September 28, 1838

Dear Sister,

It has been five years in Upper Canada. Two years ago in Lower Canada, they built a rebellion against us, the leader William Mackenzie fled to America. There has not been any talk of another war breaking out. But lately there has been consideration to unify Upper and Lower Canada by Lord Durham. He came to investigate the rebellion during December. It’s been quite peaceful though.

The boat ride to Upper Canada was dreadful, sadly Harriet and little Catherine passed on the way here. The boat collided with a rock when it was raining. They slipped and fell off. Within the first two years I arrived, I met a lady named Mary. She has two boys named Charles, who is thirteen, and Elijah, who is ten. They help out with gathering the crops, milking the cows, skinning the sheep, and collecting chicken eggs. Meanwhile, Mary cooks and cleans, but helps with the farming when she can.

Within a month or two I found a job as a tailor. There are multiple kinds of jobs here, but being a tailor gives me pretty good money. Mary works as a teacher, and Charles goes out and helps others in their barn for some pay twice a week. So then between the three of us we can make buy some items to get ready for the winter.

Majority of the Upper Canada community is involved with the Roman Catholic Church. They are very kind and generous. The community is very helpful. They helped build my home so it took about two days. They have a market here too. I have sold varieties of crops, milk, eggs, and wool to the community. It is remarkable how supportive they are here.

Last winter was horrible, it lasted for months. It seemed there was not enough wood to make my home warm without trying to set it on fire. But I can trade goods in exchange for wool to keep my home warm instead of freezing to death. Charles caught a horrible fever, and Elijah got frostbite many times. I guess we were not prepared last winter because we did not have enough that much meat, fruit, or vegetables to eat so we practically starved ourselves.

I wish that you could live here with me and my family. It is truly a wonderful place here. There has not been a war since. The community is considerate, the church is accepting. It is a positive area for children to grow up, to build a home, and make money. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Alex