

Lillehammer 19th November 1876

Dear Brother

Your letter dated 25th August was welcome and I've read it many times. I'm happy to hear that you are well and are living a good life. I can tell you that I'm well and my life is as usual.

You say that you don't believe it's a good intention for me to go to America with this craft. You're probably right about that. I'm not yet decided about the travel. I think I'll try to stay here for a while. If God will keep me healthy and the times will be not too bad, I believe it could be possible to survive, especially if you are free. Besides I really don't want to go. So if I'm not changing my mind, I think I will postpone it as long as possible. If I go to America, I don't think I will be happy there. It can't be the same as among the Norwegian rocks and valleys. Our native country is a peaceful country. It will be hard to break away from it, especially if you feel love for your native country. Besides I've heard so many sad happenings from America. It rather makes my inclination of America less.

I went home to our parents' house today in order to write for them. Pauline and Karl were there too. It was wonderful to be there, because they've just had slaughtering – so they had lots of meat, and soon they'll take another big and fat pig. So, right now they're living quite well and that's a real happiness for me as well. It's still hard to be tenant farmers. At home they are very doubtful about the travel, so the letter I'm writing for them this time is totally different from the last one. Pauline says that if she could wait one more year, she may be able to save enough money for herself, and then you'll not need to pay in advance for everybody. She thinks that will be too hard for you.

9th November I enjoyed the wedding party for the woodworker Elias Jensen who is employed at Hannestad. They were celebrating at the Listad Hall. We came at 05:00 in the morning and started to dance at 07:00 in the evening. Then we were dancing all the night until 05:00 in the morning. There were many people and much fun. I can tell you that Hulda Larsen got married to a man named Haaland. They have restored the northern part of the main house at the farm, and now they've started their trade. Christian Dahl and Bernhard Stalberg are shop assistants. I have greetings for you from August Eriksen, but Oluf Svenserud is in Christiania again at the moment.

From Lillehammer there's not much news to tell, and there's nothing else to tell, therefore I'll finish my writing for this time.

Greetings to our family and friends,
but most of all from you dear brother Christian