

A Letter
Written by Nancy E. Hall
To Her Sisters

Springville August 23rd 1863

My dear sister

I received your kind letter on the 21st inst dated July 26th. I was very glad to hear that you are all as well as this leaves us at the present Jesse (Ballinger) also received a letter from James (Ballinger). We was glad to hear of the good health of him and his family but was very sorry to hear he had gone into the army again. We have had an uncommon dry summer but the crops are generally good and as you would like to come out here and make us a visit to see how men get along with more women than one how they sleep with them etc and whether they use the broom stick or not I thought I would tell you. Well I wish you to understand that a man divides his time equally among his wives there is order among them (at least in a well ordered family) and the women understand it as well as their husbands and so there is no need to use abroom stick to each other. The work is also divided one or two women in the kitchen (according to the size of the family) some bake -- they work week about and some month about the others will be spinning, sewing, knitting weaving etc. We have 25 sheep and Jesse has 15 and we have realized about 60 lbs of rolls from them but we have no machine to spin them. I do my own weaving and Sarah does the spinning my babe grows fine she is a big plump girl and my tenth child she is the tithing child and belongs to the Lord her name is Julia/Esalthe and I'll put Elenora to it if James will send me a new dress for her. goods are high here calico is from 40 to 50¢ factory from 60 to 75¢ our home spun Dixie yarn is from 5 to 7.50\$ per 1 bunch and States yarn is from 7 to 10\$ tea is from 2.50 to 4\$ per lb according to the pay coffee and sugar is 75¢ per lb and other things in proportion. Wheat and corn is 1\$ a bushel oats from 50 to 75¢ Bees do very well here one of our brethren fetched two swarms from California and they took 36 lbs of honey out of one about two months ago they are the first bees we have had in Springville and the success attending them is very flattering we have everything here to encourage us peace and plenty and the best of health while civil war is raging in our once blest and peacefull and happy country but that time is past your motto on the first envelop "God save the union" caused me to reflect considerably God cannot save the union they have murdered his prophet and many of his saints and driven the rest at different times and in the most inclement weather from their peacefull and flourishing homes and now he is punishing them and bringing to pass the words of the prophet both ancient and modern and he will punish them and they will slay one another till there is few men left then at that crisis will Brigham Young step up and save what is left of the Union you had better come out here while you can for remember I warn you that Utah by and by will be the only place of refuge and thousands will be glad to escape and fly here with lives and moreover the war that is commenced in the States will not stay till it spreads over the whole earth Joseph Smith prophesied concerning this war in every (the next word is illegible-mintill?) 20 years before it took place and it is a mystery to me how any person will try to disprove his being a true prophet my testimony to you is that God has raised him up in these last days in the fulness of times to restore again to the people of the earth the only true and everlasting gospel and to gather them into one fold "and he that believeth and

is baptised shall be saved but he that believeth not shall be damned" he the prophet has been the means in God's hands of saving thousands and millions of his fellow beings and bringing them to the knowledge of the truth and at last he sealed his testimony with his blood and it calls loudly from the blood stained escutcheon of the state of Illinois for revenge for the cold blooded murder of two of her most loyal citizens and they who would "save the Union" but they not let him now they see and must take the result it is now turning on to their own heads they will have mobs and murderers and every thing done to them as they have done to the Saints until the wrath of the Almighty shall be appeased dear sister you may think I am zealous I am and it is in a good cause I am not ashamed but proud to call myself a Latter Day Saint and though we are a mocked and derided people the scale will turn and we shall be at the top of the heap then the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem and all shall know the Lord from the least to the greatest and if they know the Lord they will also know his people but before that time comes there shall be wars and rumors of wars and every mans heart failing him with fear famine and pestilence and the sword shall stalk through the land and cut off the inhabitants thereof and there will be few men left James speaks as if that time is fast approaching for he says there is women enough to wear a wooden man out well by and by they will be glad to flock to the peaceful vales of Deseret like doves to their windows and seven women will take hold of one man saying "we will eat our own bread and wear our own apparel only let us be called by thy name to take away our reproach dear sister I dare say people generally see pretty hard times back where you are but I tell you it is only a drop to a bucketfull it is only a commencement to what will be if you stay there you will see the time when you'll wish yourself in the only place of retreat there will be left you can set that down as a prophecy for every man's hand will be against his neighbor and a person's own household shall be his worst enemies.

Know this that every man is free
To choose his life and what he'll be
For this eternal truth is given
That God will force no man to heaven.

He'll call, persuade, direct him right
Bless him with wisdom, love and light;
In nameless ways be good and kind
But never force the human mind.

Freedom and reason make us men
Take these away, what are we then?
Here animals, and just as well,
The beasts may think of heaven and hell.

May we no more our powers abuse
But ways of truth and goodness choose,
Our God is pleased when we improve
His grace, and seek His perfect love.

It is my free will to believe
'Tis God's free will me to receive
To stubborn willers this I'll tell
'Tis all free grace and all free will.

Those who despise grow harder still
Those who adhere, He turns their will,
And thus despisers sink to hell
While those who heed in glory dwell.

But if we take the downward road
And make in hell our last abode
Our God is clear and we shall know
We've plunged ourselves in endless woe.

My daughter Mary had heard your letter read and she sends her kind love to yourself and family and the rest of the family join with me in love to you all give my love to James and family and Sally Ann and family and I would like you to visit her and take this letter consider it to be written to you both Sarah sends her love to all and says if you wish to be at her wedding you must come this fall write soon as you get this and let us know how you get along and whether you are left a grass widow or not I would very much like you to pull up stakes and come out here while you have a good chance for I am afraid the way will not always be so clear and safe as it is now if the war progresses as it does now and it will I have written you a long letter please return the compliment for I love a good and long letter so no more at present from your ever loving and affectionate sister.

Nancy E. Hall

To Polly L. Williams
and Sally Ann Fifield