

Letter from Great-grandfather Silas G. Higgins to
his wife Nancy Lousia Higgins.

Utah 'Pen' May 12, 1888

Dear wife:

I'm pleased to write you that my health is better--
this first month; I suffered all the time without ceasing
day and night. Now it is only the latter part of the night
and early morning but I don't mind that, I've got accustom-
ed to suffering. I hope you are well, and all the children.
Francis said in his letter last week I had not acknowledged
the receipt of all the letters that had been written to me.
I think if you will notice that I mentioned them directly
or indirectly. Tell Libbie and Mary Cox and Heber Empey
their kind favors came duly to hand, for which I extend to
them my heartfelt thanks. If my friends only knew how much
a letter from a friend is prized in the 'Pen' they would
not be quite so saving of them. Brother and sister Warren
must be very sick or I should certainly have heard from them.
You know they were among my warmest friends, yet I have not
heard a word from them; nor Jesse Gray, Mrs. Alger, Thomas
Judd, Post Master, Sister Crosby and Church Stc., etc., etc.,
Mr. Church stepped on a rolling stone (pebble) and sprained
his knee bad. He has been laid up in his bed a few days, but
is getting around a little on crutches now, he is quite well
otherwise. Say to Brother Terry that I think of him and his
labors daily and often wish I could be where I could help
him. Remember me to all friends and say to them, a word from
them would be cheering to me in my confinement. Ma I do pray
and hope your health is better. Keep in your spirits and hope;
for I tell you all will end well, if we only do well. Tell
all the children that I pray for them daily and I expect them
to do the same for me in humble meekness for the God of Israel,
from Francis and Agnes down, and if I could only know that
all my family were perfectly united night and morning in ask-
ing God to make my burden light, and my spirit cheerful, and
my mind full of light pertaining to the truths of Eternity,
I should feel happy for I am more anxious about the things of
which God has spoken to us than all the other things besides.

Do I know that we are engaged in the work of the God of
Abraham? I do! For I have seen (since I've been in this pri-
son) my enemies all lying dead, as you know many times in the
past; it has been shown to me, whether matters would turn in
my favor or against me, and I was never deceived in it. Why
should I be deceived now? If there is a man or woman on the
face of the earth who have any cause of complaint against me,
I don't know it, for I have tried to do unto all as I would
that they should do to me. Jesus was murdered for living such
a life. I am only imprisoned, yet my body shows ten wounds as
the evidence of the same spirit and intent towards me.

Now, my dear wife cheer me up, get the testimony which the
Lord our Savior has promised to every soul who will ask it in
the proper manner. And I say unto you, it will comfort you,
~~comfort~~ you, encourage you and give much happiness. Have you
not an abundance of positive evidence that when I speak of

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these things, I speak the truth? Have you not seen the fulfillment many a time? Then live so as to be called "The Friend of God", and if anyone hates you for that, don't feel bad for yourself, but feel bad and sorrowful for them; I pity them. God has made it our duty to pray for them, that he might have mercy upon them, for as we forgive them that trespass against us, so God will forgive us our trespasses. Don't forget to teach this to the children, from your loving husband,

S.G. Higgins

P.S. I would be pleased to have every member of my family that is old enough to hear or see this letter, send it to those who are away at work.

Yours as ever,
S.G.H.