little black-eyed girl, give my love to  
John Polly Bro Howberry, Maughan Geo and  
all my Israel brethren that enquire after  
me still them to write to me, 1042  
Islington St Liverpool England.

I Remain as ever your  
affection<sup>ate</sup> Husband  
E J Benson

P.S. you will direct all my letters  
in case of Bro O. Pratt Islington St No 42  
the number is changed  
EJB