

Livington July 5<sup>th</sup> 53

Dear Henry

Yours of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst.  
is at hand. I thank you for it,  
and hasten to reply, though I can  
give you but little news in return  
The most gratifying piece of intelligence  
that I have to communicate is that  
on the evening and night of the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
we had a most delightful rain, the 1<sup>st</sup>  
that has fallen since your father  
and mother left. Suffering vegeta-  
tion has very much revived:  
the corn particularly has been  
greatly benefited & improved. It  
is looking very well now: whether  
the hemp will be brought out  
by it is somewhat questionable  
A great deal of it I know  
through the country is past re-  
demption. I was out yesterday  
evening - found all the "darkies"