

in letting my dear husband and my dear children go away. I believe if their father had not taken them I should not have consented to their going.⁴ However, I do not approve of such a distance for schooling, and running so much risk. They left here January 18, a very cold day, and slept in the woods seven nights, but thank God they have not had any bad weather. Mr. Hamilton and our men walked. They were quite a party. Major Powell, who is to stop at Fort Erie, Capt. Brant,⁵ and our young people went a day's march with them. The first two went on with them. It is now three weeks since they returned. Mr. Hamilton and our dear children were well. They were very brave. The snow was knee-deep. The children were on a sled drawn by a horse, with the provisions and baggage. They were well wrapped in furs and were not affected by the cold. They would go fifteen miles a day and then camp an hour before sundown. They made a big fire and ate their dinner. In the morning they had tea, and they had enough of it, with biscuits, for the whole journey. I am telling you all about the journey so that you can show it to Mama, for I know that you are both interested. It is the first conveyance that has ever gone through the woods. For my part, I cannot thank God enough for having taken such care of them on the way, so far from help of any kind. I have received several letters from Mr. Hamilton; he never missed a chance for writing. In the last, they were over all the worst part of the road. They reached New York in good time and we suppose they are now on the ocean. May God watch over them and grant them a

⁴ Mrs. Hamilton's two elder children, William and John Robertson, were already in England, where they had been sent several years earlier to be educated. The children whose departure is described in the present letter, were Robert, George, and Alexander Hamilton, who were born, respectively, in 1786, 1788, and 1790. Mrs. Hamilton died toward the close of 1796, while her children were still in England. Their subsequent careers in Canada are all a matter of local knowledge. Robert married Mary Biggar, and died at Queenston in 1856. George married Maria Jarvis, and became the founder of the city of Hamilton. Alexander married Hannah Jarvis and lived at Queenston, where the mansion built by him is still well preserved.

⁵ Joseph Brant, the famous Mohawk chief, who was born in 1742 and died in 1807. Several biographies of him have been published. The best known is William L. Stone's *Life of Joseph Brant* . . . (New York, 1838).