

the result -
I have just received a resolution - will Mr. Brown - He says
allowing it another day - and I have done for now - the
same thing again & again, but can't stop to read it without
1861 Providence Jan. 2. 1861
I have not y^t I have written the

My dear sisters here at the close of the 1st day of a new year
I set myself to write you another epistle, & I commence as completely
destitute of any thing to write, as the desert of Sahara is of water. I do
not claim to a minute, blank tho it be, that will compare with that
in extent, but I will use my best to print up an Ode occasionally, but
they, if found, I expect will be entirely gnawed down by the camels
I cannot tell how it bothers me to remember which I wrote to last, but
I know that the beginning of the month is the time for me to write
& as I do not imagine you are very particular what the subscrip-
tion is, provided you know the hand, I will not set my weary spin
it, or overtax my brain to remember suffice it, I write twelve
letters to you in the year intending you shall share equally in the
expense. Now I have no debt but Dr. DeWolf. no persons but persons
Samuel & Leavitt, no sea but Sea Fletcher. No young men, for they
appear to regard me as a rare specimen of antiquity too valuable to
be in the least meddling with. No Gen. or Maj. or Capt. or springs
excepting some one hunts my corns. no horseback rides, rolls off, or
helps on, to record about you cannot expect much, but homeopathic
studies in medicine, abstract discussions in divinity, high setting off
in Deaconsdom, no hate a talent at all with the heavy no recording but
what are painful to record, such as Mr. Brown's - without one flirtation
water or dance, to embalm these sheets, for I propose marring the pa-
per of two - so settle down with a glass of water by your side to set
the dry moral & go cheerless. I have just completed a letter to Cous-
in Esther, in answer to one written 10th Mo. 1860. I have been intend-
ing to write sooner, but perhaps you have heard what procrastina-

As you have the Pass. Journal I suppose you have as much of the news
as I do for I get none or almost none excepting from there. You have
I presume seen a notice of Grandmother Hunt's death - poor old Lady
I think if she had been permitted to choose her fate she would scarcely
have had it different as far as herself was concerned - for she worked
all her time Tuesday eve & since about 3 o'clock Thursday morning she
cooked a dinner Tuesday cabbage etc, seemed very well & when she had
her dinner ready she wanted, some of Lucy's family to go & eat with
her, Mrs Elderkin was there & she went - after dinner Grandmother
filled her kettle as usual, I think she ate mince pie too, in the
evening Leanington Hunt was in & stayed some time & since after
several that she seemed very well & in very good spirits - she could
not see & sent down & borrowed Lucy's sitting & sat all the evening
but when Mr Hunt had gone she said she had been in such pain
she did not feel as if she could sit while he was there, but went up
into the attic to bed, but Robert filled his straw with coal & put in a
kettle of water saying he thought they might want it before morning
they had not been in bed long when Grandmother thumped, she had
got down into the chamber again, & was taken vomiting. she did not
lie down till about 3 o'clock, when she went upon the bed & lain
till about 6 the next morning. she said it was her last sickness, she
continued to vomit but they could manage any medicine to operate
her arms & hands were covered with a cold perspiration almost from
the first - Robert came in Thursday & told how sick she was but they
thought her more comfortable than Mr Meadon had gone out of the
city with the family to attend the funeral of a cousin - I wrote to
mother that we to get her to come & stay with her a while, Mr M.
got home in the eve & went down & carried out Aunt Sarah & did
not get home till near eleven - he that her very sick but hoped

she would live till morning or he would have carried Maria out that night, she told Mr W. she wanted to see Maria but not to have her expose herself - she had only rode out a little way once the babe had been out - Grandmother was very glad to see Aunt Sarah, she sat up with her, she was off of the bed twice after Aunt got there at 9 o'clock - she wanted her to lie upon the bed with her & sleep some. Mrs Ellis was there - after a time she asked Aunt to raise her she lifted her up & held her back against her shoulder, asked her if she wanted some drink but got no answer, she saw her eyes were set & almost instantly - her spirit took its flight, without a struggle groan or even a sigh - Maria went out the next morning. Sat Josiah & Maria D. came & Monday she was buried she looked perfectly natural as if sleeping sweetly. I went out Friday eve after school not a person had been to the house nor since one came till Sat. afternoon when M. Cole came in but she had no one to assist her at home & could not leave as their family was large, at eve A. Sherry & Eunice Bishop came in, Aunt Sarah & self with Mrs Eldred in a little part of the day ^{since} all's Sabbath morning I came in to my class but went out by air & soon & stayed till Tuesday morning the funeral was Monday at eleven Nancy & Wm came up a little time Monday & father & mother came to the funeral - last week Aunt Ruth was moved in to Mr Needles, Aunt Sarah says she may come there, she will remain where she is for the present - she seems quite happy - she had not been in a carriage & I think she had not been out the door since before Carrie died she came in to see her, she has grown very infirm since your life, is very deaf I do not think any one could have taken care of her at the old home for she had to take all the care that Grandmother had & a great deal more & as for children she could not

been there in her sister. Sabbath eve Maria & I sat reading by the lamp
Aunt Ruth was sitting across the room & she got in such a worry for
fear M.D. would turn up by that lamp that at last she said she
would go & sit by her & see that she did not & then she kept her place
she could not go to bed at her usual hour because she must stay to see
to things ^{after} at the funeral at dinner she did not sit down at the first
table but waited & waited too & then sat beside her & waited upon
her little decorative house was upon the other side he was as good
as possible for a child to take, or for that matter any body but she
could not let him be, but would take up his bread & say there eat
that now & the little fellow minded, but she felt obliged to keep
constantly ordering & urging what he did that for etc. I don't believe
she will trouble Maria at all, in that way she does seem to think
Mr & Maria Thayer are perfect & the mother-in-law she will as
near be afraid of as soon she was of any one & I guess she will in
her stages there. As you know that your best relative is gone
from Lockport, excepting Mary's ^{half} brother in law J. C. Brown & his
new wife says she shall get him into the city as soon as possible.

Mr Brown was taking his wedding tour when she died & on
his home bound way found Josiah & Maria in the car coming to
the funeral. I was ^{then} I had the pain of being introduced by his own
lips & if he ever wanted Mary as one I guess now he is glad he
did not for he has got one that looks younger & handsomer & could
mean begin to dress so smart, I can't tell what her dress was but
she wore one of the elegant white long shawl & white dress
hat etc. Mr B. invited me to call & see her which I told him I
should be happy to do & would if possible Peter & I can't tell what
stand up with them is not he a good boy I presume they will soon
come into the city to live. I don't know whether John can get fresh needs

This is Monday the 6th so you see I have not furnished the
same day I began - this day is observed by all our churches as a day of
fasting & prayer for the conversion of the world. the fast I keep but
am writing to you I am staying at the school room this morn. I shall
not be able to attend any of the meetings till eve when there is an union
prayer meeting at our church - the early meeting was at 6 o'clock &
I too ran off to go alone - have you heard me speak of Mr Leavitt
having had times in the pulpit when preaching that he was obliged
to stop, could not command his meaning, he had one in the morning
& another in the afternoon sermon of the last sabbath in the year
he seemed to feel very much discouraged about himself, thought it a
work of blood to the head - he went to Boston & consulted Dr Jackson
who pronounced it nervous. I have always feared Epilepsy, but do not
know that the Dr thinks it so, he has not preached since the Mrs Prof
Lockhart preached yesterday Prof Haven & two excellent sermons he
gave us in the eve & at noon we have Mr Dowley the childrens
minister from western New York - he is preaching in his manner, you
I suppose know what that means, but he abounds in thrilling facts
at noon he addressed the children of the sabbath school at Dr
Cleveland's church & in the p.m. at Dr S. Jackson's at the First Baptist
he made it clear that the Bible was the book for our lives but
why & happiness have you ever heard him ^{or} again? Mrs Biell said
Mr Leavitt had gone to get Lottie to stay a little time with him he
said she went to New Jersey, but she will not come it is a clear
case that no one but Aunt Kate can do any thing for the little
creature - how I do want to see her wonder if I ever shall - I do not believe
Mr L. would have had the two last times he had in the pulpit if
he had had her with him I think they are caused by studying
& he has nothing to break in upon his constantly studying

I have not written a line to or received one from W.B. or Boston since
the good people left after Thanksgiving. I believe I saw Israel Brown
come into church yesterday, but am not quite certain certain
I am that it is one of that family - we have heaps upon heaps of
snow upon the ground & grand sleighing, & the weather has been
icy, but today it is warmer. I have only been in a sleigh & that
was sat I intended to go down street & the blacksmith came along
with his horse & sleigh took me in carriage we drove & took me
back as far as the stable where he keeps his horse. This was just at
night & it had been snowing all day or he said he intended to carry
me out home that day. I was going to get my bonnet for you
must know I have one for ^{winter} new brassy new, it is a dove colored
drawn satin with one single row of pink ribbon each side
for tabs & strings of the same pink, those I had been wearing
since in the fall not a particle of trimming upon the outside
cost 3.50 - then I have a new cloak made of the piece left of my
old one took the silk lining out of the old one & put it in
my new, price, 56 cts for trimming - then I have turned the old
striped woollen dress that is like Mary's, put in two kinds of
lining such as I had, with my blue scarf striped with yellow & a
pair of gloves & mittens which cost, 37 1/2 constitute my winter
dress - don't you wish you could see me - but then I have had
a claim at, 20 p. ago, this was in the fall & a school dress I have
renewed my old black wrought claim at the elbows & set in a strip
the length of the sleeves to make them larger & am all fitted up for
winter or no! this is not all I have bought an old second hand
cloak for school worth what it costs, I am to pay for a new out
side for one - two o'clock has come & with it the children & of course
I am nearly at the end of the page & of my time too -

we have all had the measles or rather we commenced with about
40 scholars & seldom have more than 20. present -

It is now the 10 of the month & I am no farther upon this than last
Monday - Tuesday morning Laura read Aunt Lelia Bullocks letter
to me, from the morning paper, before noon father came in & wrote
me a note from Marsey wishing me to go out with father & help
our Hannah get the children ready for the funeral saying coun-
silly was sick with being fear the disease which caused Aunt's
death I sent home got Laura to take my place for that day
& the next & went out with father, after stopping a little time at
home he carried me down to cousin Hannah's that was they
had to go up to Aunt's & the babe awoke soon after they left
& cried as hard as he could excepting I held him & carried him
about too. I was obliged to keep him so that he would not see
my face, they returned before 10 & then I sewed till nearly one
when we went to bed the funeral was the next day at eleven
but you know Mary & Hannah must have all the care - they
were up at five & I altho I did not rise as soon was awake
some time between 8 & 9. we went up to the other house found
Aunt a little more comfortable tho very sick, Betsey with a very
bad haemorrhage a sore upon the back of it - it had been there for
a fortnight but she did not show it to the Dr till that morning
it was swollen, cracked open, & looking very dark & she having
faint sick turns often - the Dr said it must be putrid & she
must not use it, Mrs. John Cunshee, visited that the woman
that staid at David Smiths with me the night after he was
buried - ask Sarah, was there taking care of A. - Aunt was
taken sick new years day - just a week before she was buried
had had a little cold before but was tolerably well when she

fell upon the floor powerless & was never able to keep herself any
after she was laid upon the bed & lived till 1 o'clock Sabbath day.
I cannot tell what day Abby was taken, but she grew sick so fast
that she was never taken out of the room & her mother stood in
the room with her she had spasms in her back stomach & limbs
& her breathing was very bad - she awoke the morning of the funeral
not long before day & did not sleep again till near ten at
night & then only as she took a powder - she kept quite calm
through the day but was very much excited before she got
to sleep - I took some of Hiram's cake for her during the day
& then watched with Abby that night & was brought me into
the city yesterday morning in season for school - have heard
nothing since but hope to hear she is getting better for all the
the last part of the night she was in a perspiration, breathed
easily & complained of no pain - Peter's horse looked better
this morning - last eve I went to sleep in my chair, I got
up half after six, a little before eight I awoke for prayers &
went to bed & slept till six this morning with very little interrup-
tion & today am perfectly stupidified, am invited out to tea
& pass the evening I am going - yesterday it commenced raining
& today such a shock & stop you don't see I expect when you
see the beautiful sleighing is nearly or quite gone & I guess the
poor horses are right glad - Do you know, our dear parents
are if possible soon to be the oldest people in our vicinity, I
pray God that in his long suffering kindness he will spare
them till they have made their peace with him & are prepared
for mansion in the skies - if we can pray let us never cease
to pray for them while they & we are spined upon praying
ground - Mr. Pearson told me yesterday that Hannah & George
were both sick - have not been in but will try to go down
Side you are receive your bride - tell Sarah I had already
sent her some buttons to dispose of if you did not want them
I have not sent any by paper - I do not wish to send any more
in that way till I know if the others are necessary - all seem well
at home. Write but no more letter home to both from yr. Elder

Received Feb 10th 1861
Answered - 13th "



Miss Sarah M. Blanding;
Care A. Purviance P.M.

Camden,

Madison County,
Mississippi

Boston Jan. 13th /51

My very dear sister Sarah,

I presume you have looked a long time for a letter from me, but thus far have looked in vain I did not intend it should have been so long before I answered your letter but so it has been but I know you will excuse me when I tell you how my time has been occupied for the last four or five months. you very well know what a month September was with us it was a month of sorrow and anxiety for our dear little Lizzie was sick, I was at the head of the rock in the kitchen for our dear Mother was so anxious about Lizzie that she was near being sick and Nancy and Abner were with her all most constantly night and day, I was afraid they would be sick after being broke of their rest so much but no one thought of themselves while E. was suffering so much poor thing how she suffered. I cannot look back to that time without shedding tears, for I can seem to see and hear it all over again, and just as soon as she was well enough and I was not needed at home I was obliged to go out to work for my work was back and I worked as hard as I could until Susan went home and then I came to Boston and stayed three weeks and intended writing you there but had so much to do and say that I put it off then I engaged to come back after Thanksgiving, I went home and stayed a little over four weeks but was not at home much of the time for my work was laying by for me, and I did not have time to do a thing for myself. I had to work Thanksgiving day as well as other days, and the afternoon before I left Detroit I had to fit a dress and that brought me up square, the Flint girls have got back to me again for a dressmaker I have been back to Boston six weeks tomorrow and it would seem as if I might have had time to have written you before this but I have had something to do, if I am living in the big city of Boston, Mother's illness began to fail while I was here in the fall, and when I got back she was quite feeble and has been what would be called dangerously so since, her disease is dropsy in ^{the} chest and the Dr said there was some disease about the heart. I do all for her as near as I ~~can~~ what a child would for a Mother, she sits up more now and seems to be getting better. I hope by spring she will be well. ^{we} cannot tell what is to be, I try to do all in my power for them both I try to supply the place of a child but fear I come far short, I make Mother's bed twice a day, it gives me pleasure to be here and do for them. I have made two nests and a pair of pants for Father Jr. since I came back and helped in the sewing and have worked in a dressmakers shop or rather room one day. I suppose you would like to know how

I dress this winter well I wear the same bonnet I did last summer which was a very handsome french lace trimmed
with white. This winter I have it lined with coral colored satin with the same colored tabs and on the out side I have
red and black ribbon. I have got me a light drab white cloth dress and long sack my dress is trimmed with
figured changeable silk the sack is trimmed with velvet a shade darker than the sack the velvet
was three dollars a yard and it took three quarters of a yard I got nine and a half yards which was 45 ct
a yard and it was so wide that I had a plenty for sack and dress a brace a yard left the trimming
for the dress was eighty ct a yard and I got half a yard I have got a suit complete with the exception
of a scarf and my money would not hold out for that Mother I made gave me a very handsome
portfolio for Christmas present. Graves gave me a very handsomely bound book the title is the
Snow Flake, for two years, and since then Mother has given me a delain dress, no one knows that
Graves gave me the book except Father & Mother Graves is in a book store and he will bring
any book home for me to read or for any one but I do all the asking and then the others do the
reading, but I do not care I want to read some books that I cannot get other ways. I have read the
life of Queen Elizabeth Maria Antoinette of France and Mary Queen of Scots all of which I
found very interesting. I am making my dress this week and I want to finish it and a pair of pants
for Father which will complete all but some shirts. I have not much to write you for I go out but
very little not having any one but Father to go with me tho I have been twice with Graves once I went
with him to Boden Square to a lecture, and yesterday I went with him in the M^{rs} Beecher
church and heard the Rev Henry Ward Beecher, and such a sermon I never heard before I thought
that I had heard preaching before but I never heard such a prayer and sermon before the house
was crowded and a great many had to stand in the isles his sermon was long but it was not
half long enough the house was as still and every one seemed to feel as tho if they move they should
lose a word his text was from the second chapter of Romans the fiftenth verse Oh! I wish
you and Juliet could ^{have been} ~~be~~ with me I should have enjoyed it so much better since I came here
I often dream of you one eve I thought ^{we} were at the same meeting but could not get so as
to speak I go to meeting very often and that is about all I go I do not care about getting much
acquainted with the people for if I did I must have to go out into company and perhaps
it would take my mind from other and better things and then I could not enjoy the meetings
as I do now last week I went to church three times on the Sabbath twice on Monday in
the P.M. and eve Tuesday eve and Friday eve and went three times yesterday our church is but
a little way from here about as far I should think as from our house to Frank's Gardens if you

could go with me some times I would like it I go with Father to the Baptists Rev Dr Se
Buckner he is a fine man and an excellent preacher we have splendid singing, Oh! I do enjoy
the meetings very much; I often think and sing the tune I would not live always, I wish you were
when you could attend church as I can and I hope as you are not so situated you will not let the gayeties
and pleasures of the world lead you from a careful reading of the Bible and the neglect of those duties
which are of importance to your ^{own} salvation keep in mind that you are living for something
of more importance than just the pleasures of the world, that this is not our home, but may we
so live that when we have done with earthly things we may feel an assurance of a home in
Heaven I hope I have a treasure laid up ~~below~~ ^{above} ~~the~~ ~~so~~ it seems to me as if you were with
me I could have such a good nice talk, Mr Governor wanted me to write you before I left Keokuk
but if I had I presume I should not have written any thing about my own feelings but that sermon
yesterday was enough to make any one write or talk.

Thursday morn Jan 23 When I commenced this I did not think it would have been so long
before it was finished but I have had so much to busy myself a bout that it has not
yet finished but I intend it shall go today Last Saturday P.M I went with Miss L. Crill
to see the Panarama of the Mammoth cave and the Nov Scotia giant the P. was
splendid I cannot begin to write a discription of it there were three children
which sung and played upon a tenor viol and upon Bass the giant is a boy of
nineteen years old is seven feet seven inches high fifty seven inches around the
chest and he weighs between three hundred and fifty and four hundred he had
a frock coat on and the man said that there was cloth enough in that coat
to make two common men a coat and one vest he is well proportioned every way
he was examined by a council of physicians consisting of thirty and they said there was no
doubt but what he would reach the height of eight feet and saw no reason why he might
not ten he has not been growing but about seven years the Dr said he had a most splendid
pair of lungs I have forgotten the quantity of air he takes in at one breath but he is a
noble boy and good looking, Yesterday Father & I was thrown from a tiger and cut his head
and bruised him pretty badly besides, I ran for the Dr to come and dress it it was cut
pretty bad if he does get so many bumps Saturday he slipped down three times once was
down stairs he had been into the water and it had frozen on to his boots and made

them very slippery and as he was going down stairs his feet went out from under him
and say he went he was at one of the public houses where he had been to carry
a man and his trunk, his head felt pretty sore and he was some stiff this morn.
Mother is I think a little better but she gets tired very easily, but I love to wait upon
them Mother said I must give her love to you and tell you that she was too lazy to
write you now. I want you to write me soon after you get this for I want to get a
letter from you while I am here and it takes so long to get a from here to you and
one back that if you wait as long as I have I should probably be gone from here
I shall probably stop sometime longer but how much is uncertain and please Sarah pay
the postage and I will do as much for you when I get home again for I have spent
most of my winters change, I would not have one folks know that I wrote for you to
do so, please direct to (Lephe H Blanding, and then I shall get it I have not
heard from home for some time. 10 ten Snow Hill St Boston Mass)
writing Amelia tomorrow, I cannot spare the time now for I have got a fair of pants
all most done which I want to finish this P.M. I got a letter from Abiam last week
they were all well and he said he hoped to come down and spend the
sabbath with me next month some time. Father has been down to see me once
and he said William would come down some time in the course of the winter
Amelia promised to come down this winter and I am going to write for her to
come down soon for I want to see her, so excuse this letter for it is not worth her
etc but I have not much to write not half as much as I should have if I were at
home. I all most forgot to write you that we had quite a fire night before
last at was on top the hill, if I had have known it was so near and that Father
was going out I should have gotten up and gone with him it broke out about four in
the morning and they played their engines for four hours.

Please excuse all mistakes for I know there are many but I am in such a hurry
I write very well, but some times I think I would like to be at home but if it is
best that I should be here I am satisfied. Nancy wrote me that there was
to be a donation visit at Mr Grosvenors on New Years, I suppose you have
had the particulars ere this but I have not had any thing from home since
then, when I came from home I told Nancy I should be content with a letter once
a month if they were well so I take it for granted that they are well,
write me how you spent Christmas and New Years if you went any where
and if you did how you dressed have you ever worn your Gishue
Mother joins with me in love to Juliet tell her to writ me to this letter is for her
as well as you only ~~some I should rather~~ ~~for~~ ~~for~~ ~~for~~ she would not read but just as you are a
mind, ~~Monday~~ ^{Tuesday} P.M. Rev Dr Tucker called to see me, had quite a pleasant call,
last sabbath was the anniversary of the sabbath school at Baldwin Place church there is
where I attend it was very interesting. I must close so as to send this to the office of Gro
Please accept this with a great lot of love and a kiss for each of you, and may
this find you in the enjoyment of health is the prayer of your Sister Lephe
I stop this as soon as you have read it

Rhoboth. Map. Jan'y 30 — 10

Miss Sarah M. Blinding;
Care A. Purviance P. M.
Camden,
Madison County,
Mississippi. —



Two weeks since Mr. Tingley came & made his last payment for Abrams. After
last week Father got it in shape & I forwarded it to Mr. Justice which settles up
Abrams account with Mr. Justice & Uncle knows nothing about it thus far & what
do you think he would do to Abram & self if he should find it out. I can't guess &
hope I shall not find out. Aunt dances the most agreeable attendance when
Uncle is good natured, but today she said he was very cross & she believed she would
go home & not come over again but hoped some of us would stay with him & that
he was unusually pleasant all the P. M. & Eve. At all the steam of the morn. I expect
Aunt & Uncle are at the same time they thumbed so much upon her for she
left here, the children are cross, & Elizabeth is no company & they take no trouble
to, to, to they can't tell exactly what - but I reckon Elizabeth thinks there is trouble
enough - I tremble in my shoes for Aunt is so good with us all & often ~~reads~~ ^{sings} with
us - I am so afraid there will be a come back to it; but there will be more than
one No. to overcome I am sure - Now don't get your Southern blood stirred up
with indignation as mine is, so for fear you are in danger I'll change the subject
Your letter to Uncle was received. Had fears Evening when we went to the
Donation party at the parsonage. William carried Ametia, Mary & self with
a turkey, some butter, lard, bread, pies &c. & a spare rib for Groun't Gardner -
I do not know what Mary carried. Amelia carried a little card basket of her own
make, I did not see it - must that was carried our money; but I don't know how much. There
was not very full attendance but all seemed to enjoy being there, the children went
into the dining room & began playing. I went in to see them & they looked so happy
I soon had others out to see them & soon Amelia was there & turned into playing & chatted
with the children & a grand time they had the remainder of the Evening; the singing
took the front parlor, the children the dining room (among them was Gardiner
& William Henry Watson & the list of children you can easily imagine) while Dea.
Bowen & Smith (for we have made Josephus Smith Dea.) with myself & such like
took the intermediate room & were as sedate as the occasion required - I need
only say the best of the congregation were there; Mr. Bowen & wife, but the Evening air
seems so severe to his lungs he said he should only venture out in day light but Dr.
H. O. B. has changed his medicine & he is evidently improving in health & expects
William married Cynthia Bliss to attend but he declined in such a way however
we concluded that must be wedding day though Mr. Bowen thought not, but our
surmises proved right they went to Leek & were married & for two Sabbaths they
have been at our Church & last Sabbath were in the Chir - the Baptists made a
great fuss because Elizabeth Giff Perry came to us with her husband & now if
Pannah Mearns concludes to come with her husband. I know not what they
will do & both from the Baptist Chir, & not long since a Henry Giff married Cynthia

Evening - Father & William have gone to see ^{Miss} Birdie and ^{Miss} Brown on business this ^{Miss}
 Mother with Uncle while I write Jesus almost getting sleepy over the letter when I heard a
 wonderful noise up stairs & soon Mother came said she had ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~over~~ ^{over} the lamp so
 I have been up & filled & lighted the lamp & fixed the greased candle so as to get through
 the night & tomorrow we will have a purification - I do feel much more like writing
 Aunt Ruth had one of her sick turns, she is very contented at Mr. Wadsworth's. I wonder
 she should choose to take Aunt Ruth ~~rather~~ ^{rather} than Aunt Co. - into their family now
 her children had heavy colds & they feared the whooping cough but they are well now
 but Frances has a liver complaint. Jacob is about leaving Northampton to take
 a place in Rochester N.Y. with a salary of \$3000 a year - Report says M. B. Blainey
 & Mary Remington are engaged - I thought Mary has done her part in the business
 Mrs. Baddiford is said to be preparing for a large party to come off ere long -
 some say William Remington is married but I imagine it is a mistake, you can
 not think what a bright young wife Mr. J. C. B. has found & Elizabeth thinks that
 Methodist line is nearly eradicated - Mrs. Brown says she is bound to live in the City

The Fisk danceers have tried to get a wheel up for the town hall but the other
 part of community have rolled it down - Some say there will be an effort to get High
 O. Burns back to his old home in the Spring; Eliza Burns Walker is in ~~the~~ ^{the} again
 I can tell you nothing about Henry Williams or Eminence or Perfection, but Mrs.
 -ten Carpenter had a lady at Church last Sabbath that looked rather suspicious
 his Mother is very much better & was out to meeting - Mr. Horton has sold his
 place & brought James Martins & will move there in the Spring; Dear Bunt's
 people are quite offends with them for buying & because they are not Baptist

Our good Person has got a little crazy on the fugitive slave law & preaches more about
 it than is desirable but I hope he will get set right for I cannot think as he does, it seems
 to me our laws ought to be carried into execution & that the South has some rights & they
 should be as sacredly regarded as those of the North - We poor Whigs feel a little
 disturbed at the free soil & Democratic union in our state that is carrying all before it
 Dr. Gardner of Fisk is one of the Governor's council what do you think Mr. Sturges
 for now - his daughters will get to be of the elite & Johnsons skin may be too small
 I want so much to hear how the dark wedding came off at Jessamine Cottage -

After Cyrus Bliss was married William received a handsome wedding card &
 says that he & his lady must be invited here so when Abram comes down we will
 invite Mr & Mrs. Bowen & Mr & Mrs. Bliss to dine or sup with us - Elizabeth the
 classes in three weeks & Uncle says I am to spend her vacation week in N. Hampshire
 don't you think I'll have a pleasant time - E. has been at Mr. Nash's two Saturdays

I have heard nothing from Mrs. Cochran since she invited me to spend Christmas with her. - I wrote her of Mrs. Henderson's affliction; she has been truly affected & what must be Col. & Mrs. McWille's anxiety about their family? their troubles seem not to come alone - have you seen their Preacher & governess yet?

I have lost all knowledge of the Parsons Mills & Perry since Lephie left us; - Julia Comstock is at Mr. Gausemer's now & this week the sewing circle meets there. -

Our neighborhood was thrown into great commotion last Sunday for Mrs. Wells was lost her premises were searched several times for her by females & males & when she could not be found enquiry was made & she was found at Mrs. Coole says she will ^{very} come back again - we think her a little shattered; she thinks some one is troubling her all the time but imagine the boys have left her entirely alone for a long time -

Gilbert has moved & sold his shop & that is moved -; A letter received last Saturday from Mrs. Bullard says they intend building a house in the Spring; their crops have done finely & Jackson John will soon have the place entirely clear; but poor Will is out of business since his father went to Ottawa & is in Chicago trying to get into some kind having abandoned the idea of removing to Minnesota - they think Willie ^{may} come better but were very anxious about Alfred as they had not heard of his arrival at Mobile up to the last week in Dec. he wrote from New Orleans - those frightful steamboat disasters are enough to alarm all who have friends in the least possible danger - Has Sam Joel Shrock been heard from yet? -

I think Abram may be down next week but can't say as they have had all they could do since Thanksgiving - Mary Dixon is still at Lesherville

Well, mean we have a pouring rain from the South every thing seems saturated but it has not come onto the basement as much as it has many times. -

We have not heard from South Carolina since I wrote you but I intend writing Aunt Caroline today - Lephie has not written us since Father was at Boston she must have a letter also this week - there is a family in the Penitentiary by the name of Blake - honest laboring people; they may not be larger than Henry's, Sabbath School Class is nearly broken up the scholars act as they always used to only the Watson girls who William thinks a little more so

A. H. the storm has passed with the strong North West wind for boxes cold weather. William ^{is} going to the office this Eve for Uncle I will close this if it is short - Mr Cornell has abandoned his California plan & leaves Brooklyn ⁱⁿ April for the interior of it ^{to} go in business with his Brother & near his Parents -; Capt. Carpenter has just left here he is still lame from the cut in his foot; said all at home were well & he expected William left California the first of this month - Henry made his sister a visit two weeks since, I guess he is Henry still though he said he was a mail contractor on the Erie Rail Road he is a warm Methodist now - Uncle thinks him very fine

Horton took her to Attleboro & I do suppose that Congregation is thin enough
but the choir especially, William says he is looking to find one to transport to our
meeting from that & I advise him to try Mary but he says since Samuel has been
sick he is commenced his stomach as well as his affections can't bear all that —
Did you overhear any thing so severe as a lady overborne with care? —
Ephraim Walker has returned from California & has seen enough of the elephant
& William Carpenter is daily expected unless he is lost in the woods of Massachusetts
the report of his losing the use of his hands is probably false.

Your letter with Juliet's to our dear Parents was received on the Evening
of the 23rd. & read with much interest & pleasure by us all & Elizabeth went
home Sunday Eve as she had an opportunity of enjoying its contents, happy
were we to know you had so pleasant holidays especially at dear good old Mrs.
Jenners, I could almost smell the nice things they had such a good select par-
ticularly after she got home — he dear man felt I presume that he had suffered
a great privation if the pleasure to Mrs. Jenner had so nearly killed her — I
hope Juliet's prospects for her school ~~are~~ brighter than when she wrote & think
our Father may feel quite satisfied with her years labor, though Uncle wishes
neither of you had ever gone South for he can't tell where your misery all is —

Did you send your bunnies on to be fitted up for next summer, when you asked
me about it I was to write next & I told her to say you had better but as you have
made no mention of them since I have feared my silence might induce you to
give up the proposed plan, or else they were somewhere delayed on the road, I hope
if you have not already received the apples & potatoes they will soon reach you, —
& that the box will be more speedy than in its journey North last Winter —

Did you could have enjoyed preaching with us yesterday the Rev. Mr. Breed
of High Street Church Providence preached & two most excellent sermons he gave
us — the Congregation was full & solemnly attentive, the Sabbath previous Elder
Shutcher preached for us, his sermons were good but his manner was very wearying
while Mr. Breed is one of the most impressive speakers I have heard for a long time

Last week I received a sermon by Rev. Albert Barnes in behalf of the Sabbath
School Union from Cousin Jacob, it is a excellent & I wish could hand it you
to peruse, it would be useful to teachers in any school as to all who have charge of poor
I hope my last letter reached you or you became anxious about Eden Cottage &
its inmates — from what I have written about Uncle do not judge him very
bad for his health now is very good & his mind & nerves comparatively calm for which
we cannot be too thankful — I have not been up with him any night since he
came — Our school was stopped nearly two weeks by the measles, began again last
Wednesday — I never saw so general & thorough work as they made this time & very severe

in many instances are followed by lung fever - I've Carpenter had them & it is feared they have left him in a decline - while I fear he has not good advice, - Cousin Abby Ballou gains very slowly - Hannah has not been to meeting this year, I presume she is afraid to take the children on account of the measles & her baby has very delicate lungs - I was with her the day after Aunt Celie died & it appeared to me Hannah had enough to employ two sets of hands she is in such terror that she shall not be nice enough for William - I wish to go there again this week but reckon I must wait awhile.

Jess. P. M. Father & self are writing in the dining ^{room} while my birds are flying around us, Father & Aunt Carpenter are with Uncle, while William is busy about the barn & Noah has just been in & borrowed a watch to carry to Barrington where he has two singing schools a week - John Hunt is teaching in Mrs. Dovens district at Barrington. Our sleeping left us the second week in Jan. since which time we have had like weather, & yesterday week real April showers, but our weather wise people say we are to have plenty of snow to pay for it but the clouds have gathered again apparently for rain though at first there were indications of snow.

We are to finish dressing our meat this week & then one more frolic at chicken picking & I hope we shall have done all for the season but eating.

Last Sabbath Amelie left for Littleton where she has been trying to get since Nov. but could get no one to stay with Aunt who is ninety years old today & is now able to converse quite well. Mrs. Fuller is to take care of her now. Librams pulls have cured Christophers wife - Shubel Alandring has had the pleurisy which has left him in such a state Dr. Miller says he will never be well again. He has experienced religion & joined the Church in his sick bed - they are very poor & one of his little girls is at Christophers, he has been very kind to his Brothers.

As I cannot get William to tell you how he has waited upon the ladies this Winter I'll do it myself - when Lepke was at home she wished to go here & there but never when it suited William but no sooner was she gone I am never in his room than he was seized with a panic & such a time as he had waiting upon her & Amelie - I am could tell you all about it for Uncle thinks he will talk soon. The last place was to Charlotte Wrights party everybody was invited but William & as it evidently was intended as a slight because she was not invited here last summer William had a great desire to go so Amelie & Mary invited him to carry them so he went & had a fine time Miss Brown even smiled upon him & gave him the right hand of fellowship - they had singing & Charlotte played but it was so very muddy but few of the invited guests came - shower went paid for their tickets that night - but I presume William discovered nothing but that he was in the carriage with him - Delight has had the measles & Ann has not called a single time to see how she is getting on!!! Frances Carpenter is very sick with measles at Thomas Carpenters - Mrs. Maria Long Cushing died last week. I know not what disease but heard it was not a fever.

10
APR 13 1859
Miss S. M. Blending
Care of A. Purviance Esq. P. M.

Camden,
Madison Co,
Miss.

I thought I had nothing to write when I used my pen be-
 fore but believe I am nearer to shore for times now than I was then - I am en-
 joying the privilege of staying after school, for the benefit of some of my scholars
 and commence this to you. Of course feel in a great hurry to go home as this is my
 lecture eve. & L. Fletcher is going to a meeting that eve I am to dress her hair, but
 the children know nothing of this so they can feel punished not knowing that I am
 more so. Yesterday eve father stenciled off a box of sundries for you to go with the
 provisions goods your letter was rec. Sat. 4. Monday M. actually came into
 the city himself, the first time he has been here since Mrs. Leavitt's death, Tuesday eve
 I took Mr. Weston's horse & carriage & his Nichols & went out home sent as you will
 see the bodies of all your dresses - the lining I mean & one out side the lining
 you can make like the gingham dress sent in the other box if you like & the
 calicoes like the body I fasten only open full back - plain on the shoulders
 & full at the bottom of the waist - the sleeves small bishops open at the wrist
 or gathered into a binding just as you like - It is now Feb. 11. your letter rec. &
 yesterday noon why it was so far behind I can't tell - I will make full
 backs but as you please plain ones are worn quite as much as full ones
 as your letter did not come in season I have sent sent my exp. - I
 must tell you what Nancy says about writing Lephie she says & write, she
 would feel exceedingly if she should see what you say about it don't
 wait for her - she has probably as much as she can do after H. ^{is} so much
 unwell as not to be able to use her needle & her sewing was all behind
 Lephie I sup. she has been doing it up for her - she has not written me a
 line, but I cannot complain as I have not written her any more nor have
 I written to Susan since she was home or to A. B. B. since Thanksgiving - so
 you see I do not use my pen very much besides for you two ladies - I have
 been promising myself to write Cousin Maria D. he has left Northampton &
 gone into Col. where he has a larger salary. Maria stays with the child-
 ren in Holyoke this winter. J. will house it in New Haven - I am very
 glad I went there last season had a very pleasant time - they have sold
 their furniture there - the house they did not own. Israel I have come from
 New Hampshire last week says all are well - I believe H. expects A. soon soon
 but Israel said nothing of it - we have been having a southerly storm & now
 we wallow in mud. Last week we nearly froze sitting in the warmest place
 we could find this afternoon the sun has come out & it is delightful. I forgot
 to finish about your dresses make the caps like the patterns sent with two or
 three rows of ruffling round them less than an inch wide not very full setting
 one above the other so that the bottom of one will just reach the top of the other
 your dresses you can wear open in front if you like, open originally across the bos-
 om & fastened at the top & part way up from the bottom of the waist they
 are worn so a good deal with a handsome skinnette, people look as tho.
 they were making ready to nurse a babe or had forgotten to fasten their
 dresses but then it is fashion & must look modest, any how - I fear it will
 be very warm weather before you get your winter dresses, if so keep them

in the dark till you want to wear them - I intended to have sent you a
blue neck ribbon & belt to wear with your bonnet but forgot to get them
till it was too late - you calicoes will make the niggers you I expect - I
hope you will like your bonnet ribbon - Nancy has made some paper trim-
ming to show you how to put it on, let it cover the bonnet as much as
possible but no bows, the inside simply puffed as the ribbon was sent
your box sent from Boston had not reached New Orleans the 17th of last
month as I understood from a letter from Mr. Cleveland recd by M. A.
Blandine Esq - beginning M. A. Blandine Esq, Sir - You are solicited
money for I am writing to both, if you can call this writer, came in good
season for Uncle as he had just recd about 500. I believe from Mr Justice
but he did not object at all to taking it - he was in trouble to know what
he should do with it & when I was at home ^{father} he was advising him to let
Robert & Gilbert have it, he thought it would do them good, I believe
they are hand pushed, when was there ever a time that family were
not hand pushed & I told Nancy when Uncle proposed paying Aunt
board bill to tell him to pay in the same coin he did father what
was done for the goose is ought to be for the goose, I am sure
growing in the circulating medium - next week I have a vacation
& I fully intended to have sent Nancy off from home but guess she
will stay this time - she would go to Boston but has nothing to wear
& won't have anything for just the little time she could spend there
if you wear the brown satin hat, she & you are quite alike as she wears
the blue one - I have a new school bonnet for which with the lining &
tots I paid, 76. the ribbon Mrs. Bernon supplied & I am to sew for it
it is really a pretty bonnet the notched band you can get them for 50
I wish I could send you one if you want it - the band is coarser than
your notched band, of course best looks very well - I wish I could get
in & trim your bonnets for you - I was quite amused with your de-
scription of the wedding - what was the white wreath orange buds
or roses I should think stalks would fit into the wool better than
either - I judge her whole dress showed to good advantage - I think
Miss Caroline must have shone in the dress, if she is pure ebony
& well oiled - Mrs. Kingsbury has conceived & brought forth a son, his
name is called Henry, but what will surprise you is his eyes are
blue instead of black - I did not know but Cousin James would be
inscribed upon his forehead, but tent - I went to see him Sabbath
eve after meeting & took tea there - Mr. Leavitt expects Lottie in the
city this week Mrs. Will told me Sabbath day, she said Mrs. P. & A. C.
were coming with her on their way to Barrington & if she liked Lottie
she should keep her while they were gone she thought she could
make her as comfortable as they could in Barrington - we shall see
poor Mr. P. I think will be willing as his family must be a broken
down any how - Wednesday noon here I am to scratch another line to this
we are having a very pleasant winter day, thawing some in the den but

not out of it. I had intended to finish this & send it off to night but have an invitation to Mrs Vernon's to tea to meet Mrs Rowland Harard & of course must go. I wish to go as I do not often meet her. Chalmers said to day they expected Lottie. I hope she will come - you ask after Aunt Ruth. I believe I told you she was with Maria, with all your dislike of the Wessden family you can but acknowledge that they are kind in having her. she has been very ill her foot & leg swollen to the knee & the foot so whitened that it almost seemed as if you could take hold of the skin where it had broken at the great toe joint & strip it all off before they began to poultice it it was dreadfully offensive & not very sweet now. James Wessden is very feeble his liver seems affected - the babe grows more Blandingly every day. I do hope she will look like her grandmother Hunt. I tell you how B. Blanding was engaged to Mary Remington? I suppose she is repentant says that both herself & friends have done their part in the matter.

I tell you I have promised to go home & make Lucy Wash a dress as deep as could not stay to do it? - I got Mr Wessden's horse & carriage & went out of Friday eve & then the next morning - the mud was so deep when I went out I did not know but we should both go all over in - the next day Mr Vernon walked out & rode back with me. I said all I could upon the dress in one short day & as she wanted a Mantilla they said I must come out the next morn. Mr W. would come for me & take me back, of course I said yes - Friday eve just after I came in from school he came with his pony & wagon & fashionable hat etc, but the eve before in attempting to spit in the stove when the tea kettle was boiling he had scalded his forehead for two inches in length & one in breadth where the eye came he lost his hat, & made him look decidedly as if he had been to an Irish wake, but then you know I have further out of the city than Mrs Michals & I did not mind that till he gave me a note from Nancy requesting me to go to the post office & get letters, if there were any for Uncle this side but my pride to the stretch I assure you - in the first place I am nearly upon the top of the highest part of the hill & Mr W. said he never rode down one of the hills in his life always got out & let his horse down this was a very pleasant prospect, but to obviate this difficulty I proposed going up north till we reached the north end of the city where the ascent was gradual entering from the north rather than the east, this he agreed to, then you know we were to go over the bridge & stop at the office in the most central part of the city - when we got there I took the lines the horse reared his nose upon the public crossing & Mr W. went into the office, & behold the Boston mail was just in & opening, there came letters in Uncle's box & could not be taken out till the mail was all open & as usual all the gentlemen in the city were crowding around the office - coming & going I saw those I knew, but they did not know me - Mr W. would go into the office stop a while then come out & stand by me - we staid & staid

the mail was very full & the office so full I concluded when they began
to deliver letters the 10th turn would not come till the rest of the Fifth, &
besides it was beginning to grow dark & I did not shew to do good and
consequence, I decided not to stop any longer - the next day father sent
in & got the letter it was the one that paying the toll made her so im-
portant, she wrote you I believe - now do you blame my pride? I have
been with dead dogs & every thing through the street that will think
it was too bad that - Well when I decided not to stop any longer
Mr M. pulled his head & nose up from where it was sitting, took him
by the head & made a sweep turning round that there was no danger
of upsetting in passing you, then he got in & see a ray of - I must
stop for my dinner now - Thursday Morn - Another pleasant day. I always love
to have Thursday pleasant - for it is the day upon the eve of which our regular
weekly lecture occurs - how much I wish you both could go along with me - but
that cannot be I often ask how is it with my sister Sarah - has the change she
has passed through & the opportunities she is deprived of banished all thought of
Eternity from her mind, or is she one of those of whom it can be said "not far
from the kingdom of heaven" - if the latter is the case I hope you will recollect
that your condemnation is just as certain as tho' it could not be said of you &
probably that condemnation will be aggravated by that very fact - No person
living in one country & having heard of the advantages of another country can
be a partaker of those advantages unless he chooses to go & actually does go there
to reside - the fact of his having heard it described, having read its constitution
how can not make him a partaker in its privileges. Nor can he even if he
leaves his own country, & journeys towards the desirable one till he is so near
that he can view its hills & valleys, its woods & rivers, & see that it is in every
way desirable for a residence, that its air is salubrious, its climate healthful
its government benevolent, & yet he chooses to fix his residence & build his mansion
just out side the borders of the kingdom he submits to one of its privileges or
the protection of its governor or its laws, he must choose to, & fix his residence
within its actual limits, or he can expect no aid from any of its advan-
tages - no more can we if we are almost within the Kingdom of heaven - we
shall be as certainly cut off as if we never had thought of entering - our condem-
nation must be aggravated by our knowledge of duty - The purposing to enter
another earthly kingdom & get building without its limits & getting himself es-
tablished & steadily increasing his comforts around him & becoming more & more
accustomed to the people with whom he lives, & of course more attached to them
will not increase the probability that he will ever decide to remove - nor will
the intrinsicing ourselves in the strong holds of sin & ascending daily to the sun
- but to be repentant of he likely to lead us to God - Death is taking all of every
age & situation away from earth & even if we were sure of living till old age
have we not conscience in our own family, that that is not a better reason
to prepare to meet God - we treat no other friend so ill as the who has given his
life to save us - we should despise ourselves if we could begin to treat our
earthly benefactor as we treat the poor vagabond, in whose hands our breath
is, & whose should be all our cares - & who notwithstanding he has stood at the door
of your heart & knocked till his head is with out with the drops of the night & his hair
with the dew of the morning, saying come unto me & I will give you rest - So hear
that voice mercy & enter while there is room, before the door shall be forever closed

The letter was found in the wood box in the room

Last Monday I sent you a letter but as there was nothing in it I have decided to commence a sheet for items this (Sunday) Eve & when I get it filled will Office it to make a memento for luxing your patience so severely last month. — I wish you were here dear Sisters to chat with me this Eve. for it is a little lonely as this is the third Eve since Mother & Father started on their journey & all the household at present consists of Uncle, William, self, G. Blodget, John Malley, his wife & child the latter aged seven weeks, we are looking daily for Lephie but she will fly as soon as she lights for her friends have waited for her longer than they well kneid her, I hope she will get home tomorrow night. George has just returned from the Post Office & made me laugh & get it is no very laughable matter, he brought the papers safely but alas for the letters when he took off his hat nought was there for it had blown off on his way home & never thinking of the letters they are somewhere else than here & William must turn out early & hunt them up; unfortunately the night is windy & I fear the letters may land in the mill pond for his hat blew off near the well in the road at the Village; & yet I laughed —

I am happy to inform you that Mrs. Gardner is very comfortable after laying in convulsion fits for nearly 36 hours she is now able to sit up & take her child on her lap — all the family were sent for Monday thinking she could not survive the day — her full habits were doubtless the cause of her suffering; — the Dr. says he never witnessed such a case before. Men. Eve I do not make much progress with my items but I have a rare one for you — last Sunday P.M. Cousin C. M. P. made a party & sent for the Dr. but before he arrived she had presented her husband with a son & both were comfortable; I was in yesterday Eve & they looked nicely the

boy is not looking over the top of a pair of Green Spectacles as Elizabeth had expected he would but they say he is a very hungry child — how strange; it has no name as yet — Mary Allen is nurse as they can get no other Mrs. Mason belongs to them but tis thought best for her to remain with Lephie Gardner.

Candace lives in the King house & the old ladies are daily expecting to be invited there — they are intensely poor — dont less we ever marry Thomas Arnold for the sake of getting married — Last Tues. Eve Stephen Carpenters son William & Eunice Bishop were married & when we hear again from Illinois expect to be informed of Murray Bullards marriage with Mr. Robert James second daughter, Mr. Purnance can tell you who they are as they were formerly Camden people.

Elizabeth Mason has been attacked with St. Vitis dance & is obliged to quit school caused probably by over application together with her natural diffidence & terror of going before our School Committee. — she cannot even feed herself but the Dr. thinks she will recover.

Tues. Eve. My family is the same as when I commenced this only that we have the two stone fence makers, but Miss Molly is very good & we get along nicely, I keep thinking what a nice rest Mother is having —

The strawberries look finely & I reckon all will be satisfied when the business of picking is over — I hope dear J. you have plenty of them to eat as also all kinds of early vegetables. I ate them (i.e.) strawberries in Philadelphia when I had the chills — the only thing of this years planting we have eaten was some very small spinach today —

Uncle & self cannot fix at which place you may now be we think you are in this gaining & getting fat oh dear good old Mrs. Jenners goodies or with Salley dear who will nurse you well. I

know from experience or at Col. Mc Willie's where you will luxuriate
in every respect I presume — you must keep right cheerful for we
have many things to tell you & to show you when you get back to our
dear Elm Cottage — Every day I think how nice it will be to have
you in the Cottage chambers under one of the East windows of which
is one of Sallie's Willow fashioned & under the other a Monthly Honey
Suckle which needs your taste in training — between the dining
room windows is a yellow Honey Suckle, but the greatest improve-
ment we have is two Elm trees just without the curves in the front
wall — one (the East one) is a beautiful tree & so large it took six men
with ropes to set it & William to ^{it} it up so carefully they did not cut the
top off & it has leaved out nicely the other is not so large or so handsome
but appears to be doing finely — they will soon be a great improvement
William says I may tell Sarah unless she bring him that lady soon he
cannot wait — I heard him say not long since he would be married with-
in a year, but reckon he has ^{decided} out whether to take Mary, Amelia, or Carpenter.
The last of April William sold his working oxen ^{for} \$125.00 & went out in
a day or two & ~~second~~ returned with the pair for which he paid \$105.00
so he has now two yoke of oxen valued at \$208. —

Wm. Cook has just returned & is eating & talking but I will
add a few lines — she called upon Mrs. Cochran last Sat. she & her chil-
dren were well, she has a fine daughter nearly two months old. Emily is
out of school with weak eyes — she has recently received a letter ^{very} full of
which I was quite glad to hear as I trust she may be better, Mrs. Cochran
is just going into black for her Brother Leonard who was drowned under
painful circumstances but I knew not what — Mr. C. has not yet reached B

is expected next month I do wish you were coming with him I thought he was to be home this month - Mrs. C. expects to go South with her husband next fall nothing can prevent it

Wed. June 30th. I am sitting in the College ~~city~~ watching for ducky who got out & flew away when I was cleaning them this morning - he has been all among the trees in the lots West & mid nearly noon is back upon the Elm & Betty is trying to catch him home which I hope he will do for Abner's sake as he gave him to me & then he is a splendid bird & fine singer. he has been in the piazza till he mimics the Martins exactly & imitates with his own tune till I imagine it is Opera style - What style does Sarah sing now?

It is now more than two weeks since we heard from you & we are very anxious but I hope that this time no news will prove good news. I suppose C. has written you very recently but hope this will be none the less acceptable. I will try to write again by the middle of the next month to make amends for our long silence in April & May. - Sister L. has returned a real Homeopath & almost a Baptist only she has not been baptized. She is at Mr. Bowens this week & next will go to William Bullocks. -

I wish you could see how finely the Swedish & African Roses look, from 12 to 20 buds on each, the Sea Rose has started again & I have strong fruit for the Lamarck & Solfatara - the Jonquils did not bloom this Spring, but the Passion flower, Cypripedium, Mountain Lily & Calappa all look well. Lathyrus is moving the ~~garden~~ garden, the Peonies are in bloom also two kinds of lilies & I expect the blackberry lilies you sent will bloom & several other things are in flower the may roses are in their glory but no others out except the Scotch Explanets. Ducky has been back to his cage but I did not get him he seems so happy & sings so sweetly I will be almost sorry to catch him.

- 1775

Our dear Parents returned last Sat. were gone ten days & washed at Guilford
& Orange & Fitzwilliam & seem to have enjoyed it only that Aunt is so very
infirm - her health is good but her memory is almost entirely gone -
they liked Shearn better than they expected but think Susan could have
done better - I guess she is Susan Ann yet about keeping things in order
they liked Frank's wife, she lives in the house with Mr. Markin & Frank
on the road. - Susan & Dolly were delighted with their visit among the
hills they tried all kinds of locomotion to do all their visiting - Mrs.
Wright was well & enquired about you both - all were very sorry you were
Brendal Martin got to gambling & had to quit his place in Boston & is now
in N. Y. - Bucket Master on some road

Mrs G. is very desirous Elizabeth should call her baby William but
Uncle does not wish them to do so - you would be amused at the
bestowed upon Noah's family since Aunt has treated them so badly it hurts
great many more than it did when we had Uncle, Aunt & Sally -

I received a letter from Aunt Caroline not long since, she made no mention
of the politics of the State but we have heard that one of our Cousins was a mem-
ber of that Convention - Mr Douglas says if that State secedes he would quit

of the State. But for the moment. Oct. 1861. I will also have

I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am glad to hear from you. I am well and hope this letter will find you the same. I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am glad to hear from you. I am well and hope this letter will find you the same. I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am glad to hear from you. I am well and hope this letter will find you the same.

Miss Juliet M. Blanding;
Care A. Purviance P. M.
Camden
Madison County
Mississippi.

How both is the same of your address

To Uncle I paid \$50.00 for Mr. Purman which is placed to his credit, I also paid Uncle \$102.07 which was the full amount due him from you, principal & interest, he said it was no matter about the \$2.07 but made no bones of the \$100, but I advised him to take it all for I thought you would feel better to be free entirely on that score, as William had a note against Sarah for \$20. ^{which is the interest} which added made \$21, to which I added \$9.00 which he had paid Samuel towards her share, \$10.00 towards the rent in the box from Boston & \$10.00 spent the last purchases I made. I paid Sarah's bill at Mr. Draper's \$41.25 also a bill of the last purchases amounting to \$23.25 - we got every thing we could at his store save 14 pairs of stockings - all we used in the City for your bill was \$83.85, 00 she used for herself, & \$10.00, William had which will pay up several little bills due amongst us - he had paid Mrs. Allen for lamb \$2.30 previous to his taking the last named ten out of Sarah's money - William has given you & Sarah a joint note for \$70.63 leaving a balance of \$100.00 on hand which if Abram should not need he will give you a note for jointly as the one for \$70.63, & you & Sarah must cipher it out & find how much each one has invested for I cannot get the time

And now I will try & tell you what the box contained, but first I'll tell what it did not as upon looking over your letter last Sat. Eve I found I forgot one thing & feel very badly about it as it was a pair of shoes for Mrs. Mc K- you wrote for 2 pair No 5 & I took it on to my mind & while purchasing looked at it again & again & then bought but one pair. I got all the different numbers Mrs. Mc- ordered but only one pair No 5 & got some two pair I wish it had been the other way for Mrs. Mc may think I could not oblige her but I send three ^{pair} next time to make up, all the excuse I have to offer is that I have so bad a headache I thought I must give up - I went in Monday Morn with Father, I have not made half as far before this Winter & felt the cold sensibly though it was a pleasant day - I got dinner at Mrs. Dings then Sister E- went out & shopped with me till 2 o'clock after which I was alone till all was done &

such a headache I could scarcely stand or see, but get back to Mrs. Hunge when (old maid fashion) after another cup of tea I get home so as to go to bed; now don't say you will not let me go again to the City for I do believe were I obliged to go as often as once a month I would seldom be made sick by it as it is now if I go off the farm other than to meeting I am sick with headache & am not fit a stranger to it even if I remain at home but enough of complaining.

I know not but we shall soon be unable to buy summer goods in Winter as it is we can get them only at Mr. Drapers & a few other stores as all the fashionable shops "keep only the goods belonging to the season" consequently our choice was very limited; but we thought what we got ~~up~~ would make up very pretty & genteel & was fashionable last season. E. could not recollect what the dress she sent Lizzie was like & as I never saw it for some time there is little remembrance in what we sent. I suppose E. told you to make the bodies like the one fitted only to the buff muslin, make a full back & small bishop sleeves; I put in a tight pattern but you ^{can} make small bishops to them all or tighter as you please with the buff dresses wear blue belt & neck ribbons. I forgot to purchase them; I had not linen sufficient to cut all the lining of one back & thought you might have piece enough to make that out, tell Sarah if she can get any fringe to match the orange colored buttons sent she had better trim her silk with them as the cashmere dresses are trimmed up the front & sides; when I got another letter hope it will tell us of the safe arrival of box & barrels at Brandon. N. H. the day previous to the receipt of your letter one came from Cleveland Brothers & Co. addressed to H. A. Blending Esq. which has turned the laugh upon me; I hope they will never find out they wrote to a lady - their letter acknowledged the receipt of both barrels but said up to the 15th with neither the blanket or shawl had arrived in port, but hope they did soon.

There were in the box two buff muslin dresses Egs. \$6.01 - two striped lawns green & blue Egs. \$5.04, two buff calicos Egs. \$2.25 - 9 yds ribbon for bonnets \$4.50 - the capes were made up & the ribbon alone and was made up for the inside of the bonnet - the last piece fastened with the threads to come from to the edge of the bonnet & continuing down forms the shawl which must be long enough to tie in a full aged bow knot or pin & put the ribbon through so as to form large bows - white ribbons have been much worn as have white bonnets this Winter & we could get none suitable for your summer wear but what was nearly white but hope you will like it put no bows on the outside, but you will find some strips of new paper put together in three different ways for outside trimming & you can choose from them & trim yourself with very little trouble letting the ends go under the cape so as to be hidden the more you can cover your bonnet the better & from the width of the ribbon I fancy you can succeed tolerably towards that attempt ribbon inside & strings like it is all the fashion about them & the outside trimming like now - there is also a pattern of some chemise bands & gissets which belong to the bone chemise sleeve pattern I sent you last fall, the gissets form the shoulder piece & should be made large enough to leave plenty of room stitched together on the top of the shoulder so as to sit good - it is Mrs. Coburn's pattern & looks better than I saw the week I sent you

8 pairs white stockings, & 8 pairs colored \$4.50 - none were less than 25¢ none over 50¢
five pairs slippers & one pair walking shoes \$7.00 all the same price Mr. Shustack took
8¢ts from each pair as I took so many they are retained at \$1.25 - he offered me some
slippers & maybe I would have taken a pair for Juliet had your letter reached us in time
so I could have known she had an invitation from Mr. Kutton to the ball at Canton
here I guessed right. - 1/2 yd. linen \$5.75 I took what there remained of a piece, trimming
for chimneys, & hats - one yd. laid out canvas, 45¢ts. - one yd. silk canvas, 67¢ts. this is in-
tended for turtlet cushions, & lamp screens, & work bags to be wrought with silk flosses or
very nice, split or fine worsteds - you will see it needs nothing done but the figure, put over
or lined with any colored silk forer fancy may dictate - I did not know you had it
sent this as an experiment - I tried for some worsted canvas but could find only some very
small pieces of ugly colors but I can send to Boston & get it if you wish, & I again tried for
some nice plain white canvas but could find none - the lady at the employment store
had been to Boston & enlarged her stock a few days previous to her my purchasing, she lacked
one set of greens so I got but two & I think all the colors good & hope they will suit - one lb. of
roux shades worsteds \$3.50, 1/4 lb. crimsons \$1.00 this color is in such demand it costs 50¢
a pound more than the other colors so you must charge accordingly the shades are all
kind up separate & if arranged each set of colors in a separate paper & tied up any pattern can
be matched if the papers are open at one end with out untying a parcel till the right col-
or is found & they will always be in good order - one desert spoon marked Henry
Shook \$8, another marked Lizzie Blending Penance \$6, it is a plain Bushed spoon
not quite as heavy as Henry's but may pay for it & call it a present from Mother to her Lizzie
& she must be satisfied a long time ere she gets another present - a brass pin for each
of you containing a list of our dear Parents to have, the two \$8.00 the two last purchases were
at my instigation - so much for sending one to make purchases who does not often see pretty
things or have any money to send - but I did think them very pretty - the slippers made
for some pair of the 3 were for Sarah & the Exceclers I thought she would admire to lace up
if nothing more - 2 pair under slaves \$2.00 we could find only the one pair like the
full ones & these higher prices were too high so I took shutcliff pair for they said soap & water
would clean them & thought if you chose to exercise it you had Yankee presumption enough
to fit them up similar to the full ones if you liked them the best - two pair nice black
mats, 84¢ts - some writing paper from Elizabeth a Book Alfred the Great, a present from
Uncle to you & three books I do not recollect the titles \$1.75 E. had read them & thought
they would be useful among the children of Mr. P. & Mr. Mc. Shubbs families - the
linings of your dresses together with the spoils of cotton balls of cord & hooks & eyes cost \$1.50 -
you must not tell the low prices we give for fear of offending Mr. P. at home - your bonnet
ribbon in Providence would have been retained at 67¢ per yd. you will also find in the
box a nice plain colored delain dress pattern with all the trimmings but a facing which you

will please present to Mrs. Pinnance for Uncle also a pair of mitts like yours, & say to Mrs. Pinnance, Uncle acknowledges the receipt of \$50.00 from him & would gladly reply to his letter were he able to write & assures his love to Mr. & Mrs. P. & their family. Uncle also has a very nice large work box for Mrs. P. but the box refused to take it in so I will save it for the next time. I also bought a very neat cape for her but gave it to Mother as I could not sew it without jamming it badly. What kind of caps does she wear & does Mrs. P. wear caps & what kind of a the whole cost of Mrs. P. entire things was \$5.00. Uncle paid all over to me that I expended for the dress was Uncle's own suggestion as Mr. P. thought he should send some more money soon.

As I told you in my last Uncle had so much money you may wonder what he has done with it. Well when he got it he did not know what to do as he fears to let Mr. Weston have any more & perhaps increased salary places him beyond the possibility of needing any more. I may so finally he seemed so hard pushed to get rid of it ^{father} suggested to Uncle to let Noah & Robert each have \$50.00 & take their notes so he concluded to do so & each have been & got their portions & very busy persons it already though we have not named it out of the family. When he told Father to take \$130.00 & pay it to Miss Newman which leaves only \$90.00 due her & I considered it the same as ^{you} having sent \$130.00 to pay her & Uncle added the \$27.98 from his business the now has \$35.00 by him & I reckon he will have a chance to spend some of it for Aunt is sick of a fever at Noah's she had a cold some 2 days but yesterday the Dr. was called in but before he came she was very wild, calling Maria & Caroline & got out of bed once & fell upon the floor & Noah had to take her up by force & put her into bed. This is the vacation week she came home yesterday ate her dinner & went over to take care of Aunt, she has been home since with us today but gone back to stay till tomorrow at least. Aunt is more comfortable today & if she continues so tomorrow Mary Ellen will take Sister's place for a few days.

I think in my last I told you I had just sent \$52.00 to Mr. Justice which settled Abram's business with him, \$50.00 was the face of the note & the \$2.00 for interest & in Mr. J's reply, acknowledging the receipt of the money the two dollars were enclosed as he refused to take anything but the principal though Abram had used the money sufficiently long to make the entire interest amount to about \$5.00 & yet he refused all but the principal, surely such a man is worthy our love & gratitude. I am glad Abram could pay it as soon.

But I reckon you think I have written enough about money, & I believe I am getting weary of the subject myself. As to other matters. Uncle is much as when I last wrote you only he dinner today disagreed with him & he threw part of it up. For two weeks he has dined nearly every day upon clam or fish chowder made especially for him. He has become weary of it & another cause of his bad feelings today was I accidentally awakened him out of his regular nap when he had only just fallen into a heavy sleep & he felt like a child waking under similar circumstances. He now seems quiet & comfortable. William started this morning for the City with a load of wood he has not done a day's work before for two weeks he has been so much unwell with a heavy cold. He kept trying to work & would never get better till I expected to see him down with fever but last Saturday gave him hispa tea &

Abram is Aunt Blandings & Mrs. Chlo's Dr. now & both have gained considerable
since he took them in charge at Thanksgiving - Martha Dagget is getting better, but Mrs.
Whelan Blandings died about two weeks since, Eliza had a short time previous moved to
Newark N.J. & did not come home - Samuel Blandings is very ill of pleurisy & Mrs. George
Wilmath died of lung fever three weeks since she had a fever in the lungs & had been full some
Mr. Ruben Bowen is now under Abrams care, something of a lung difficulty which is fear-
ing for a serious trouble unless speedily checked - Sam acting Physician & putrifier
W.B. Blandings well for nearly a time does father go to the City but I have my commissions
May Jefferson was at Church last Sabbath, she desired her love to you both & said till later
that Mrs. Stafford is dead, her death was telegraphed from New York to New Orleans last week
It was with deep regret we heard of Mr. Benders death, was his wife with him? & where
does that sick brother reside? - our late papers contain these three late New Orleans acci-
dents which have occurred after near New Orleans - do they arise from carelessness?
Say to Father that Mary Rogers is youngest is a fine looking child, resembling her Aunt Eliza
John, & that Ellen has improved in looks rapidly - they like Roberts wife very much indeed
I think I never have told you of a call from Master Theodore Dutton, a blind lad from
Randen so he at the school at the asylum in Boston, he spent his vacation in Providence

met with Mr. Barney who told him of Uncle so he came to see him with the party of three
arrived at just as finished business in the basement one Monday well Father & Mother
entertained them & took all into Uncle's room (for Uncle said he supposed he must see them
before I was half dressed his fiddle was going for Dutton played well & had come to give
Uncle a serenade - the fun was too good so out I went & called William & John from the com-
bunk they sat on the back stairs while I dressed in the cottage chamber which I had never
before accomplished for laughing, there sat Master Theodore at Uncle's bedside playing every
thing from Old Hundred to Dandy Jim including Scotch reels, & Ch. Susanna & accom-
panying all he could with his voice - Uncle said it made his knees itch & Mother offered
to dance & I got ready in time to exchange cards with the young men (he said he liked the look)
I see him off - we enjoyed it much as some pieces he played none has done before upon
the fann since Uncle has been here - Uncle was pleased about it for some time but soon
he says Dutton nearly killed him with his screaming fiddle close to his head -

...and money in being really, though William is much in the money.
...of course I must be sensible though they do not intend it but they do not expect it
the baby boy is in the hospital - I think he will be well - I hope he will be well -
He knows Frank Pike well & says he is learning to play the flute & piano while Dull
...the fiddle & organ - I know all Uncle's old friends in the city - I like the view
...the house the bucket - Cousin Caroline sent me a very pretty one it is - Our
...she has another child; & Mrs. Dunting confirms the report of a ninth child to Mrs.
...the same just ready for writing - the clock has struck three o'clock. There have
...very busy in the basement helping to cook Christmas dinner which was intended
...for yesterday but Uncle was to give the goose & we were unable to get it till yesterday
...love; the dinner was simple consisting of a fine roast goose with the accompaniments
...in and sweet potatoes, turnips & onions, stewed apples & cranberries with boiled ingredients
...proceeding for dumplings & a ginger pudding for dessert the recipe for which Anne Miller
...gave me & is as follows, one teaspoonful of ginger, one of cinnamon, half a teaspoonful
...of cloves & the same of allspice in a cup of molasses, to this add a cup of warm water
...in which dissolve a small teaspoonful of soda or bicarbonate, in which put a bit of any kind
...of green fruit or a proportionate quantity of dry & add flour enough to stiffen or thicken
...butter butter according as the fruit is dry or green then tie in bags & boil 2 1/2 hours, to
...be eaten with butter & sugar - we call it a favorite dish at our table - she also while
...here made some French Cream which is made as follows, take eggs & milk in the pro-
four eggs top of milk
you would for cups custards, beat the eggs whites & yolks separate till all are very light, put the
milk on the fire sweetened with white sugar & a little of lemon or lime juice, when it boils
add the yolks stirring all the while till it boils up again, then turn in the whites stirring it
thoroughly & quickly - the whites will rise in a foam to the top when dip it off into a dish
when all is taken off pour the custards into the dish or dishes intended for the table &
then dip the whites in large handsome spoonsful laying them upon the custards
it is handsomely covered over then set by the cool & open ready for the table in the cent.
of each spoonful is a white island put some handsome jelly, or colored sugar, & then
eat for dessert or of an evening in place of ice cream, they use it here. This is a place of
But I think you have had corker enough & I will only say we had a very nice Thanksgiving
a very plain dinner, consisting of goose, a baked dish, cold meats tongue & other conven-
ants with plum pudding & pumpkin pie; - the next week our school house was to be
dedicated & Mr. S. S. Green of Boston was to be speaker - so we invited Parson G. to come &
dine with him (ie) Mr. Green & we made another big dinner - had another very nice day &

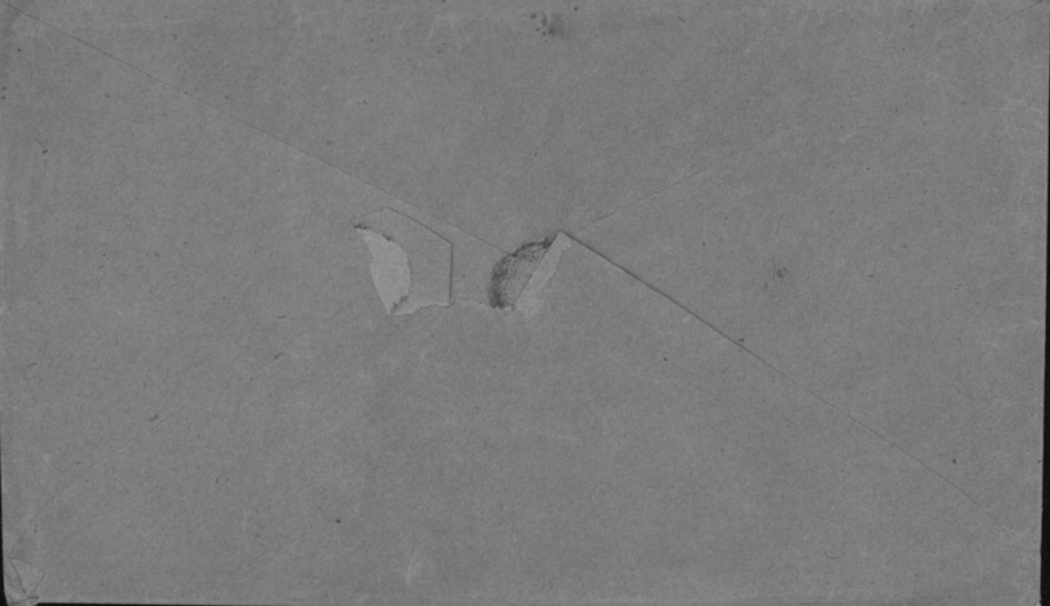
Also you are entirely unjust to suppose that I am not doing
so. I am not doing so. I am not doing so. I am not doing so.
I think of you with a great deal of affection. I think of you with a great deal of affection.
But I forget to mention in the box is some sterling yarn but don't know the price but
I presume it is the same that Mrs. Thence was if you can recollect what that was - I cannot, there
was some envelopes & note paper which Cousin Maria gave E. & self which we concluded
to share with you - there is something about a book sent to take you out of silk & some few
other small articles I can't call to mind but which you will know what to do with. I think
you will have to change the work in one place upon the transfer collar the other de milled
may do to wear some with dresses close in the neck, the old linen collar I thought might do for
a morning dishabille - the two new linen ones Elizabeth sends, to be shared equally as on that
I must turn to your letter or I'll have no place to notice its contents which I should regret
some part of it I noticed a little in Sarah's last, you told me not to laugh, yet I did, though
I thought you somewhat like the frog in the fable she was pelted with stones by the boys, one
old one said "it may be sport for you, but death to us" & I laughed for joy that my poor weak
barnum brains had got beyond the danger of such a siege; I am sure I could not survive it
was only glad it had placed you no longer in the scale of existence than to transfer you
into a grave so you see I am not as much disturbed as you feared, - but here let me tell you
not to reject all these fine offers & come home & be terrified & terrified as I was a short
time since, well I went to meeting & there came Hope Chambers looking like she was just from
the Ark, the next day Candace Whitecar came to see Father & before the week ended some
other equally interesting old maid was presented to my afflicted reason & I concluded that
there was half right, she said she would not mind being an old maid if they did not get
to look back as queer & I told William I was bound to marry the first good offer & he would believe it
now I would not advise to your getting married, thinking as some do that it is the chief end of woman
but really don't refuse to come home to be frightened as I have been & live with us as Uncle has
arranged - we old maids are to have three chambers & one attic, Aunt two chambers, Father &
Mother to have what rooms they choose & William & his family the remainder; now I am sure we
must all be clever or we must have a thing to reign over us perhaps some of your aspiring
statesmen would like the territory of Glen Cottage to practice upon if the wife presides agree

Uncle roused himself the other day & told me he reckoned that Mr. Berry was addressing one
of the girls, but said he his Father though much respected in Camden S.C. was far from
being one of the elite of that place & its environs - & then he began to grow again - I was
half a mind to ask if he thought the son could equal Frank Gardner or Eliza Calvin -



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Miss J. M. Blanding.
Care of A. Purviance Esq. P. M.

Camden,
Madison County,
Mississippi.



Providence March 10/67

My dear Sisters

I have been delaying writing these days in the vain hope of having something to write but find it useless & now commence with ink & paper & will at best send some black lines - When I was home for vacation I think Mary was just finishing a letter to you & of course she told your father & mother we were well & that brother William was not, that Uncle was cross & Aunt Comforter sick etc. Well supposing I work a little upon our sister Sarah's plan, the youngest scion of the house, you know who I mean!; i.e. that is to work backwards - begin here with to sleep & back out to the end of the sheet - Well I have just come from Mr. Merdons where I saw & sawers start off for the west. Mr. Merdons had gone before as I believe he had had some business to attend to before the hour for starting arrived he has gone to St. Louis upon business & she for the journey & to visit him. Made I have her health has not been good for some time & she hopes to derive benefit from the journey & change if she improves & enjoys herself she will remain longer than Mr. M. if not she will return in six or eight weeks - I shall go to sleep with Maria during this week & after Aurelia will be with her & assist in taking care of the babe. Aunt Ruth is much better, has been gaining nearly ever since they made her robe - she was really very feeble then, did not seem to know or rather remember any thing - for instance Maria went out to Peekonk, she seemed much pleased to have her go, when she returned she asked how they all were on being told she wanted to

know what Grandmother & Carrie were doing? & if they did not think she, Maria had stayed away a long time appearing to feel as if she was away from home & Maria away to take care of her she would sit where she could look directly across into Maria's room & ask how far it was to her house. & say she hoped she should be able to go there soon, yet she appeared to be very happy where she was you know she always was good when she was sick she told Maria she wanted to be buried beside Grandmother & directly, perhaps she would appear to feel as if it was her own mother that was dead & would ask Mr. if she knew any the particulars of her death & who was there Mr. would tell her & she seemed to be glad to hear the particulars but had never been able to find out before altho she had tried. Now her cough has left her & she seems much better but I doubt if she has had one a shoe yet I saw her to night but did not notice Phileas is that the way to spell it? Robinson was visiting Maria today she is much better. This day my brother in law Jonathan Leavitt's little girl has left her - she came here tomorrow will be three weeks since she stayed till Thursday & went to Barrington they returned from there last Wednesday & today left for Boston. I did not go home for my vacation till Tuesday after I closed school & then I went by the way of Mr. Biall's but they had put Lottie to bed & did not take the trouble to let me see her she had not gone to sleep - my ire was dreadfully started at their cool indifference & made up my mind not to call again - the same day they came here Mrs. B. sent me a note of invitation take one to Mr. Benson & his - it was Colporters eve. & I gladly declined Mrs. B. could not walk so far & declined. Thursday

ever. Mr L. looked so well I began to feel as tho I wanted to go you
know my spirit goes so fast that sometimes it does not last
always - I. Mr Vernon said I must call & Miss Estley seemed to
think his feelings were being hurt by me - so I got Mr Bessers
horse & took Mrs Vernon over after school Friday - Mr L. was
leaving the house for a walk as we rode up, he seemed very
much pleased that we had come - had a very pleasant call
& Mrs Biell insisted upon our coming the next Sat. afternoon
to tea but Mrs Vernon's kind excuses her when they
decided to send for them & send them home again, about
two o'clock I awoke & the snow & wind were something piteous
ly - we had been having beautiful spring like weather, the
snow continued with little interruption till about noon - by
the way Mrs Vernon objected to Sat. for visiting as she
did not like to be out Sat. eve. Mrs Biell said she would
send them home early & we must be there by three o'clock
Mrs Vernon said not send she would walk over if they
would send them back - I got to Mr Vernons about 2 1/2 o'clock
& stayed till a little after three & as they did not send
I could give no excuse for not going I travelled on, met
Mr L. at the foot of Pineola St. going for a walk when I
arrived Mrs B. enquired after Mrs L. if she did not expect
her to send I could not say no, because they were ready to go
she took me directly up stairs where all were sitting - she said
Mr Biell had been in here all the morning with one of his
successful beekeepers, such I suppose as Samuel used to have
when he & Nancy used to drink smother wort together - &
had to take one of the horses to go to his counting room with
after sitting nearly an hour she being in & out came & wanted
to see me in the dining room & there was Mrs B. & Betty after.

I was there she could send the chaise which would accommo-
-date two & she would not send so that they could not take
me, we had a very pleasant visit & early they sent us home
dear little Lottie has not changed at all excepting in size -
she looses to suck her thumb as well as ever - It was sad to
meet them all there, & so Mrs Leavitt - I pitied Mr L. it was a
year the Monday previous that he had seen her consigned
to the silent tomb, but with the hope of a joyful resurrection
Mr L's health is much better, yet we hope with trembling, the
new church will soon be formed upon the east side & this will
take some of our most valuable members - Mrs. preached all
day yesterday & came again in the eve. it was our sabbath
school concert - one of my little scholars died last week I know
nothing of it till yesterday - Brother Abram came home last
Sat. a week & stayed till Wednesday - came into the city & dined
with me Tuesday - the Dr. Avey has moved back to the old place
& I will send the message to you that Susan sent to me about
go to writing scolding letter about it up here" - the people con-
tinued to employ the Dr. & it made his sides so long that he
thought it would be better to go back - I am sorry for Susan
& Abram, they enjoyed being together so much & Susan could
go to meeting there. - Last week I went to see two little Artie
children that were exhibiting here they were not, or rather the
girl was not as large as I am think - when I took her in my arms
she seemed about as heavy as an infant of five or six months old
she is supposed to be seven or eight years - the boy was a little
larger, they seemed intelligent particularly the girl I think could
be taught any thing any child of her age could be, there was no
deformity about them their heads were about as large as a good
sized apple, may be an inch & a half from the end of the chin
to their forehead of which they severely had an apology - their
colour was rather coppery from the indian & black like the negro
as if their might be a mixture - but by good judges regard them
as a race run out, their heads are curiously formed - Dr Warren
of Boston compared their heads with an Arctee skull & thinks
they must be that race - They were found in central America

in the case of a monk & bought of him by a Spaniard & of him
I believe of the present owners the monk could give us a
count of them & they are just learning our language or to talk
if they have never talked before, this cannot be told, they
seem very happy & scamper in right good earnest all
over the room, you could hold them in your arms, when they
wanted to go, about as well as you could Series Goffs little
boy. Mr. Vernon went with me - he had seen them before
& when there before but few people were in & they came
to him - he took the girl in his arms & petted her she tried
his hand & was greatly pleased then he put her down &
took the boy she was so jealous of him that she came
& stopped his hand & finally threw herself upon the
floor. I suppose you see plenty of little darkies, but I
guess none as small specimens as these running about
- did Sarah dress the black brides hair if so too does
that black crisp comb. - Mr. Vernon told me as I come
home from school to say to you girls if you had a chance
of a man with a man of comfortable support pious
& agreeable to marry him & I add as an inducement
want if you would we would box Aunt Carpenter up
& send her out to you to recruit - won't you try - When
I got home from P. cousin Noah came over & said Aunt
Carpenter was delicious & got up & fell upon the floor

Elizabeth was frightened & wanted me to come on, so I ate
my dinner & went over & stayed till near noon Thursday
noon laying down after I went there till Thursday night
When I got there & saw how near the mirror Aunt fell
I was not surprised at her delirium, think when she
had tipped over she played possum a little - Uncle
Nancy & myself sat Friday eve & made out a list of
letters necessary to be written when she was gone as she
should not probably be living - when he had that busi-
ness done his mind was easier & he wanted us to help
him think what he should get her that was good when
she was getting better & so we helped him so that I had
fully intended to take W's place in Uncle's room &
let him have a chance to breathe - but my expectations
were disappointed by Aunt's sickness - had the head-
ache after my night's sleep & was of course good for
nothing - Sabbath night I watched again - she is now
going slowly - Elizabeth thinks she cannot keep her after
she gets able to leave - I met Mr & Mrs Ring with Mary
Ann at Mr Bernous one eve. last week it seemed
quite like the both times again - at our monthly
concert for this month we had young Boardman the
son of the deceased Mrs Judson, to give us an account

of India - he was very interesting - on Friday eve I met him
with Lewis Simon of Bristol at Mr Bernois, there is a
persian sadness about him that is touching, he does not
seem as if he even smiled - Simon intends going to Ad-
shoon for his theological course when he graduates which
will be this summer only think of having commencement
in July, by the way did you see the marriage of Mr
Stoddard of persia to a Miss Sophia Haren one of the
Lo Hoadley girls - I wish he was your husband - you might
as well be in India or Persia as where you are - I have
been talking & keeping the Sec. awake & hearing Laura
play the piano whilst I have been writing so you must
not wonder at any mistake - you probably would not
without this excuse, I hope you have received your win-
ter things before this, if so I shall have some hope
of your getting your summer things by next winter
but I think you will find one dress acceptable in the
winter box - We have had the blue birds singing & one day
last week I heard a robin, now you need not boast of birds
& flowers where you are, for we had a snow storm commence
Sat. & continue till yesterday afternoon that went entirely be-
yond any thing you have seen in three years - the snow came
in the most immense flakes yesterday I ever saw, I think

it looked as if the snow cloud had been rent asunder & its contents was falling with the greatest hurry to the earth, it melted fast, & made horrible walking, but I came home the ground froze a good deal last night, or rather the snow upon it froze, but this morning is very pleasant. Tell Sarah Mr. Sawitt inquired particularly after her last Saturday & wanted to know if she was a Christian yet - he remarked that with her conscience, with the training it had had, he thought it would be a difficult matter for her not to observe the external forms of religion, whatever might be the state of the heart, would to God I might have the joy of hearing her & also of telling to him that the love of Jesus was shed abroad in her heart - I wonder if she finds her heart any more disposed to obey the invitations of divine mercy now than when the means of grace were more abundant, blessed be God, his watchful care, tender love & free grace are not confined to New England but are equal by far to the dweller in Miss. or the most remote corner of the earth - I sent her a book in the first box that I hope with the blessing of God may be useful to her - I often think of you both & feel as if you were both in danger of wandering surrounded, as I suppose you with a little of vital godliness.

Dear Mom. Father called yesterday said all were well at home Aunt C. gaining slowly - we have a charming morning the snow will probably disappear rapidly - May the God of love keep you both - Tell me if this letter is double postage -
or 6.66

Thoboth Mop. March 19 — 10

Miss Sarah M. Blanding;
Care A. Purviance P. M.

Camden,
Madison County,
Mississippi.—



[illegible]

Some three weeks since I got a letter from Abram asking me to write Aunt Caroline about letting him have some of her Indiana land adding that he would be down to explain all the next week - to be sure it turned all up sides down but myself I had to write Dr. A. O. B. to stay in Fishersville or we would put him into the Sulley Regimen. Father thought Dr. A. O. B. had quarreled & Mother said nothing. Money gathered no more. I must not write to Aunt, - with Abram came down & had a laugh upon our terror too! Dr. Hays had got homesick & removed bag & baggage back to Decatur Mills which had obliged A. O. B. to sell his drug store but the two Drs. wished to invest something in Western lands & Dr. Hays had proposed to Abram to go out & select each a good farm on Aunt's land & she would furnish the funds for the journey & as Abram feels like he would be a farmer if he should acquire a competency by his profession he was for making preparations - but more about this by & by.

I am exceedingly worried about Juliet's health & wish she had let you write sooner, I have no doubt she has taxed her strength beyond its ability & fear she did not clothe herself warm enough for the winter dragging through the rains; did she put on flannel as I suggested early in the season - if not have her put it on now - till dear old Mrs. Pennock we love her very much for her kindness to dear sister & yourself & she has our warmest gratitude & also Mrs. Nutt & Mrs. Purnance & all others who may try to comfort & sympathize with her by their kind attentions & with you both are in our thoughts every day - and they must keep doing for her till they get her right well. - I wish she had followed Mrs. P's suggestion & quit her school till next month & send I give you power to take care of her & make her do just what the Dr. says. tell him he must soon make her well or he will lose much in the estimation of his new made Northern friends. You must find out from him what she needs - I reckon she ought be taking bark in Brandy, I had to get my appetite with that - and Dr. Hite recommended for me good Old Port wine or London Porter called also Brown Stout to help get my strength & keep off the chills but such things being so hard to get in Philadelphia I had to be satisfied with strong spice tea - when I felt cool if not chilly I would take a mug with considerable ginger & cloves with a little cinnamon mulling & Parents & Sister boiling water upon them & cover it & when cool enough to drink it was ready by adding or excluding now the wine, Brandy & Porter I presume Juliet will think she cannot afford but if she cannot you must get every thing she needs never mind the cost till she feels well & hearty & looks so - & you must not let her do any thing out of school but rest till she feels strong & do not let her take up school when she is not equal to it & she may do the same by you if need be which I hope will not be the case. - Fear our dear sister has been out in the Evening air more than she ought or perhaps has inhaled the miasma from the swamp - in future do you both be very careful about exposures to damps.

I can indeed sympathize with Juliet dear for I think chills affect us similarly. I always coughed incessantly when they were on, & then no appetite, & at night how my bones would pain me. I could scarcely sleep at all. Susan Murray has the dumb ague & would look dreadfully when the chills were on, do not be satisfied with a half way cure but keep her at Wine Brandy, or Porter a good while after the medicine is stopped. And if it seems expedient Mr. Cochran will be in New Orleans till May & she can write him & come home with him & you may come too, do not think you must stay just so long for there is no sacrifice of health & necessary for either but come home when your health or good senses tell you to come. - how much I wish I could hand in a few such things as we have to keep, already taking over to Aunt C. we have just dined on first rate milk porridge which I am sure Juliet could relish. can she not eat hominy & mush & milk surely she can have all she wishes of those for I lived upon them a long time - we used to take strong pepper tea to keep off chills in Illinois - would it not be good in Miss - ? I shall be extremely anxious till I hear again from you till then may kind angels guard & keep you both & may it please our Heavenly Father speedily to restore health to our dear sister is my prayer. you need not fear to come home at any time for I expect to be part owner of a farm before many days & I will let the house to you & come & live with you; but William will tell you about it - it does not suit my notions exactly but I say nothing as my guardian consults me no more about that than he does about other things, & I mean to hold my peace let come what will. I think the reason Uncle has never offered me any money is because he thinks I'll do as I please with it which I truly would not feel bound to tell him so he is going to be very generous & give me a part of a farm which of course will feed & cloth me whether it rents for any thing or not; I was sorry when the place went out of the family but I had ceased to regret it & can only say if William wants it very well, but I fear he will get satisfied like Abram did with the endorsed note. There's a name for my place when I get it (i.e.) Maiden Hill perhaps Juliet may prefer "Sweet solitude" but Maiden Hill will do for me. I have concluded to take things as they come & not get vexed or angry or indignant any more at any body or thing. If I had always been managed like Uncle has & had Aunt C. to continue the management when I get old like Uncle for example I will do no better. I reckon if Uncle buys the farm Aunt will make a step up when she gets to know it. E. A. P. says she shall send Aunt off so soon as she is able to move & get more & more frightened about it every day - for she nor Uncle don't dream of such a thing. E. A. H. are more sure than ever that they know more than they did once. Aunt had a nurse more than ^{three} ~~four~~ weeks; & last week Aunt sent to Uncle for money to pay her board said she only wanted \$6.00 the usual price & she would tell him

— just now first of all I hope you are well
why when she came over — so I expect she has a budget for the visit — she told Father
Mary Allen worked as much for Elizabeth as for her — but did not say she left any of her
things undone & I presume her labor paid the board in Aunt's education but they
ought be paid for they must feel the need of it — but Uncle & Aunt have both discover-
ed how well they are getting on at North with Aunt's board money & changing school
things are some like they are in California — greater & greater discoveries made every day
Susan Smith was there a week & a half says she often made them laugh with her queer ex-
pressions she made about her patient — she reckoned it was fortunate the world was not
filled with people like Uncle & Aunt, she said. North family should a good chance to be
in the same road till next May — but I guess not she wants so bad to see her Brother
since George has come he is a great convenience towards keeping the road but that
we find it worst do for child like he heard & sees too much to be repeated but Uncle &
Aunt both rather have him for reporter than Father Mother or William, I have been
but twice to see Aunt for I can't stand the trade she makes over me when I get there for
really I cannot reciprocate her feelings of strong attachment just discovered —

Uncle wishes me to ask you if Mr. Mc. Murray is any related to the celebrated
Dr. Mc. Murray of Philadelphia, an old friend of Uncle's he used to give me tickets
to his lectures at the high school — of fine lecturer he was — And Uncle also
wishes me again to mention that in the last box is a delain dress & burnings with
a pair of black mitts for Mrs. Purviance — I have saved the box for another time
But I must not forget — tell Juliet never to mind if her school is somewhat lessened
I reckon it will be quite as well for her now & if she makes no more than you did last
year (if she decides to stay in Camden) she will do better than she could at home & as there
is no great distress about money just take care of the scholars she has & be content that
the gallant chevaliers & southern gentlemen with his friends who have injured Sister
so much better come North & she taught the first rudiments of decent positions
I used to think ladies at the South were treated decently respectful but my mind is
now changed — If the apples ^{sent} keep like our Mrs. Hampshire's apples they will be a
treat for you but fear after they are open they will soon decay — When you next write
you can if Juliet's ear is better tell us she had chills & is better if she gets no letter write
how she is exactly without any reference to what you have written me & if she should
not come on with Mr. C. she can if she continues as now come home with some of the
merchants in the summer — She must not think or talk about my seeing Boston
for I cannot leave home till Eo next vacation & Mrs. C. will have left the City by
that time — I have recently written her all about Mrs. Henderson & also told her I
could not visit her — When the weather gets warm & settled I hope Father will spend a week
in the City after which I hope she & Father with Sally & Susan Smith will visit Aunt Puck & Mrs
Wright which will do me more good than to go visiting myself won't it you? —

William is writing you but I intend he shall keep his on hand till I can tell you
about the price of castings & silk. though it does make little fret because we
make you pay two postages so near together. Tell him I guess you don't mind it
But I promised to tell you about Dr. Avery when at Fisherville his old patient
who would not give him up. He was obliged to visit his old practice every day
they were continually telling him how wrong he did to leave them & soon after he
got to F. the Dr. took cold & had a bad cough which alarmed him. He thought the
difference in the air of the two places caused it. Abram says there is quite a
difference. She was not surprised the Dr. was alarmed by a cough still he thought it would
not trouble him long & then Dr. Argent is like to make Abram some trouble by
not living up to his compact when Abram bought him out. I all together the Dr. got
both disgusted & horned. Heing a man of very quick impulses back he went as
soon as he thought of it. Abram said Susan felt badly about that first but at last
she seemed contented. I am very sorry for the last move but doubtless it is for the best
Abram had no boarding place when down & he has not written us since he returned
the children were in tolerable health. Had taken some cold moves.
How speaks of heavy rains & frequent but you can scarcely have exceeded
those we have had, during Jan. & Feb. we had very little cold weather (some severe
days) but it seemed like Spring had come. the 4th & 5th of March my birds were out
of the ground & exceedingly to enjoy the soft air & warm sunshine. I flaked of opening
my plants to the sun. all my bulbs were up & also were the perennials, but the last of
the first week in March snow began to fall. we have lived much of the time since
in a snow storm, as your letter said we are wrapped in a snowy mantle. it is now 3
hours since the storm began & no cessation yet day or night with a strong N. East
wind. we have nothing to compare with it in severity this winter & this March. I
geared up the sleigh & took Father to the depot to go to Taunton as a witness in
case for Capt. Carpenter. he said he should not come home in the storm. I then
he will stay for it looks no more like fair weather than when it began to storm.
Capt. C. cut his foot nearly a year since while chopping in the woods. it is in a
bad condition.

with your message to Maria Woodard the first opportunity I have William is
afraid to call at Capt. C. before William gets home fearing I suppose Jane will take
him to herself they are now looking for William - Thomas has decided to stay till fall
- my wife who was very sick in the summer she was very unwell last summer
- Amelia has been too busy to write you I presume she was very unwell last summer
- she was scarcely out of school when her grandmother took sick
- which with her mother's poor health she had more to do than she ought, but regained
- her health as soon as someone could be obtained to stay with Aunt Amelia went
- to Littleboro to take care of Martha - Juliana has been out since Mrs Fuller left but
- went home Sat. if they can obtain no one Amelia must come home - I think she
- is in a fair way to wear out instead of mending - Juliana Sanford died recently
- did you know Sarah Sanford married Mrs. Major Coffe's Brother about the time you left
- she had just been down visiting with a fine looking child - I asked Mary Allen
- about visiting you & she said as soon as she had time they had a time with Saml.
- meadow & now she had been mending her Aunt's Sarah & Carpenter's of course had
- to be so devoted to the latter she could not write but I reckon she will offer a while of
- William & Darius will let her have time - you don't know what a scramble there is in
- the direction of the Arcade as Elizabeth calls it - William says the main difficulty
- is Mary thinks she must go under the water she thinks he cannot - Sarah Carpenter
- is engaged to teach our school the coming summer, since she has been in the town
- we see her so seldom we do not know when she gets letters she used to always tell us -
- but Miss Delight had not written her decent enough yet to tell us she has had a letter
- but may be for want of an opportunity - Mary Smith is spending her vacation in town
- George Blodgett is with us & has thus far done very well & I believe I am willing to make
- some personal sacrifice if I can help Mr. Blodgett to make good use of his sons for the
- are called very naughty at home & in Chadwick - Cousin Adeline & Benoni have
- a daughter some three weeks old I knew nothing of it till I heard it was there -
- But I must tell you of Mr. Snows examination which I graded with my presence
- William would not & rather though invited could not & they said I must so I made nearly
- was rather late but heard several recitations which were very well then came Knap
- a piece on Astronomy by Auerha one on the Discovery of Columbus by M. Jane Darrow

Rehoboth Mass.

April 11.

10

Miss Sarah M. Blanding,

Care A. Purviance P. M.

Camden,

Madison County,

Mississippi.



Haste
thee.

Elm Cottage Rehoboth March 18th 1851

My Dear Sister Sarah

After much anxiety & losse of sleepe a trying to think of some-
thing to write I have commenced this day at 2^{1/2} to 11 oc A.M. it being a stormy day, with my
head as empty as ever but we are trying to get the steam up with Georgy Blodgits help a
fireman so that it will run off the end of my pen without the help of the brain, but
I think you will say enough of this nonsense so I will commence with the weather it commenced
snowing last Sunday as we were going to meeting and has snowed & rained most of the time since and
bid, fare to continue two days more it is the most tedious storm we have had this winter but
the snow does not gone very fast on account of the ground not being frozen any and it is so warm
that it thaws most of the time. I carried Father up to the depot this morning to in the sleigh to
take the cars for Trenton to be a witness in a case pending between Capt W. Carpenter and the
heirs of a Mr French about some land on the grate Plain he does not know when he will get
home, we had some very good sleighing the fore part of the winter but since that went off it has
been warm most of the time so that it has been very bad traveling Capt Carpenter said that
he expected William at home this spring so perhaps he will call on you before this reaches you
if he does we want you to send a letter by him so that he will call on us soon after he
arrives. We got your letter on Sunday, that was mailed on the 4th of March you seem troubled
about Peter Hartons coming into the neighbourhood but you need not trouble yourself
about it for most of the meighbour is like it better than to have Albert Goff for a meighbour
you also seem to think that I shold Miss D. B. G. that need not worry you for I see her
quite often so as to know how she gets a long, she has been quite often to our meeting since
this year came in, but the neighbours are a trying to laugh at me about M. B. Allyn now but
I think it will do no good for I am a fraid I should haf to take the children and another thing
she wont go to our meeting stidy. I saw her a few days ago since & in course of conversation I said
that I was a going to write you soon she wanted me to say for her that she had received your
letter and ment to of ^{me} ~~an~~ ^{me} ~~an~~ it before this but she had not had time but would in a few days
she ~~stayed~~ ^{not} with Aunt Carpenter most of the time she was sick, I think D. Martine
wont do better than take Mary but how she would like it I dont know she dont like to
be plagued about him

Last Tuesday evening I with the young people of the neighbourhood went to a party at J. N. Goff's where Mr S Goff lived so don't you think that I am getting up in the world well I should not of gone but I had two invitations last fall & did not go so I thought that I should like to know how they got a long but one would not go unless all went off of this street so we concluded to go we all went to a writing school taught by A B Bliss up in our new school house first and stayed until after 8 oc then went down to the party when we got there we found a lot there that was not just the sort of folks that we generally go with but I went to see so I looked on we stayed till 1 oc then I told Mary Allyn that I was going home and as she was going to stay with Aunt C if she wanted I would accompany her so she put on her things and went to bid the company good night but Mr M. Hunt's girls saw us and made us wait until they could put on their things so we left and left the company enjoying themselves I have heard since that they left the house about 4 oc in the morning but I think that we stayed long enough considering the company Ira & Ferdinand Bliss were there some say that it was Ira's party George Carpenter Anson Cole Square Leaker Sun's sons in law & sons-in-laws were there we had a mixed up company from Ira Bliss down to Cousin James Smith the lark was there as large as life we had plenty of cider and he said he must get us all drunk if he could but he could not make our company drink any so they said we belonged to the to the temperance society but I cared not for that - I doubt whether they get me there again very soon but I went to see so I don't know as I am sorry that we went. I helped move the old schoolhouse by Mr Bliss for Mr McCormick we got along very well after we had set it down by his stone barn we went to the house and had a good dinner as we had supper the evening that we had the husking and if any thing better. I don't know but that I shall buy the old place on the hill Uncle is in favour of it I have offered \$1000 for it and am to know tomorrow or next day we are to pay \$400 down the first of April one half of the remainder in 6 months and the rest in one year it is a proposition of Uncle's offering I told him that I did not want him to do ~~it~~ so that he would blame me in a few months for I could not pay for it nor we did not want him to feel obliged to sell any of his stock because I thought we could do it with ought he said he did not for he wanted to buy it and if he lived we could pay with

and if he does not it will be all the same so he says
ought selling. Now I want you & Juliett to make your arrangements to send me some
money next winter if you can so that if Uncle gets me into a scrape and then
won't help me out I can get out with whole limbs but it is an offer of his own making
the money that you ^{& I} sent on last winter has been disposed of, all but 100 dollars which I
have by me but shall use it in a few days to buy a yoke of oxen when I shall give them
a note for it - perhaps you want to know if I have not got any more now. Yes but they
are quite fleashy and as meat is quite high I want to sell them this spring if I do it
won't answer to do all of my work this spring as I have a good deal of work to do, as I intend
building a carriage house 20 ft by 30 of stone high enough for carriages then wood as high
high as the barn with quite a sharp ruff for hay if I do that it will hold as much
hay as the hay mow to the barn I am a going to set it where we stock our hay let the
south side be where the board fence to the barnyard is towards the road you wanted to
know in your last letter why John came to leave me it was because he wanted more than
he could earn so I let him go but we can get him again this spring for 14 \$ a month
and if we buy and can let the house to John and his wife so that it will do I shall hire
him if not don't know who will work for me. George D. Blodget Mr. Blodget's son
is a going to stay with us 6 months or more but if my strawberries do as well as last
season we shall want 2 or 3 hands in picking time for we have about 4 as many more
plants now as last summer and we had about 500 boxes last season but I don't expect
them to do as well this season although they looked very well last fall when we covered them
but it was an uncommon season last summer for we had rain often so that it did not
dry up ^{up} all of mine off of 27 rods of ground Mr. Wm D. Hunt had about 160 rods
and had about 200 boxes he thinks that it was not the baring year for his but I could
tell him different if I was a mind to but he had his plants given to him & I bought
mine so I don't choos to tell him so we will see if there is any difference between
knowing how to do a thing and not - Cousin Noah wants some plants to set but he
thinks the day has gone by for selling the plants so I shant tell him for I had to pay for
mine & I think that bought wisdom is the best in this case Noah mite had a fine
led this spring if he had bought his plants & known how to cultivate them but he
had them given to him by Mr. Hunt so I think he will have but a few berries this

April 10 It is fast day with us to day, so that I will try to finish this to day,
when I commenced this I thought it would be nearly its journey's end before
this but it has been good weather most of the time since & have been so
busy that I have had no time to write John is at work for me whether
he will live on the hill or not I do not know yet his wife has got a little
boy, borne the first day of April. Uncle has taken the deeds of the farm on
the hill & given his notes paid 600 hundred down 525 more to pay,
one year so that I shant want any money on that account Father said
that he was going to give me a deed of it which I was to pay him
~~for~~ one dollar & 300 hundred to Mary. I expect that it will make
some mail but cant help it. our new neighbors have got here and
things begin to change all ready Deacon Hunt has moved in to Salsburg
where he sells most of his things at auction on Saturday at 4 oc.
I dont know what he will do if the one that gets the colt makes
her mouth sore I raised about 470 bu of corn had about 75 of
~~the~~ the most of the crop rotted at any rate enough to come to 45
as they are selling now. I lost one heffier this winter 3 years old
that would of been a cow this spring I bought a yoke of oxen last
Thursday for 402 dollars which are very handsome most say that I got
quite reasonable as cattle are selling working oxen are very high in price
I have no likely Pigs this spring but there is a great call for them
and they are very high. I lost one swarm of bees last winter but
have 6 hives now the spring is very forward the meadows are looking
quite green my strawberries have begun to throw out buds - the fruit
- trees in the young orchard have budded quite full but if we have a frost
in the course of a few days it will spoil the fruit I for got to say that I
raised about 80 bu of oats & 12 or 15 of rye a man was in the barn yesterday
that sayed that I had 14 dms of bees in it - for want of room I will bring this to
a close you must not think that I do not think of you because I dont write
oftener for I should like to but have nothing to write with much love to

Elm Cottage March 28th. 1851-

Dear Sisters

I will write a few lines to enclose in Williams should he get it off before my next monthly letter is due you in answer to the queries contained in "Sallies" last - Elizabeth says she & Laura Fletcher have been looking at black silks lately for L. address & find them to range from $\$1, 12\frac{1}{2}$ to $\$1, 87\frac{1}{2}$ per yard that at the lowest price was only $\frac{3}{4}$ wide the others wider - good (but not the best) & quite handsome ingrain carpeting can be bought for, $62\frac{1}{2}$ ^{per yd.} & so on up to, $87\frac{1}{2}$ the latter price will get a very good quality - three ply carpeting of a good quality can be purchased for eight shillings per yard & so on up to the best qualities

Call me my dear friend
I presume I need not charge you to tell the great difference in the prices of goods
~~only~~ to here & with you in Camden N.J. only to your intimate friends, or such as
are in a measure aware of the difference as it might spoil the sale of some articles
in Mr. Purvances store & he is very kind to permit you to receive your things as
you do — I call Mrs. M. M. & dear old Mrs. Tenner your intimate friends & maybe
you may have a few others — I do not think it wrong for you to get things sent out for
the use of those who are so kind to you. —

Last Evening Father brought from the City intelligence of the death
of Mrs. Betty L. Bullard which sad event occurred on the 18th. inst. James com-
municated the sad news to Elizabeth & we know more of the particulars —

Cousin Maria sent me a present of a beautiful copy of Genelon by Mrs.
Shant, a short time since — & Elizabeth sent me a black veil which with my
dress, by Abner clothed me & feeds my mind. — The dog is lovely — my birds are out
Uncle says till the girls the snow drifts are fast disappearing he can see but one from his window
Father has today gone to lay out a new Cemetery on Wm. Bullocks land near the Orleans Factory
Hannah has given me a very pretty lace & ribbon for my neck. —