The next time I am in your town, I shall be sure to call and see you. As you have so kindly invited me to your home, I shall be happy to accept your invitation. In the meantime, please accept my warmest regards.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith,

January 20, 1885

Sir,

I write with the greatest pleasure to inform you of the recent good fortune of our family. We have received a letter from our son, who is currently located in a distant town. In his letter, he expresses his desire to visit us soon and we are looking forward to his arrival. Please convey our love and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
Shepton Mallet
January 30th 1853

Dear Brother & Sister

It is with the greatest pleasure imaginable I take this most favourable opportunity of answering your very kind and welcome letter, bearing date of Nov. 1st. Tendering your health and welfare in every respect as dear as our own, I am sorry to inform you that my cough is still a sore affliction to me, but in other respects we are enjoying very favourable state of health, our great distance and long absence from each other makes us more anxious to gain all the information we can from each other. It will be a great consolation to us to hear from you at all convenient Seasons, and give us all the information you possibly can. With regard to the affairs of this Country, it is our intention of giving you a few short details of it, I am sorry to inform you that it has been in a very dilapidated state for the last three or four months from excessive Rain, many parts have been completely inundated and damage to very great amount has occurred in consequence, and in many instances fatal results has occurred. Bridges and Aqueducts have been completely washed away, Roads in many parts have been quite impassable as also Railway Trains being stopped from the furiousness of the Rain, and it is quite horrifying to relate the numerous Ship wrecks attended with very great loss of life around the different parts of our Channel. Our New Parliament assembled in November last and made another attempt of carrying out conservative measures but they very soon got pushed out of office, I make no doubt very much against their desires. They have now got in what we call a Peelite Ministry and I believe they are likely to carry a good and lasting Government, they may as well try to turn water up a Hill, as to attempt the abolition of Free Trade, which is a system likely to work well in the course of time for all classes of Society, for instance the Farmer has no room for complaint, under his present selling prices, which are as follows, Pigs from 9 to 10 shillings per score, Mutton from seven pence to eight per pound, Beef from Nine to Ten shillings per score, Butter Thirteen pence per pound, Bread is still Moderate 6d and 6d the four pound loaf, good Cheese Three Ten pound 4s-three guineas per hundred, I must not forget to inform you of the Death of the Duke of Wellington, his Funeral was carried out with very great Pomp, attended with very great expense to the Country, the procession lasted four Miles in length, the Car he was taken in to St. Pauls to be deposited Cost no less a sum than eleven Thousand pounds, he was kept in State for nearly two Months, then he was placed in Chelsea Hospital for public inspection for four days, I am sorry to say several fatal accidents happened during the time, the crowd being so great on the occasion, Thousands that came long distances to see him were disappointed, Sophia Maidment was married on the 25th Inst to young Green and not before it was time, for in a very few Weeks she do expect to be Mother, so you see a quiet cat can catch a Mouse, she never even asked her own Sister Mrs. Hoddinott to the Wedding, Mrs. Hoddinott have been very seriously ill but is now recovering, but it seem a general thing at the present time sickness seem to be very prevalent everywhere, I suppose it is in consequence
of so much Rain, I have sent to Charles (Hale?) several times but they seem to take but little notice of my letters for they never take the trouble to answer it, so that I cannot give you any particular information respecting him, Old Butcher Cullen and all the Family are gone to Australia, he have a Son that have been there a few years, and accumulated a very large Fortune, Robert Burton desire to be kindly remembered to you, but sorry he cannot congratulate you on any improvement from his long indisposition, he is quite a cripple, Christmas is now over and we sincerely trust you have one and all enjoyed yourselves with the good Old English Fare which is duly appropriated to the season. I can assure you that you were not absent from our thoughts on that occasion although distance at the present time deprives us of a Verbal interview with each other, we sincerely trust that we shall be able to enjoy each others company, before the hand of Death shall be laid on us, which as we know is quite uncertain, I must not forget to remember Farmer Maidment desire to be kindly to you wishing you well with all his heart, I beg also to inform you that Mrs. Padfield Husband and Family intend coming out at Spring, but to what part I cannot at present inform you, where they will come to his Brother or not I cannot say as they have not made up their minds yet, I have also enclosed a small Card as a token of respect, to dear little Phillis, I hope you will in the future you will endeavor to write more legible, and write as often as possible as it will be the greatest pleasure we can at present expect I shall send you a newspaper at all convenient times, I must now draw to a close by wishing you health Wealth and happiness and beg to remain your Affectionate

Brother & Sister

G. & L. Butler