

Woodtown,
April 26, 1891

Dearly Beloved Parents,

I take my pen to tell you the good news. I am safe and sound, thank God. I have work at a slaughterhouse. It is much more reliable work than the farm back home.

I received your letter on the 24th of the month, in which I learned that my sister Marianna wants to come to me here. Well, it is good sailing time now. She should have at least 80 rubles. She will get a job here as a domestic for which she will be paid 8 dollars, 10 dollars, 17 dollars a month. If she will be able to understand everything that is said, she will be paid more. If she were here now, she would be getting the same pay as she does now working for the Germans. . . .

Dear Sister, do be careful on the streets [on the way] there are many people who would take advantage of you. When you arrive at Castle Garden telegraph me. Stay in Castle Garden until I come and fetch you. When you get here, you will not be digging for potatoes or pitching hay.

When you are ready to leave, travel to Bremen. There, buy yourself a steamship ticket. In Torun, sit only in the back [of the train]. You must have

at least 25 marks to pay for the train and for the food. From Torun to Hamburg,, the train costs 13 marks 73 pfennig, but I do not know how much it will cost to Bremen. If sister does come here, I have made up my mind to stay here two more years.

Dear Parents, write me if Mary took my address, if she will come to me or not, and when my sister will depart. Write me a letter as soon as possible. You can give her some money and when she gets here, we will send it back to You. If the steamship tickets had not been sold out, I would have sent her one but that would have caused me a great deal of trouble.. If you do not have the money, then write and I will send a steamship ticket to Jacob for her. If she wants to, she can come now because it is warm and the trip would be pleasant.

Dear Sister take care of yourself and pay attention to what I have written. Be careful of who you meet, just because they also speak Polish does not mean that they will be a good person.

Best regards to father and mother, to my sisters and brothers, to my friends and relatives, and to all acquaintances. I remain your faithful son until we meet again happily. Please send me a speedy reply because I want to know if she will come or not.

Johann Bonkowski