Dear Sir,

Your favor of March 1816 was duly received. I hope you will not impute my negligence in not answering it before this time, to anywant of sympathy in your distresses. The loss of three of the promising branches of your family, in such a sudden and surprising manner, is an event of a most afflictive nature. Very suddenly have the dear objects of your affections been cut off. We sincerely sympathise with you in your very great afflictions, and hope that this sorrowful event may sanctify to you and to family, for your best good. May you be enabled from the heart to say, before I was afflicted I went astray, but now have I learned O. Lord to keep thy laws.

Your favor of the 10th of last month last we received on the 16th of last month by which it appears probable that Mr. Reuben Chapman and his Brother, have met with a fate similar to that of your dear Children. We hope the event will prove better than our fears.

Death is a debt to nature which we all owe and must pay sooner or later. Afflictions do not spring from the dust neither do troubles rise by chance. It concerns us all to notice the hand of God in all the dealings of his providence towards us.
The outpouring of the spirit of God has been very abundant in this town the past year, but seems at present to be in a great measure withdrawn. Congregationalists, Baptists and Methodists have been the subjects of conviction, and of hopeful conversion, in all about one hundred and thirty. About sixty of these have taken the vows of God upon them, and united themselves to the congregational church.

The year past has also been a season of uncommon mortality among us. Forty persons have had their accounts sealed up to the judgment of the great day. But while others are taken we are left the solemn monuments of divine mercy.

The democrats in this state have by great exertions, and by gross misrepresentations undoubtedly succeeded in electing Oliver Wendell to the office of Governor for the year ensuing. Parties in the house of representatives will be nearly balanced.

I hope it is that my long silence will not discourage you from writing again soon, as we are glad to receive from you as often as it is convenient for you to write. Please to present my respects to Mr. Stone, and I remain with the greatest respect and esteem your sincere friend, John Bliss.
Kind and respected friends,

Almost a year has elapsed since I received your letter which gave me the surprising and melancholy intelligence of the loss of three of your sons. Although I have not written to you before, yet I would assure you that I have often thought of you in your affliction and have felt that I could shed a sympathizing tear with you in your distress. There seems to be a melancholy satisfaction in relating our sorrows to those who appear to feel for us and can intermingle their love with ours. Kind poor indeed in the consolation which frail mortals can bestow. The alone that has wounded you is able to grant all things. Although your affliction for the present has been very oppressive, may it work out for you the peaceable fruits of righteousness. You have indeed been made to drink deep, very deep, of the bitter cup, but we are assured that whosoever the Lord loveth he chasteneth. I hope my friends you have been enabled to see the hand of a kind and merciful Father amidst the chastnings of your God. We have lately received another letter from you informing us the state of my brother-in-law and the rest of the community have long been fearful was the case, but God has, as our ways neither are his thoughts or our thoughts. It is our duty to submit to his will in all things, trials and troubles we must expect here in this vale of tears. My health for the year past has been very poor. I have been unable to do much, which has been one reason of my not writing before. I have four children, three daughters, and one son. He seems to me sometimes as though I was entirely forgotten by my friends in Dennis. So be so kind as to write soon and inform me of the welfare of your family, and my acquaintance to inform me if Hannah Sluice, and the others are still living, if they are do be so kind as to present my love to them and tell them I wish much to receive a letter from them. I would inform you that Mr. Baker's widow has lately been married to my uncle Titus Baker. He is twenty years the eldest. So present my love to your family and compliments to all enquiring friends. I hope Sir you will write again soon and you will confer an obligation on your sincere friend, Sally Bliss.
Jollimott's
April 12, 3

Nathan Stone Capt. P. M.
Dennis
M. E. M.
Dear Sir

Your favor of March 1816 was duly received. – I hope you will not impute my negligence in not answering it before this time, to any want of sympathy in your distresses. The loss of three of the promising branches of your family[^40], in such a sudden and surprising manner, is an event of a most afflictive nature, Very suddenly have the dear objects of your affections been cut off. We sincerely sympathise with you in your very great afflictions, and hope that this sorrowful even may be sanctified to you and to your family, for your best good. My you be enables from the heart to say, before I was afflicted I went astray, but now have I learned O Lord to keep thy Laws

Your favor of the 18th of Jan^y las we received on the 17th of last month by which it appears probable that mr Reuben Chapman and his Brother, have met with a fate similar to that of your dear Children. We hope the event will prove better than our fears –

Death is a debt to nature, which we all woe and must pay sooner or later Afflictions do not spring from the dust neither do troubles rise by chance. It concerns us all to notice the hand of God in all the dealings of his providence towards us – [next page]

The outpouring of the spirit of God has been very abundant in this town the past year, but seems at present to be in a great measure withheld – Congregationalists, Baptists and Methodists have been the subjects of conviction, and of hopeful conversion in all about one hundred and thirty. About sixty of whome have taken the vows of God upon them, and united themselves to the congregational church. –

The year past has also been a season of uncommon mortality among us. Forty persons have had their accounts sealed up to the judgement of the great day. But while others are taken we are left the spared monuments of divine mercy.

The democrats in this State have by great exertions, and by gross misrepresentations undoubtedly succeeded in electing Oliver Walcott to the office of Governor for the year ensuing Parties in the hosue of Representatives will be nearly ballanced — I hope Sir that my long silence will not discourage you from writing again soon, as we are glad to receive letters from you as often as it is convenient for you to write Please to present my respects to Mrs Stone

Sir I remain with great respect and esteem your sincers friend

[^40] Three of the sons of Nathan & Patience (Baker) Stone were lost at sea off Salem, on 9 Dec 1815: Jacob (b. 11 Sep 1793), Moses (b. 8 Aug 1795), and Abial (b. 12 May 1805). They are listed on their mother’s gravestone in Dennis Village Cemetery.
P.S. My Mother wishes to be remembered to you and your.

Kind and respected friends

Almost a year has elapsed since I received your letter which gave me the surprising and melancholy intelligence of the loss of three of your sons. Although I have not written to you before, yet I would assure you that I have often thought of you in your affliction, and have felt that I could shed a sympathizing tear with you in your distress. There seems to be a melancholy satisfaction in relating our sorrows to those who appear to feel for us, and can intermingle their tears with ours. But poor indeed is the consolation which frail mortals can bestow. He alone, that has wounded you is able to grant all things. Although your affliction for the present has been very grievous may it work out for you the peaceable fruits of righteousness. You have indeed been made to drink deep, very deep, of the bitter cup, but we are assured that whomsoever the Lord loveth he chasteneth. I hope my friends you have been enabled to see the hand of a kind and merciful Father amidst the chastenings of your God. We have lately received another letter from you informing us of the suppo[torn] loss of my brother in law and the rest of the crew, at[orn] we have long been fearful was the case, But Gods will[torn] are not as our ways neither are his thoughts as our thoughts. It is our duty to submit to his will in all things. trials and troubles we must expect here in this vale of tears. My health for a year past has been very poor. I have been unable to do much; which has been one reason of my not writing before. I have four children, three daughters, and one son, my youngest, is six months old. It seems to me sometimes as though I was entirely forgotten by my friends in Dennis. Do, Sir, be so kind as to write soon, and inform me of the welfare of your family and my acquaintance do inform me if Sarah Howes, and Mrs Kezia are still living, if they are do be so kind as to present my love to them and tell them I wish much to receive a letter from them. I would inform you that Dr Baker’s widow has lately been married to my uncle Titus Baker[41], he is twenty years the oldest. Do Sir present my love to your family and compliments to all enquiring friends. I hope Sir you will write again soon and you confer an obligation on your sincere friend

Sally Bliss

41 There was a Titus Baker, b. ca. 1858, the son of Samuel Baker & Patience Ryder of Yarmouth. Titus Baker Jr. of Tolland CT. who m. 30 Dec 1784, Keturah Baker of Yarmouth (1764-1814; d/o of Heman & Temperance (Baker) Baker). It is likely the last one is the one to which she refers in this letter. But has not been determined.