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My Dear friend

Your kind letter I received on the second. The communication you make me of your residence being in our neighborhood and that you are more agreeably situated is a great pleasure to me. We can meet more frequently and converse on the subject of our great Almighty Father that has diffused his Bountys so liberally over our Country, whould we were more thankfull and kind to each other. I am pained that that in the space of half a year after raising the sallery [salary] of Miss Bach[?] for her good conduct she should have been permitted to leave us without an acknowledgement. A society of Ladies how carefull they out [ought] to be not to risk a sensure. Let us my friend govern our minds from bitter feelings. We are directed in Holy Writ to cultivate that but of virtue Charity and we whose sole motive is the care of the Orphan child.

I have passed the Ohio & Mississippi up to the falls of St. Anthony nineteen hundred miles from Pit[t]sburgh bordered with fine wood and soil. It is the country for the poor, there prayers are like a flour garden. Many flours are cultivated and the soil so free from stones and stumps that [after] one ploughing the seed can be put in. One dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. For those that have the means moving is lucrative. My Eliz has been a good deal indisposed. I hope a few days she will be enabled to go
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to the Wisconsin. On its opposite shores the Indians have their possessions. My heart aches for them sullen with w[h]iskey doing them every injury. W[h]at sins as a nation have we not to repent of. I shall remain untill September in this Country.

Let me my good friend let me hear how the finances of our society stand, and what Improvements in the town have taken place.

My Idea as to the Acco[m]odation in case of disease for my daughter was to have hired a portion of one of the Building as I had paid liberally so that it would not have been a disadvantage to the society. A part of the former house was let as a store and their must have been persons going to and fro during the yellow fever. I hope our city will be well. I am in good Health. Remember me to the Ladies, particularly my Pastor[']s Lady, Mrs. Cliborn and Mrs. Walsh. Will burn? this. Yours with the greatest affection. E. Hamilton.

July 11th, 1837, Gelena [Galena].

[Integral address]:

Free W.S. Hamilton
P.M. ____ N.Y.

Mrs. Maria Montgomery
Broadway 775
New York

[Postmarked Galena/July/14]