

feeling quite so well that morning, but I did attend church yesterday. You may not be familiar with the poem written a good many years ago entitled "The One Horse Shay". The writer of the poem envisioned a man who had been familiar with having first one thing and then another give way. So he built this wonderful shay of such perfectly matched material that when it did go to pieces, it went all at once. I don't seem to be ill. My heart condition is quite well under control but I feel rather weak physically, and I wonder if I am as strong as my grandfather Gowly who died at our home when he lacked but a few weeks of being 88 years old. I know I can never match my great great grandfather, Joseph Cook, who died at the age of 102 and whose obituary states that he contributed to his support by his own labor until he was 100 years old. If you have glanced through the Genealogy, you will find him under the name of Joseph Cook. My great grandfather Adolphus Simons was somewhat of a marrying man and was living with his fourth wife when he died at the age of 92. It is rather interesting to me to know that he was born in 1761, seven years before the United States came into existence as such, and lived until two years after I was born, so that the two lives have more than covered the entire life of this great nation, which I hope will exist for many centuries to come. Other nations have fallen undoubtedly because of weak men. We have had more than 20 years of democratic rule, which has certainly done a great deal to weaken our country.

I hope that you can come up soon and I am very anxious to see my darling great grandsons, but I rather hesitate either to drive a long distance or to be away from home. I think I have been fortunate in having been so close to my children and grandchildren and to have known those splendid little grandsons of yours.

Lots of love to each and every one of you.

As ever,

WCS:en