For most of its history the United States of America has held out to would-be settlers from Europe the promise of a new start—the opportunity to begin again and achieve prosperity, if not wealth, free from the social and economic restrictions of the Old World. For many who left their country of origin the dream became a reality; for many more, one set of trials and difficulties was exchanged for another. Such seems to have been the experience of William Tatters, the writer of the bulk of the letters in this collection. Financial security always seemed to elude him; whenever it appeared to be within his grasp, a disaster of one sort or another, climatic or economic, would snatch it away again.

William Tatters was born in the village of Dufton in the English county of Westmorland on 14th May 1815. He was the third in a family of four sons and two daughters. His father, also called William, was born in 1785 in the parish of Alston, high in the windswept Pennine mountains, but had moved to Dufton, some twenty miles to the south, sometime before 1803. In 1811 he married Jane Ion whose family had lived in Dufton since the seventeenth century. The hills around Dufton in the early nineteenth century were the centre of an extensive mining industry based on various metal ores. William Tatters and the three sons whom Jane bore him seem to have combined mining with small-scale farming.

The Dufton Tatters had relatives in the east of England. Their father’s sister, Mrs. Elisabeth Humble, lived at Seghill, north of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Her sons were miners, presumably on the
Northumberland and Durham coalfield. It appears that for some time before he emigrated William Tatters lived in that area. When Jonathan Tatters wrote from America in July 1849 he sent regards to "Brother William at Newcastel." It seems likely that William met and married his wife Catherine there. She was apparently a widow with two sons John and George, for although William sometimes calls them his sons, he also refers to them as his stepsons, a relationship which is confirmed by the fact that they are not his legal heirs. It is likely that the daughter Isabella was the child of both William and Catherine: she was obviously some years younger than John and George and her name was a common one in the Tatters family.

Of the fourteen letters in this collection, the earliest is from Jonathan Tatters, who emigrated some months ahead of William. This is the only letter of Jonathan that survives. He seems to have made no attempt to get in touch with his brother in North America and did not write again to his relatives in England until seventeen years later. There is no suggestion that he was married when he left England. In 1866 he was "living and well."

Two of the letters are from friends of the family. One is addressed to William Tatters by an old friend from Westmorland named Joseph Parkin, in response to the former's request for information about Jonathan. The other is probably to John and Elizabeth Tatters in England from John Nixon to whose son Thomas they are evidently godparents. Despite his hardships—the death of his wife and baby—John Nixon is clearly becoming a prosperous and respected member of his community. He proudly recounts how he was elected Justice of the Peace and now performs marriages. His success contrasts with William Tatters' struggles.

The remaining eleven letters are from William Tatters. One is to a friend, John Willan; the rest are to his mother, brothers and sisters, and after his mother's death to his surviving brother and sisters. They span the years 1849 to 1871 and much of their value lies in the fact that they appear to constitute a complete set. The reason for the abrupt end to the sequence is not clear. Christopher and Isabella Tatters to whom the later ones were sent both died in 1876. It may be that their sister Sarah outlived them and the letters passed to her and then to her daughter Mary (who married in 1875). Alternatively they may have passed directly to Mary along with various other letters and old bills relating to the Tatters family. The family Bible also came into Mary's possession. There is another family Bible, belonging originally to John and Elizabeth Tatters, which is still owned by one of their descendants.
The two earliest letters were written on single sheets of paper, folded and sealed with sealing wax. All the later ones seem to have been sent in envelopes. None of the writers uses any punctuation and the spelling is haphazard. In editing them I have added minimal punctuation and capitalized the first letter of sentences.

July 10th 1849

Dear Mother Brothers and sisters

I wright this to Let you know that i am well at present hoping that these fue Lines will find you all in the same. We started from Liverpool on the 28 day of April and we had a plesent pasege but I was very sick abought 3 weeks. We wer on the sea 28 Days and we had a good Captan and mate. Three Hundred and sixty pasengers besides the salers and we wer all clean. We Landit at Newyork. We found Thomas Hind in Newyork and he keepes tavern but his wife [is] dead.

We stopot with him and found our selfs. Thomas is coming home in the fall to westmorland. We took our pasegs from this place to Pittsbourg for 10 Dollars a pece and we stopot at Philadelphia 2 days and it is the first place i have seen yet. We were 9 Days from Newyork to Pittsbourgh. We [illeg.] When we Landed at Pittsbourg we croced the Mamangahela to a place caled Birimham. There we found old Adem Crag and he Lives with Robert Brown his son in Law. We wer with them one week. The river is so Low we could not get down it to the place of our destanation. We will stop hear until Fall. We expect to go to work in abought a week. William Brown and George and his Wiffe is gon [to] see there unkels Abraham Parker and Joseph Allen. I pheal all well. I would have wrote [to] you souner But I have ben sick and I thought it would be better not to wright until i got better. . . . my sickness was sumthing Like the smal Pox. But i am now as well ever. I onely had a very slight tuch of it. I was at John Hodgson when i was sick and they used me very well. Thomas Hodgson Feamely is all well. Thomas is maried and Lives at home. He maried Jane Jonstan. They have one chield. Hanah is Maried and Lives abought 30 miels from them. She maried an english man from Cumbaland. 1 Christopher and John Both maried American Ladys. Christopher has 3 Childin. John has 1 child. Elizbeth is dead and the rest is all Living at home. They are all very much alltred. The old man and old Woman begun [to] Look old and Brock down. They Live abought 6 miels up the managahela river. John Lives 12 miels up Christopher 50. John is keeping shape and dowing firstrate Bausnes and Lives in stile and he has got a very Nice Littel Woman for his wife. He is quite a stedy man and Class Leder in the Methodist Church and quit a gentleman. I have seen William Porter and he has a wife and five Childedring and they are dowing mideling Well. Brother John when i got into this Country every thing Looked strange and most of things has fresh Names. When i wright a gane I will give you more pirtickelers so no more at present. Give my respects to Brother William at Newcastel and george William famely William Ion and John Nixon and Thomas Teasdel and george stevand? and Hanah and Thomas Grame and all inquiring frends. Mr John Hodgson requested me to send his respects when i sen him Last to all his friends accentances and Well Wishers. He told me to tell his friends that he was glad to hear sum things and sory to hear sumthings. He sade he was sory to hear that
sum had Lost there partners in Life. This is right the Lord giveth and the Lord
takes aways and Blesed be the Name of the Lord. But unforthanetly sum of my
respectit friends has ben deceived by sum Base [villain] not worthy of name. He
says all he can say abought is is this be it so and Let others Learn from this as
they have Learned from sad experience. He says he dose not know whet is the
resan that non of his friends send him a Letter. He intends wrighting wonce a
gane to his friends. Old England send me answer as soon as this comes to hand
and I will wright a emeadatly. Excuse my hand.

Jonathan Tatters

Oct 14 1849

Direct W Tatters West Greenville Mercer County Penselvana, North America
Dear Mother write soon as we here the Chulera is Bad. After a long silence
this comes to Inform you where we are and how we are. We are all well at
present but Cathrane she has a bad Cold but she is some beeter now and we hope
this will find you all well. I would wood have wrote sooner but we could not get a
selling place. After we got to montreall we took steambaot to Toronto in
Cannada. We staid one day there the hottest day that ever we stood in our lives.
You know nothing about heat in your Country. Then we took steamboat one
hundred miles for sixpence a peice to near the falls of Niagra. Then we took
railway 8 miles and went close past the falls but we could not see very well. They
went to fast but it is one of the greatest wonders that ever i saw. I should like to
have stoped a day but time and money was going then so we took the boat again
for Bufflo on the free side of the water but you would says that you had landed
on a land of savages. Wich of them was to take us away? They begun to take our
luggage away so i had to be free to and make them stand back because they are to
[illeg.] take you in. They are from all parts of the world and the bigest devils in
the world. You have to look sharp or els you would loss both money and lugage
in a short time. Then we took steam boat for Cleveland in the state of Ohio.
Then we [took] the Canla [(Canal)] 90 miles to a place called Youngstown and
landend there. After been a 11 weeks on our jurney and just one night on shore
you may think we were prrety well tird of travling all by water but 8 miles. But
our sawers was not ended. We left our famelyes at the warf and went in search of
work and houses and we soon got work to get Iron stone but Could get no houses
nor lodgings. And we went about till 10 at night and got no place and then we
went back to the warfe and they were just turning our wifes and children out of
the ware house. Mine wife cried then for no one would take us in not as much as
the Barn. That was the time to try a man in a strange Country. And little money
and the Choler bad and the green gass for our bed and the Canopy of heaven for
our cover and perhaps a thunder storm into the bargain wich would wets to the
skin in 5 minets. So we started to go up and down the streets but the man took
pity on us that gaves us work and took our wives and each the least girl. Then a
welsh man took me and the boys and behaved well with us. Then there was my
Cousin2 and the other man they went to the Tavren and they were obliged to let
them stop so we all got a bed for the first night. Then we met on the morning
wick was sunday and no better prospect but we did better this day.

We got a room for ten of us and we were in there 8 weeks. And we started
work for 2 weeks but we could get neigher money nor meat So we left him and
MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY SETTLERS

lost 10 shillings. Then me and the oldest lad got about 2½ miles from that place to seek for coal. We were Pumpin at the shaft and had to pay 6"6 [6s 6d] a week for our board and lodgin. We worked about 16 days and I fell sick and was 28 days [out] of work. It was like a fever. Then after I got better we all went and got a house and we liked the place well. It was well cleared and healthy but we were not there long till the work was done. Then we went to seek coal for a farmer. I took a plate Drift to Drive at 18 shillings a fathom. We did not go far till we got a vein threw her down. Then he lost haert and gave her up and we were done. Then I started for Penselvana and fell in with John Jakues and famley from murtong³ and some People from the same Colliery as we came form and i got work there. It was on Broughhill day that i was at J Jukeus. Then I went Back to Ohio for my famley and to try to get some money for we had only got 5 dolars of money since we went to the Country and we worked for about a hundred. Well we got 18 dollars in Cash. 10 dolars he Robed hus of and the rest we had to take in Store that means Close [clothes] and wich they Charge Double price. That is the way of this Country to try to take one another in and if you want to be [illeg.] Out go to an English man he will do you in good stile. The Best way we can do to get as much money as we can and part with none if it be hard but the Paper money is half of it bad and a Stranger do not know it. There is some good land in that part of Ohio were we were in but the farmers is the bigests Slovens in the world. One half of the Crop is Dastroyed and the other badley taken Care of and as for the putting in I will give you an idea a farmer had a very fair Crop of Oats. Well he Cut it Down and in tow or three days it was in the barn and thrashed with a travling machine. If you had walked through the field you would not have agot a long for the Briers and other filth. No matter he run a plough through it and i thought he was going to clean it but my first sight was a man sowing [rye] well i thought he was gone mad so i stept up to him and asked him what was he doing. Why I am sowing my rie. I says why do not clean? it O he says i shall get a good Crop without that Trouble. That was plenty for me and that is a fair specimen of Yankey farming. And in 6 days that same rie was green and looking better than any ever i so in England. Now that farm I can get for one thoufand Dolars. Their is 53 acres of land nearly all cleared and well fenced in their fashion and well watered and no swamps and a good frame house and Barn and other Billdings sutible for the country and a healthy Country side into the Bargain. Now their is a poor mans fortune.

They can get good Crops of Indian Corn amongst the stumps sixty Bushels an acre Winchester measure. I counted the corns in one head. Their was 450 and some stalks will have tow heads. It makes good feed for swine and horses. For a man to when it well made ready. It answers the same purpose as oats meal. I like it well. Most every poorman has an acre of ground for his garden and Indian corn. Then he can keep his Cow and he will [buy] himself an open sow. He will get one for 2 shilllings and be she be 8 months. He will have a liter of pigs. Then he will fatten her and he necend not Trouble him self any father. He will soon have plenty of pigs. They will draw home when the frost set in. And he Turns his cow out to the long pasture with a beell about her neck and seek her in night and morning and give her a little salt and she will soon come home her self. You can get a very fair Cow for 3 pounds. Other 10 shillings will fetch a good one. They have got a many English? . . . here and are improeving the Brreed. Any of
the farmers will feed a cow in winter for 3 shillings a week. Horse is lighter [illeg.]... in England. But they are good workers. They prize about from 10 pound to 20 and some more. Indian corn sell 1s 8d per bushel [fruit] 1s 8d per stone. Potatoes 1s6d per bushel. It is all winchester measure. Buter is 5d per pound sugar 5d coffe 5d candles 6d flesh meat from 1½ pence to 8d. Had a good fat sine offered me for 2d per pound but we get it cheaper after. Eggs 3 [d] per doz hens 4d to 5d a peice a turkey 2s a goose 1s. But Clothing is dear and not as good. Shoes is bad if you get a pair to last 3 or 4 months you may think your self well of. All the best articles comes from England or manafactured by an English man. The Yankey is raugh and ready. If Job do not suit him he will try another no mater whether he has learned the trade he try it. There is good many of the friut kind that you know nothing about. The punkin that groes among the Indian corn some of them will get to 5 stone a peice there a are allmost like a Turnip. Ther is somthings like tatoes crabs but larger and 5 or 6 different kinds of them and nuts of every kind and peaches and apples. They will Set half there farms with fruits trees but they do not Bear well this year. And now dear Mother you will like to know how we like America. We all say well for this reason because if a man can get work half his time he will make a fair living and if he fall sick the County will keep him till he get better. Then he is not in det now. We have had a pretty hard time since we left England. Now I would not come back if i could get money to come with. We can make about 2 dollars a day the lads and me and we can get a cow and some pigs and hens and sheep. I can get a good ewe for 5 shillings. We could not get them in England but we would not incourge any to come as they will meet difficltys of no comon kind as you will se.

For part of thus better where we live is 2 miles from our work. It is an old farm house. The farmer has built himself a new one. Times was duller in America than at preset [present] and wages a good deal loer what some would expect. It is best for a famley with theas [illeg .] with our kind love to you all and Every inquireing freind.

Pittsburgh Sept 14 1850

Dear friend

I think you must have left Cramlington or you should have sent answer to my last letter or els you have not got it. We have gone to the post this last nine Months and the answer is no. We hope this will bring us a speedy return. We are all well hoping it will find you all the same but we herd that the Cholra was very bad all ara you. We think some of our freinds must have fallen victims to that dreadfull deasis. It raged around last Sumer and some this. Here we can here no account what it has done as we rote one to Cathrane feinds and Could get know answer. And Peter humble is left us and i do not know where he is so you must go doon to my Aunts at Seghill and inquire where Peter is and how all my freinds is about there and how Chathrans freinds is and where Eward Lows is Children is as we here that there father was burnt to Death at [-Hebron] 3 months after we left. And we want to know what is come of them very much and the rest of Cathrane freinds. My Aunts know them all and tell them they must write if they be living. And give our very kindest love them all on both sides and
MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY SETTLERS

Cathrane aunt at Caisdon Square Elisabeth Ramsey that was here we rote to know. John you must do this as speedy as you can. Now you will want to know what we are doing. We are diggin Coal at Pittsburgh. The lads has one board and i hase another. We dig by the Mesure but it comes to about 18 pence per ton seperated. It is 4f [(feet)] 6 inches high and we have our own props to geting and sets and the rails to lie and every thing to do the same as we had in the lead mines and all in the tin price but it is someting like the broken with you it dos not buther your hads [(hands)].

You drive your boards 8 yaads and after you have broke hew in you can bring the Most of it down with the pick. A fair man can make 4s" 6da day if he can get them out but the work is very un regular. Sometimes you will have [half] kill your self for 3 months and then thy next 3 months you will have nothing to do all most. We all of us have not made 3 pounds for 3 months this last summer. The last 2 weeks 25 dollars for is all 4s" 2d to the day. Then we shall take half of that in goods which is about 2d to the shilling. Loss flour is 16 per Stone flesh meat 2½d pound bacon 3d lb butter 10d lb Coffee 7d lb Sugar 4½d lb Tobacco 6d per pound. And we expecting flour down to a Shilling a stone soon which will bring other things a good deal down. Good Clothing is a good deall higher than with you but Common things the same as you have them. House rents runs about 2s 6d by the week. And then after you have work for it you have to go to law very often before you can get it. The money is not well payed here. Labouring men gets from 2s to 4 shillings a day and there meat. Mecanicks runs about 4s per day and some higher. But all Classes both live better and apper [appear] better than they do with you. You see no beggars. You may see people labouring under diffilcutys but you [see] non of that hard begglarly work that you have in England. If we could get our money the same way that you get it we could do we well. We are better of than we were in England. We have got a cow and pig and about 30 chickens and our house very farley set up again and allways plenty of proviseons. And we have had our health very fair but i thinks it is not so healthy as England. The weather gets to tow extremes and there is so much fruit eaten and i think it causes a good deal of sickness. But i have had my heath very well better than i had with you and i would not return to Old England to Earn my bread by the sweat of my brow. Because if a man be carefull and have his health he may someday get a homestead of his own. It is nothing uncommon here where land is so plentyfull. Land is very high about Pittsburg but down in the state of Ohio i can get good cleared land and house Included for about 24 shillings an acre. And healthy places to i can get for 5s but i would not have it. Your uncle Samuel Hodgen has one hundred acres of very fair land all Cleared and a good farm house and Barns as any you will find in England and about 3 acres of Ochard. I can have as much furuit as i like. All the Girls is married but one and lives around here. They have all done well. The old man and Woman is living Iidepressly. They got 3 thousand dollars and house and fire free for there share. They live on the farm withe John. Samuel lives close by and goes to Pittsburgh With the milk and John minds the farm and they divide the Profit between them wich is not a little. They keep 50 crows 6 horses 70 swine 30 sheep and a lot of young cattle. John says he would like to see you come to this Country and so would i if you could be fetched by Magic [Magic] but there is a great Gulf lying
betwixt us. But after you have seen my statement and Consider to come and need some money John say you shall have some and he will do every thing that be in his power for you. His is deeds not words. When we came to Pittsburg last Dec he let us have money and any thing we wanted. In short he is the best freind I have meet with. It is a nice place. Joe allan lives not far from me. He is very rich. I go to see him sometim. Old John Jaques of Marton and famley live here and work where we are and William Porter Thoms facwet and some more of our old freinds live a round here. Hodgens send there kind love to you and your farther and mother and all the rest of there friends. You must give our kind love to Armstrongs and John Trewick and any of our freinds and read them as much of it as you think and write back and let us have as much as you can as we like to here from you.

Tell William Armstrong and the rest that had a thought of coming to this country that i shall not say come or stay because people is not all alike and there is plenty of them would come back if they could get. But not me. My mind was made up before i came away and we can make a good living and i hope something more after. But some men can endure no diffucity and if every thing do not suit they do nothing but dam the country. They should stay at home. We want good hearts hear and not people that will cry for the prick of a pin. You now the man that. When you go to seghill inquire where Robert Ranson and Henery hall is. What part of america they came to and send me word.

John i shall send you a news paper one wek afther this letter and when you look at the Markets you will find all is sold by the pound or by the Measure wich is Winchester and the cent is your halfpence.

A cent is about the same as your halfpeney. 100 makes a dollar wich is 4s"2d your money and some other part of the money you will hardley understand. You may make out as well as you can.

Tobaco is very cheap 6d a pound. Spirits very low we can get it for 1s a gallon and the very best for 4s a galon. So you may Calcate to have a good smoke and sometime a little Wisky.

Cathrane sends her kind love to Jane and says she is to come and see us and little mary and stay a few weeks. She will make you a cup of tea. It is cheap here.

Give my kind love to your father and Mother and all the rest of the famley and to you and Jane. So no more at preesnt from William Tatters.

[(In a different hand)]

You must tell John Nixons and our Cit and mary we got well home. The pits started work the day before we got home. We killed the swine the munday after we got home and it weighed 20 stone. I will send our friends a letter in a week or tow when I hav time to wright. You may tell ould John Nixon the Reformers is differn amongst themselves who has to hav the highest seat. Give our respects to all inquiring friends.

Yours, John Willan
Dear Mother

I would have wrote sooner but I still expected a letter from William Nicholson. I wrote after we received yours about the first of September so now I have given up all hopes of hearing from Jonathan but the time is fast drawing nigh when he promised to meet me in Pittsburgh and by that time we shall be able to make something out about him. We are all in very fair health but the little Girl she is sickly. We have all had influensa but they know nothing about it here. It is rather a sickly time owing to the weather been so fine. We have some as hot days now as you have in summer and then very cold at nights. We have very little snow yet. Our Cow has been out nearly every day this Winter. We have got another house and about 1½ acres of land to it. I expect to keep the Cow and grow plenty of Potatoes and Indian Corn to serve ourselves and 2 good hogs. We like the Indian Corn for porridge or pancakes. It is good for man or beast and it is so great an increase 1 stalk will have from 2 to 3 heads on and some heads will have as far 4 and 5 hundred grains on and then the stalk which is from 6 to 10 feet high must be chopt to pieces for fodder. Our new place is a little farther [(farther)] of the Market by nearer hand our work. We are not working for the same man. The Company that we work for keeps a great Shop every thing both eatable and wearable and shoes to and pays about 20 English shillings in the month. We get from 5 to 6 £ pounds worths things out of the Shop and 2 pounds in money me and the lads in the Month. And when the pay is if we have angting in their hands we by something to square up because they are none of them to be trusted. These fellers has no Capitol. We have been bit. That Old Scot that we worked for last threw us 3 months out of work and we have never got all the Money yet so you see we have to pay for our learning. If we could get it in money we could save something but any way is way is better than none at all and we shall get something onto our backs. [ileg.]

Times is very dull now. There is very little Money going. A man that can get a little bit land nigh hand a good Market can do well but you can get no land about Pittsburgh under 25 pounds an acre. Then if you go 6 miles farther out into the Country you can have it for 5 £ an acre and better land. If I could get as much as would keep 4 cows I would not dig coal. I could grow a good deal more stuff than the farmers about here and Pittsburgh is a good Market. I worked for Hodgens people last last summer a bit and now I go 2 days in the Month to get them there fire coal. They have a pit of their own close to the houses. They have taken a farm joining their own and they want me to go and live at it and be Cow keeper but it can get no work likely for the lads or I would go. They want to learn some of the English Agriculture. At this day I often give them a lecture on cow keeping and farming and I think they will take My advice. They are tow pushing chaps but then you bear in mind that Agriculture is five generations back but learning is up with you and More so because they provide better schools free. Every State gives so much land for free Schools and we can have books and papers as cheap as you have them. We know all your great affairs about every 2 weeks. We here of that great fair in London then you shall have some Yanky specimens. Their is a fellow in Pittsburgh going to bring a Clock that will go One year without winding up and another has invented a Machine to milk Cows and a host of
Others things wich you will hear at the fair. The Jaques is going to Wisconsin in May to the leads mines and the Eldast is Coming back to Murton. He does not like this Country. There is a great many comes that would Come back but they are unstady and thinks they will get money without work but the american Markets is glutet with that Class. So the rest may stay at home for it takes Steady penevering men because every thing is new to them. Then if all does not go right then dam the Country we'll not stay here. There is about 20 men come back to England and my Cousin. I here he is in Seghill again but no matter he is not not of the right stamp. Whiskey is to cheap it ruins many a bright fellow here. I had a letter from John Willan. He says the Coal works is a good deal better since we left. John Hodgen and me wants to have a newspaper from Carlile or kendal. It will only cost you a penney post Aand i will send you a Pittsburgh paper. And when you send it if you are all well make tow marks oo and if any of you is bad set tow xx and i will do the same but it must be where no one will take notice or they will fine you. There is 1060 Emegrants landed at Sent Louis from California last week. That is where Jonathan started from when he went. They bring 80 thousand Dollars worth of Gold Dust. There is not very good news from the Gold regions now. The Cholra is very bad. I should like to here wether William Likkle is with Roper or where he is and what account form the Leadmines as i do not here much about them here. There is no Leadmines in this state. It is all coal and Iron. I bought a very good swine for 2s per stone. It has been high this year and a Quarter of beef for 16 pence per stone but fesh meat is dear. It was a bad hay year and people Makes all into beef they can before winter comes on. Their was many a good cow sold here for 20s and for 30s a peice but we bought 100 stone of hay at 5d per stone and it is now in the week Candelmas and we 80s stone of it and we get 3lb of buter yet and she Calves in May. Butter is a shilling a lb flour 16 per stone and there is the rot among the Pottatoes very bad in some places. We got some we could not eat and there is no peas but a little white bean which boils very well. We expect these few lines will find you all well and Sarah you never mention her in your letter. Give our kind love to them and tell us if they have any famley and what more John has and if there be any thing new at Dufton. Since i started to write this letter we had 3 days the hardest frost that ever i felt in my life. We were nearly froze owt of the house and every thing we had to eat was froze. The eggs as soon as they were laid all cract to peices and when we went to the well it would friese our hands to the bone. Write soon and i will write as soon as i here thing form Jonathan. Our kind love to you all and all inquiring freinds.

So i remain your affconate son William Tatters

Potosi 6th of April 1851

Dear Friend [(William Tatters)]

Your letter came to hand on the 5 of April requesting to know where your Brother Jonathan Tatters is. He started to California two years a go. I have not heard from him for six months now. He was well and doing well the last account I heard from him. I supose that you are A quented with John and Thomas Nicholsons. They went to California two years a go. Joshua Liddle went one year a go. If you should see Frank or William Porter tell them that Mother would like to hear from them. You can right to me if you please and let me know
how my friends are are at Pittsburgh from Duffton and Knock. If I here any
thing more from Jonathan I will in form you of it in a letter.

yours Respectfuley,
Joseph Parkin
Potosi Washington County Mo

NB while I was finishing this there was Company came in and said they heard
that Jonathan Tatters is going to come back next fall.
J P

July 14th 1851

Dear Mother

We are very well in health but Cathrane had a sick bout a while since and she
is not so strong and the heat has been very hot and bad to bide. I hope this will
find you all well. We received the newspapers about 1 month back and you will
see on the other side of this what i have sent you this for as Thomas Jakues
would tell you all and i hope the garden stuff that i sent you is all comed up
as ours is all up. The corn we planted on the 14 of May is most of it 7 freeet high
and shuten. I have the best crop any way a round here. If it do well we will have
60 [illeg.] and we set 5 bushels potatos and they are looking well. We have been
taking up this 2 weeks but very little hay it has been so dry. We had very little
rain this 5 months the pastures is that burnt up. Butter rose to 1s 6d per lb last
market day. It was 6d before. We have our cow to take in to get her bely filled.
We have done very well this last 6 month but we are of now and is likely to be of
for some time but we have been geting our winter coal. We have a pit of our own
200 yards up a steep hill from the house. The lads runs them down with little
sleds and a boy. We have 8 ton lying at the door and some more to run
down. But John and mee is going to get hodgens people their winter Coal and
help them with the harvest. Wheat is nearly all cut here. They have had a good
deal of sickness out at Hodgens but they are coming round again. John wants to
know how their freinds is and wher they all are. You never sent me word where
William Liddle was and how he was doing. I would like to know. Jakues went
out to Mercer County but they think they had better staid here. I had a letter
from them on saturday.

We should leike to see you all but were are far better of here. We have our
trials as we as in the Old Country but this is a better place for a poor man. I had
10 shillings bid for this next winter and my meat a week. I would not go under
13s and be my own master. It is to be cow boy for Hodgen. I hav avreged 4£ 10s
per month this last 6 months. I think a have worked 20 days in the month but i
would not advise any one to come. Let them come on their own bottom as i did
and then they will have no one to blame. There is very good crops of wheat as far
as i know and flour is 12s 6d per balle 196 lb weigh. Give our kind love to sarah
and her man and all our feinds and to Jhn and Bety and children.

I will send a paper with this. We have got a post office nigher here W Tatters
Temperanceville neear Pittsburgh Pa North America.

Write soon and let me know how you are coming on as i let Jhn Hoden have
the Kendle paper and it got lost. So i want to know how all is going on. I shall not
write till i here father ffrom Jonathan withou some thing hapens. So now we all
send our kind love to you all.
William Tatters
Isabela\(^1\) want to know how little Mary\(^2\) is and if she got the silver coin.

\[Feb 9th 1855\]

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\begin{align*}
[Illeg.] & \text{ Wllam Tatters} \\
[Illeg.] & \text{ health hoping it will find [Illeg.] September after i received [Illeg.] never received any answer [Illeg.] just after but never heard any more of them. Perhaps your letter was lost in the Arctic SteamShip as all the letters were lost. But I am getting very uneasey as England seems in a very disturbed state about the war.}^{15} \\
& \text{ I thought perhaps they had got Christopher away as i see they are raising the Milita and you were complaing about hard times in your last. Indeed I Could hardly tell what to think but you must write as soon as you get this. Let us know all about it. I am going to leave here about the Middle of March and the famley will come about the 20 of April or as soon as i can get a house built on that bit of land that we bough. I was at it 10 days since and has hired a man to make rails and cut logs for the house. There was a house on the place but the other man got it so we must have some place to liveing in. But it will come very hard on us as we have made very little since last May and we are now out of work. But we must go to it or it will go to ruin. There is 12 acres of ours in Cultivation and 2 acres in Meadow and ther rest in woods which will in a fewe years be worth all that we hav to pay for it. We pay 3 pound an acre for it and we have payed 1 third and have 2 years to pay the rest with intrest. Their is 10 acres of coal on it which we shall work in the Winter for Country Sale but i would not have bought had i expected the the times been so hard. Yet i can sell it without losing anything by it but still we think to try it end [(and)] where it will nothing ventur nothing have. And now for ther hard times last sumer was one of the Droughtys that has been for 30 year back and the river Dried up and the Cattle had to be fed from August and no work at our trade nor very little at any Other. Then in the fall when every thing is brush the bank began to fail and in 3 months 50 banks then all the Publick stoped because no person [illeg.]\(^6\) perhaps good to Day [illeg.] got Gold and Silve you [illeg.] their teethe and then [illeg.] rivers up and then stop. [illeg.] we had 2 weeks open weer an. [illeg.] working time their has been since last May about 146 days and now every thing is at a stand still and has been this 2 weeks. And now the thermoniter is often 26 Degrees below zero and the rivers all tight froze up and likely for some to come. And Flour at 9 Dollars a barrel and potatoes 6 shilling per bushel Winchester Mesure and all other things Accordingly. And Some thousands out of work and not a penney left so you may have some idea what Starvation and Misery in this plentufull Country. If this holds on much longer i do not know what will be done. The high rate of Provisions is caused by the war principle because if their had not been so much Shiped to England it would not been so Scarse here. So God help the poor for it is on them that it falls. We have had no account from Jonathan and i have seen a good Many from Callifornia but never can here any thing from him. And we never have any newes from Missouri now so if you can give me any news from Either of these places i shall be gratefull. And i wrote in my last that you were to give my kind love to all my old freinds so now i shall wait anxiously for an answer. Hodgens Famley is all well and Thomas Hodgn famley were all well
\end{align*}
\]
the last time I saw them. Joseph Allen and Famley is all well and them is all the
Dufton people that I have any acquaintance with here. John is married and
George is withe and Isabella is going to school and I have been building a
wagon and must have a horse soon. You must give Cathrane and my love to
Sarah and man and John and Betey and little Mary Christopher and Isabela
and all inquiring friends. Direct the same till I tell you so more at present. From
your affectionate son William Tatters. Besure to write as soon as you get this and
then I shall get it before I go away.

Farewell

Newcastle Jan 10th 1858

Please write your letter on a smaller sheet of paper
as they charge me double letter cost

Dear Mother Brothers and Sisters
This leaves us all well hoping find you all the same. We received your letter
last Spring and we were very glad to hear that you were all well and we hope
Mother’s knees is better. Wee have all been very weell but Cathrane she had a
bad fit last year about this time. We have a very Open Winter now. We had a
hard spell in November. It froze nearley down to Zero. We lost some of our
Potatoes. There was a good deal of Potatoes and bucking wheat out at the time.
You will want to no what buckwheat is. It is a grain that is sown in July and it
grow up 2 feet high with strong stem and leaves on and the grain being in little
tassels at the top it must stand to get a little frost. It contistute the winter food of
all the Norht part of this Country. It is made into flour like wheat and sells for
about 14 pence per stone. It is like Corn look for the blaed. We do not raise any. I
trade Coal for it. We had fair Crops. We had 40 bushels of Wheat Winchester
measure say 50 bus of ry 30 of oats and about 150 of Indian corn 30 of
P[otatoes]. 2 bushels of small white beceans for by the Garden stuff. We killed 4
hogs. Perhaps they weyed 15 stone a pease. I think we can live till harvest again
with some Groceres and Clothes. Hard as times is we are thankfull for what we
have as it will keep us from starving. I am a fraid some will starve this weinter.
Now we have 2 Cows 3 last sumer Calves and the Mare 4 Sheep and 4 hogs to
keep over year. I sold a yearling Tup last sumer for 3 pound. I Cliped 9 pound
of Wooll of him. I have Ewe lamb when 5 months wigh 110 lb. We sold 2 Cowes
and one heifer. We paid 18 pound of the Det and the Intrest and we still Owe
42 pounds which is Due 1th of April which I no it will be impossible to pay way
the times is. If we were to sell all of it would not fetch More than half but
perhaps I need say no more as money Matters is bad with you to. I have it
bowered of Joseph Allen. I was up before Christmas he says not to put myself
about but he is getting an Old man and my note might fall in Other hands. But if
I fall I will Catch at twig. I might as well State he wants to hear from Richard
Allen and all the rest. You had better tell him to put a few lines with yours. He
behaves the very best with me and I must try to keep him in tune. There are well.
There Childring is all Married now and he has lots of Grand Children. I shall
likeley see them soon as going to Pittsburgh for some sheep that Joseph Hodgen
is going to Give me some own shares.

You will want to no how that is. Well I am going to get 4 Ewes evry year. He
will get half the wool and half the lambs and I get the half for there keep and if
any of the Ewes Dies he losees it and when i am tired of keeping them he gts the old ones back. If i have luck i shall soon getting into one of best kind of sheep skoks there is in this Country. Hodgens People is all well. Old Malley Hodgen is Creeping down the hill very fast now for the Coal it is about 27 inches thick. We go in at the Out burst and takes a drain about 18 inches deep to take the water from us. Then we take some of the top down as it is to low. Make 2f 9I and we ly inch boards down and nails lath on the inside. We have a little waggon. It will hold 5 cwt. It costs 2£ pound. Now we are nearly 5 miles from Newcastle. I can go 2 times a day When the roads is good but that is not very Often for Our roads is made of the Clay and soil so in weat wether we cannot do much. We have done very little this Winter yeat. If it comes about 6 inches of Snow then we Should all go with Sleds. That is the buisyest time of the year. People dose all their Cartin on Sleds. That is the time we sell Coal. I take 12 hundred weight. I get about 4s 6d of your money or the value of that in some kind of goods but we have sold very little this winter and we seldom se money.

What we sell at the pit we sell by Measure but it comes about 4s 2d per ton. Last Winter we made very little. One of the rolling Mills was burnt Down and they suply the town with the Coal they would have burned in the mill. NewCastle has about 7000 inhabnts and still inCreasing and there is a railway coming right into the town. Then we shall trade with all parts of the State. We still keep make some improvments. We built a log barn 40 feet long 20 wide with 2 partittions in it one for buire. It will 6 head loft above for hay them a mowstead that will about 400 Dozen of wheat and oats or rey then there flour 20 wide 13 long plank floar but no doors to it yet then stabling for 3 horses mow for hay and Cleared some more land. Built a little kitchen to the house last winter. Had 6 head cattle of mare and 12 sheep and sold 3 ton of hay this Winter. Spare 4 ton of hay and can keep them in good Oder if we had it payed for we can live without diging Coal. I feel it hard work diggin Coal and farming hard work. Maks me look Older. George is away diggin Coal. Isable up to a woman. John he has a wife and 2 Children. You must send my best respects to Sarah and Famlley and John and Famlley. And Dear Mother I Should like to see you all once more but perhaps it will never be. We never here anything from Jonathan. I do no what to think about it. So now our kind love to all of you and all inquiring Frends your Affceonate son. Wright back by return Post.

William Tatters

Eden Vale August 15th 1858

Dear Friends

I now rite to you to inform you a little how we are getting on. You would conclude that I had forgot you but we have been in an unsettled state. We are all very well in health thank God and I hope these lines will find you enjoying the same blessing. I lost my dear partner in september last as I expect you would hear. We had the bowel complaint on board the ship scarce any missed it and the doctor was very clever and I only took it the day before we landed and her that morning so we had no time for his medecine to work. We went to an english hotel of great buisness. The meat was very light cooked and that made us worse. We staid too days and then we took the railroad. There roads is very uneven and when we had traveled one day she was so done up that we thought she was going
to die so I took her out at a station and the rest traveled on. We staid there too
days but she fret so much about the children that we were obliged to follow them.
They landed the day before us at mr Caygills. Margaret was compleetly done.
She took to bed. She lay for ten days and then she got a little daughter. It was
only a seven months child and the sweetest little thing I ever saw. There had
been some misunderstanding between the doctor and me and the medecine had
been to strong. They both improved and in a month we got them home as I had
taken a house at mifflin. Margaret got that she could walk out and take the fresh
aire and the child went back and died one week before the mother. We had Got
some fresh medecine and she said it did her a great deal of good. The weather got
very hot and she dropped of when we little expected it. The girl does verry well
as regards housekeeping. They are more company one for [another] then for me.
We have had a very wet sumer frequent storms of thunder and rain. We had a
storm on last of July accompanied by hail as large as goose egs. They weighed 4
and 5 oz they weighed some at glencoe 15 oz. They fell then or they would have
cut the crops all to peices. George Nicholson lives one mile from mifflin. He has
got a nice place of 160 acres of land. They were verry kind neighbours. Him and
me took a horse and gig and traveled a week looking at different places that was
advertised to sell. It is a hilly country and the soil thin and washes verry much.
George said I was bad. To please I said I would better or none. After margarets
death I took a journey along with my cousin a distance of 400 miles to Minesota.
We found a fine level country a grate many marches with grass in abundance
and plenty of fine timber land. John Lowis and some of his neighbours had gone
there in the spring and we landed at his house in 6 days. Our rout lay for the
most part up the misissippi river. The country is compleetly new glencoe being 6
miles of a considerable place only 3 [years] old. We looked round a day or too for
what we call claims that is 160 acres of land. As I had previously taken the oath
of allegiance and was entitled there too I could not sute myself with the
unclaimed so I went 40 miles to a young Irishman that had one a mile east of
John Lowis and I [paid] 100 dolars for peaceable possefion he being at liberty to
make another claim. I left my cousin with the assistance of John Lowis to make
me some hay and as they told me there was no cattle to be got there I would
either have to buy them in the fall and take them along with us or go down east
in the spring. So I set of home and arived in less then 2 week from our starting
out. I bought 1 yoke of oxen 7 cows and 4 calves and a mare and set of with all
the haste that could be made. Edward Wilkinson going along with us we took
the stock on the steam boat along with us and as much provision and other
necesaries as we thought we would want till we got a crop of our own. And we
landed that morning a month from our first starting. On our place there was a
small cabin built so we made a rising amongst the neighbours and made us a
good one. We next built a good stable which held all the cattle it being the middle
of october when we got here. They had 2 heavy nights frost before they got the
grass cut which killed it right of which made the hay verry poor and we had
heavy loss amongst our stock. There has been verry heavy losses amongst stock
as there is a great difference in the climate. Many of them has been driven for
1000 miles. We got settled in our new cabin in the midst of timber and brush.
We could not see 50 yards from our door. There has been large fires run through
the timber some years since. Where it has run the timber has fallen and the
brush has got up hazels and all kinds of young timber. We have sithes [scythes] 2
feet long and very heavy. I can cut than \( \frac{1}{2} \) an acre a day. It stands so close that it is slender and a great height. It is an advantage as the stumps a great many of them entirely gon and the tree often quite sound. Our place is a square the lines running east west north and south. There is a large lake on the west side of us so that it fences up one side. All together we have called the lake eden\(^2\) lake. John Lowis is on the west side of the lake and Edward Wilkinson took a claim on the south side. Lowis calls his piece eden hill. [Edward] calls his eden grove and we call ours eden vale. We built our house at the northeast corner. We are on the line that divides 2 counties a road running north and south and we are 150 yards from the road that runs east and west from carver. That is the landing at the river and glenco a distance of 30 miles. There is several cities and settlements farther west and the country is selling very quick with people from nearly all parts of the world and it is amusing when you get to gether to hear how people has been taken in. Many declare the Minesota people are the sharpest they have met with yet. We had a very fine winter scare ever an hours work lost. We commenced to cut brush and timber and by the end of march we had 10 acres of land ready for the plow well fenced and 10 acres for pasture to put the cows in. In the night one of them wears a bell round her neck and they go where they please in the day time and you know where they are by the bell. We broke our land with a heavy plow that cut a 22 inches furrow and 5 yoke of oxen. We sowed 2½ acres of wheat which was a light crop which we have cut. We planted 6 acres of indian corn potatoes and a great many kinds of water melons cucumbers and other kind of vegetables all which have done very well. After we had got all that done we broke other 3 acres and sowed 2 with buck wheat and one with turnips and they both are an excellent crop. We cut the brush for the latter lot in June and set fire to it and it just burned all right of so I hope we shall have plenty of our own this year. We have heavy timber on our north line. Our meadow lays in the middle right to the lake and we have cleared right through so that we can see right over the lake. I am determined if I have my health to give america a fair trial. There is many of our neighbours that has been here 2 or 3 years and has not more then as many acres but it wont do to have 160 acres of land and buy your bread. We have plenty of maple to grow our own sugar. We formed ourselves this spring into a town of our own. It had been in with glenco. We had an election for town officers. We have got a post office at the next house. I had the bond to execute sign my name Justice of the peace and send to Washington as orderley as you please. The Justice goes by the title of esquire. Amongst other work they have got to marry any persons that think that needfull. I married Edward Wilkinson and our Elizabeth. She is still with us yet they have not gone to housekeeping. Ned was with John Lowis last winter and this summer he is down East and they intend to fix up in the fall. I rote your William a letter but received no answer. All that I could learn of Jonathan he was in california. You must be so kind as to give our kind love to henry cherry and directions to rite to us. Thomas sends his respects to his godfather an godmother. He is a fine worker and greatly improved. Mary is grown a woman and I may very soon want a housekeeper as they frequently go of before they are as old as her. John is the
most improved of any. You must give my best respects to your mother and all the family. You must excuse all blunders and write back as soon as it is convenient. We had a meeting last Sunday after noon at the post office. An old method is a good preacher. It was the first ever held in the town.

I remain yours, John Nixon

Direct Plato Post office
McLeod County
State of Minnesota
North America

Newcastle Jan 8th 1860

Dear Mother, Brothers and Sisters

We are all well, hoping this will find you all the same. We received your letter and was glad to hear from you. I am to blame for not writing oftener but I will try to do better. We have not herd anything from Brother Jonathan. I am afraid he is dead. Well we were just recovering from the money Panic when we had a hard frost on the 5 of June 1859 and another on the 10. It destroyed wheat, rice, corn, potatoes, grass, fruit in fact everything. It made the trees in woods look like fall. Our wheat was early. We should cut it by the 1 of July. We expected to have 75 bushels and we had not a peck. I cut it all up for fodder and sowed it in buckwheat. We had 45 bushels of it. We planted the corn over again but the frost came in September before it had time to be ripe. Potatoes came up again and was a good crop and took the decease. We had about 100 bushels half of them we fed to the swines the other is not so bad. We have 20 bushels of corn 25 of buckwheat and 8 bushels of wheat. I bought 15 bushels of wheat. We sown and eat the rest and some oats but very little hay it went to. I have awls [also] sold 2 hay stacks. Now we shall have hard to get through with 2 head less. I think we shall get a long till harvest but it will take us a long time to get over it. We shall never forget it. We had 2 new Calved Cowes to sell but no sale. Every one must spend their last farthing in flour. Well it got so high till none but the rich could buy it. We did not by any. We had just getting 3 bushels ground and had 3 bushels more at home but starvation look us hard in the face but after a little news come that it went in streaks and that there was no frost in the west and plenty of wheat. Down went the flour but still it has made hard times. Since that I have sold 2 steers rising 3 years old 1 cow and calf all for 12£ 1 6s of your money and a fine 2 year old steag of 8£ and my old mare wore out and we had to get another. So we have a good mare 7 year old and a last spring foal out of the old mare 3 coves 1 yearling and 1 2 year old and 6 sheep. And we have done a good deal at the house and the place and are in debt 28 pounds at Joe Allen. Joseph Allen behaved very well at the time of the frost. I had got a little money to give him a long with the interest. He did not want to take it and John Hodgen would have give me money but I did not take it. He made me promise that if it was hard with us to send him word and he would send me some money. He expected to have 300 bushels of wheat but it all went. Mother I am very thankful that I have good freinds. It is both a credit to you and me but I hope that we shall not need them. The lads is both mayerred and gone so there is nothing but Isabell left and English boy that we took in nearly 2 years ago. He has no mother. His father gives us a little for keeping him. He thinks we are his
parents. I have not seen Joe Allen since last July but i was at his son Joe 2
months back and he said they were all well. He lives 17 miles from us.

He has 500 hundred acres of land. They were very kind with me. I am glad
Mother is quiet working it is time.\textsuperscript{21} If it had not been the frost i did not intend to
work so hard in winter but i am diggin Coal and trade it round for any thing
usefull. I have learned a little of the Yankey nessesety is the Mother invention. I
can do a deal of little things such a Carpenter work and Blacksmithing. We are
not so nice rough an Ready Country this. In your next letter give me my age out
of the Bible.\textsuperscript{22} I think mine is rong. Give my love to Sarah and husband. I am
afraid She sees hard times. You never told me what they called her. And our kind
love to Johns Famley Isabelea and Mary and Mother and all in quiring friends
and i want to know if you have herd any thing [from] Aunt Bety humble father
sister at Cramlington and Jane William and her Children and her Mother and
Father. Are they living? I shall rite to John Nixon in Mansota. So no more at
pesnt. From you son and Dauhter William and Cathrane Tatters. Isabla sends
her kind love to you all. She is up to a woman.

\textit{NewCastle July 3th 1864}

If i receive your letter i will write back.

you Direct as Before and give my love to all my old freinds

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I am well hoping this will find you all the same. I received a few lines in the 6
of June the first i have seen for the last 5 year nearly and i was afraid somthing
was the Matter. I would have wrote right away but my Dear Wife was on her
Death bed. She died on the 24 of June 57 years old the same day she Born. Was
sick for 9 months. It was a CanSwer in her boweles. 10 weeks before she died is
brok at the navel and evrything that she eat come out at that place without
Digeiting. Water would run out as she Drunk it. She was hungrey all the time. I
would not like to se any one suffer so much of hunger and pain.

She died very happy thank God for it. As she did i waited on her the whole
time. She would not let any one else for about 8 months. I got very little sleep. I
am not so strong since. I had a girl hired at 5 shillings a week to destroy things.
Isabela died on the 19 day of April 1860 and left a little Child with us very sickly
and it died 4 months after. Then it took us till 1863 to get clear of Det. Then
George was Drafted into the armey and it cost us 3 hundred Dollars to get him
of. And they were at our house at the time and one of his children died and i head
to do for it. And John got lamed in 1861 in the coalbanck and he has never been
able to work since. And we took his oldest boy but he had to go home when his
Gramother took Sick. So now i live alone. It has gone hard with me docter and
every thing els to pay and the farm stangind [standing] still. I sowed 5 acres of
wheat and it failed so i sold 2 of my cows and other things and pay all of. I think i
Shall sell the plase and all of and go back to Pittsburg. I think i will raise about
15 hundred dollars. I will stay till the fall to get the Crops of. I shall have a good
Deal of hay. You will say the is a black list. I am very sorye to here of our Dear
Mother Death\textsuperscript{23} but she was full of years. Cathrane told me Mother was Dead.
Many a time i wish Sarah had lived nigher hand. I would not sell of I would
have took a boy and a girl from her but it is so far of i feel very lonly here. They
are all stranges not one from the Same part of England that we come from and
the boys lives at Pittsburgh I hardley no what to do. I will be keept very buisey
with my hay and the little grain and to keep house. I have one cow 2 hefiers 9
sheep and an old Mare a 2 year old filley 2 pigs and few chikens. I can do all
but bake and wash. I make my own butter and for sale about 1 shilling per lb.
Everything is very high cotton shirting 3 shillings a yard tea Coffe sugar 4 what
to was 3 year since and Clothes a middling suit 40 to 50 dollars harvest wages 2½
dollars a day. Tell Sarah i wish she would give me 2 of them Children. Give my
love to her and famley and John and famley and let me no what they are all
doing. So no more at preset from your affconate
Brother Will- Tatters

NewCaStle Jan 15th 1865

Dear Brothers and Sisters

i received your letter 12 day affter you wrote it and was glad to here that you
were all well. I hope this will find you still the same. I would have written sooner
but i wanted to come to Some conclusion what to do and now i will tell you what
i Shall do God willing will sell my place as soon as i can get what i want for it
and that is 25 hundred dollars and think i shall get it some of these days. Then i
will sell all of and go and buy a good farm father west where land is not so high
and then i will rented and go to live with some one that a dare put confidence in.
Now i will tell you the reason and it will make you sorry. About 11 years since i
took something like a Apoplexy fit. And i have sometimes thought it would take
me of som day. And i felt about 10 days since and had 3 spells of it since and do
not feel well now. So it is not Safe to live by my self as i have done ever since i
wrote your last letter and there is not any one in this Section of Country likely to
keep house fore me. They wanted me to keep John and his family but i thought i
was to Old to take 6 of a famley beside my self so and i do not like his wife. We
should have been not happy so i give him 45 dollars before a i got all pay of i had
not much stock left on the place but I had hay and fall Pasture. I bought some
Stock in and fatned them and sold them to the Butchers and bought more for my
self. So i have 3 head and 2 horses and some sheep and good ones. I sell them as
highs as 10 dolars a piece. I killed 2 good pigs.

If you had lived nigher i would not have Sold as it is likley that land will be
very valuble as it is thougt that there is oil a good way Down as ther is 40 miles
frome here and the Oil Speclaters is buing all the land likeley for Oil. Some
times they will give 10 thousands dollars for 1 acre and they are giving 100
dollars an acre ¼ of a mile from here but i am a little higher up. I get my bred
made and my Cloeaths washed and i do the rest my self. I made a good deal of
butter and took it to Markt. I can get the highest price for it in privite famleys so
you se i can get along but i so not like it if you could come and see me. You would
laugh to se me set avry thing nice and Clean. I sometimes have visters. People in
general behavs very well with me. Here is some English here but none from dear
Old Westmorland.

The last time but one i herd from Pittsburgh Joe Allen was very sick but i
have not herd any more about him. I had a letter from my son George yesterday
and he says that his Brother John is very sick and likely to Die. I would go to see
but i have the stock all in and i can not get away. I was up once since there
Mother Died. I would like to here some of the Old folks Nixons [illeg.] and all
the rest. And Dear Brothers and i must Bid you all farewell. It is likely that i
may not live to rite you another letter but let us try to live that we may meet in
heaven. I am and i hope you all are. You must write back to the same place and if
i am gone from here the letter will be sent after me and then if i live i will give
you fresh Directions. Give my kind love to Sarah and her famley and her
Daughter Mary and all inquiring freinds.

So no more at present from your affconate
Brother William Tatters
i would like to see you all again i if i could. have made mine into hard Money i
would have tried

Pittsburgh July 1th 1866

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I received your letter 4 days since and am very sorry to here of Dear Brother
John Death but it is the way. We all Shall soon go if we are only prepared for
it. I did not expect to get over that last sickness but thank God i did and am alive
and well hoping these few lines will find you all well. I did not receive Sarahs
Letter yet. My oldest son Died in May 1865 so there is nothing left but me and
the youngest son left and the other one widow and she is doing very bad. They
wood like to have the little i have if they could get it as they no that if anything
should happen me you are my heirs but i am going to live myself first. I sold the
place for 16 hundred dollars last fall and had a Sale of Stock and every belonging
to farming and raised 1 thousand dollars more but i have 6 hundred dollars to
come i in december. Then i cept by best bedding and lining and the rest i give to
them. I have givin them over 3 hundred dollars since there Mother Died in goods
money and i have left 24 hundred dollars. i if got the Other in. What i cept is all
at the Old place yet as i did intend to go west last spring. But when i got to
Pittsburgh John Hodgson persuaided me not to go and stay with them as long as
i was nothing but myself. So i have been three since first of March and it is
likeley i will stay till fall till i get all gathered up. I was about buing another
place and going to farming again. It was 50 acres 35 in cultivation and 15 acres
in woodland 2 houses a good barn and all nesary buildings a good Orchard and
well watred.

I was to give 25 hundred dollars for it. Of Coares i would have some to borrow
but i could soon got that. But when i got your letter and hering that Jonathan
was living and well i stoped to consider i would have come home again. But
what i have would have done me little good in England where by bying it will
out it will keep me with a little work. This is a better Country for people of small
means. If they are anyways carefull they can soon make a home. I no a good
many that is well of that was poor a few years since. I am very gratefull for the
care that you took of Mother and hope some day to thank you better. I think
Brother John hardley did fariley with you. The house and Croft was not
his. The Money that it was bought with belonged to the whole famley. If he had
done right he should have divided with you 3 as me and Jonathan did not care.
But that is the reason that he will not rite. He [saw] so how things was going and
if you will inquire you will find that he could not will it the way he did. I will
rite to Jonathan and if get a letter i will send you word and if you get one let me
no but any way write back soon. Give my kind love Mary. I wish she hard been
MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY SETTLERS

her. She would hav keept house for me as i do not like to be homeless. But it cannot be helped and Sarah and here famley and ISabela and thy self and John Children. John Hodgson wants to no what come of Williams famley and Darges. Be so kind as to make all the inquires you can. John Hodgson Mother died in april last and old Joe Allen died 1865 and his woman May last. They died very rich in this worlds goods but about the rest i do not no.

Let Sarah see this letter and tell her to write back. You need not pay your postages. I will pay them in you next letter. Tell me if you think you would like to come to America and by that time i will be better Abl to tell you what i am going to do mySelf. Perhaps i may change my life. If i do i shall do it for the best so you see what way the wind Blows. We are making every prepration for the Cholar this sumer. You European people is send it by the Ship loads and it has broke out in New York. Every thing is very high. Flour is 3½ helpeny per pound and every thing at the Same rate. The Wheat was pretty near all froze out this winter but Springs crops is looking very well. I am going to see a man from Astromba and the [illeg.] and then i will Better no how to rite to Jonathan. He has a good many friends about Pittsburgh. He was well liked. I have a good deal of news to send him. John Hodgson Mother thought a good deal About him. She says George Nicholson got most of his money when he was here. You can let Allen folks no about him and Mrs Allen dieing. He died very rich and left it eaqual among them all. And here is a few Dufton folks here and we would like to here how the old place and what all the Old people is Doing.

So i remain your affconate
Brother William Tatters

Direct Temperanceville
Allegonely County Pa

Jan 15th 1868

Maysville Carroll Co Ohio
Dear Brother and sister

I received your kind letter 10 days since and was glad to here that you are all well but very sorrey that you are to leave the old place. You deserved it more than any of the rest. I fell gratfull for what you did for Mother and May the Blessing God be with you as it is with them that do right. Perhaps i may some time have it in my Power to help you for my marrying will not hurt you. I did not marry where you Expected. I tired of living there and went into Ohio and bought a little farm of 42 acres good land and well watered good Ocherd and 1¼ mile from a station 75 Miles from Pittsburgh Buildings Poor. I took possiesn 1 of March 1867 stock it and went to housekeeping and tired of that and one the 14 day of November got a Wife.

She is from Dunde in Scotland. Elisabeth Donlison is her name she neve was married before. She is 4 years younger than me. She has been 40 years in this Country. Her Father is dead and Mother lives 3 miles west of us. They have a good farm 160 acres worth about 10 thousand Dollars. There is 9 Brothers and sisters all married but 2 at home with mother. There famley name stands very high so i must not lowered it any. They all belong to the Presbyberian Church 3 brothers and 1 sister in Misori and she has 80 acres of land there she earned by her own industry. She brougt a good deal of furniture and bedding with her and
a good cow and shee is a good houskeeper so with gods blessing we will do very well. My step sons do not like it very weell but that i do not mind. What i had i maded it my self and if i had stayed about Pittsburgh i would soon had nothing left. Last year i worked hard 10 monthe and come 60 dollars in deet so it was best to leave while i had something to leave with. I wrote to Jonathan but got no asswer. I rote 4 of July 1866 but i made him an offer with i soppose he did not like that. We should both give something for you for what you did for Mother Elisabeth. And me is well and we will send you our likeness when warm weather comes. We have hard winter. It bugun soon and last. sumer was very dry. I did not make much. Stock was very high last spring when i bought. I fatened head catle and 8 sheep. We have 3 cows 3 yearlings 14 sheep 1 mare 2 pigs. We killed 2 good hogs. If we can sell we will buy a larger farm with better buildings as it cost so much to build on a small Place. 1 of John Hodson sons in bought beside us. He is a YorkShireman. We send our kind love to Sarah and famley and tell Mary her uncle says she is better from London. Large towns is not very good for young Girls. Our kind love to John Children. Your likenes is very like you 20 years ago. Next time you write let us no if any of our old friends is living at Dufton yet. I of often think about the old place.

So no more at present from your
affonate Brother and Sister
William and E Tatters

Direct Maysville Columbiannia
Coy Ohio

Jan 11th 1871

East Township Carroll Co Ohio
Dear Brother and sisters

After a long silence i take my pen to let you no howe we are getting a long. We are all well hoping this will find you all the same. I had 2 letters from Mary in London. One i answered. Ther other i neglected. We are still living at the old place and doing very well. We have 8 head of Cattle 1 horse 38 of sheep and 2 pigs. 2 pigs we killed and 2 we sold one for 45 dollars. The 2 we killed for our own yous [use] weighed 500 lb at 8 months old. 33 of the sheep are for fat. I expect to sell them in a few week and 2 fat Cattle. I am afraid i shall not make much thie time. I have been trying to make a little by feeding this 3 years and did midling well but stock is very low. Now we have builed a barn since I last wrote.

We have laid out over 5 hundred Dollars on house and barn and fences and ditching a peice of wet land. If we can get 25 hundred dollars for the place we will sell and by 80 acres with good buildings on it. Land is geting up in price 10 dollars per acre. We have some idea of going to Missouri. If we sell it is better land. Our land here is sandy warm soil but not very deep. We had 36 bushels of wheat 75 of oats 3 hundred of indian corn 50 of potatoes 10 tun of hay. Ours is Winchestre measure. Wheat is 1 dollar Oats 40 cents corn 60 cents per bushel potatoes about 1 dollar butter 25 cents lb. beef and mutton 12 cents Pork 7 cents cowns from 40 to 60 dollars a percs 2 year Olds 30 to 35 calves that come 1st spring 15 to 20 dollars per head sheep from 2 to 5 dollars per head horses 1 hundred to 2 hundred Dollars per head. Land with fair buildings and a
reasonable distance from market or railway Station is worth from 60 to 80 Dollars per acres. Now farms is 40 acres. 80 of 160 acres a piece now in this Country any man will sell his farm if he is offered a fair price and go and buy a poorer one and improved it and sell again. We do not seeme so settled as in Old. Err Countrieys wants to get rich faster. We read of a great many people coming to this Country. We hardley ever see one. They all keep going on west where land is cheaper and newer. We have 1 of John Fentons boys with us. He has been nearly 2 years but his Mother wont bind him to us so he is going home as soon as School is done. He is 12 years old and a great help to us. We need some help as i have been to the top of the hill and going down the Other side. I work hard sometimes but i can not it like i use to do. But i am to work like i did once. We have a nice little farm and out of Debt and have not tuched a dollar of hers. What we have has been my industry. Hodgson folks is all getting long very well. Old Thomas Hodgson of Burthwait his widow Died about 2 years since and Frank Porter Died last fall. Isalbela noes them. You must give my kind love to Sarah and famley and tell her i will write soon and Mary tell her i receeved her letters and Johns children. Give my kind love to them all and Isalbela. Tell her i was sorry to here she was not very well. Please to write and give us all the newes as soon as you can. Give all of old freinds my very best respects. So no more at present from your affconate Brother and Sister William and Betsey Tatters. Very hard Winter 9 degrees below zero thawing some to day.

NOTES

1. Cumberland. The adjacent county to Westmorland.
2. Peter Humble.
4. Potato apples. The fruit which resembles them is perhaps the tomato.
5. This letter seems to be to John Willan who sent it on with an added note to William Tatters' family.
6. The Great Exhibition.
7. Carlisle. County town of Cumberland.
9. His sister. She seems to have married recently.
10. His brother.
11. From Joseph Parkin to William Tatters who has written his own letter on the reverse and sent it on to England.
13. His daughter.
15. The Crimean War.
16. A corner of the letter has been torn off
17. Ram.
19. From John Nixon, a friend of the family, to the Tatters in Dufton.
20. The river Eden rises in the hills not far from Dufton.
21. Jane Tatters was 73 in 1860.
22. The family Bible, a large 1746 edition of the New Testament, gives his date of birth as 14th May 1815. The Bible is still in the editor's family.
23. Jane Tatters was buried at Dufton on 25th March 1861, aged 74.
24. John Tatters died of "inflammation of the lungs" on the 27th February 1866, aged 54.
25. The letter from Jonathan Tatters has not been preserved.
26. Mary Tatters trained as a cook in London. She subsequently became Housekeeper of Appleby Castle.