

Eau Claire, Oct 25th, 1857

Dear Brother & Sister.

Your last letter was received about four weeks since. I had indeed looked long & anxious for tidings from you; & if you want me to write oftener, you must do so yourself, for I always wait to hear from you before I write. You say it is a task to write, but I see not why it should be to write to me. As long as that is the only way I can hear from you, could you know how I prize your letters & how much consolation they are to me. In this western land of strangers, (as it were), away from all my brothers & sisters, & almost without a hope of ever seeing them in this world, it seems you could not complain of the task. No, dear Sister do not think so any more, but set down, unfold your heart to me often, & I will do the same.

We are both well, & doing well; my health was never better I think. I have had two boarders all summer, & for four weeks past have had three. I do all my work alone, but do not expect they will stay with us more than three or four weeks longer, as they will get through work here probably about that time. They are old acquaintances from Oxford & have been building a Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Hastings works for them for  $2\frac{1}{4}$  dollars a day. We have  $4\frac{1}{2}$  dollars each a week for the board, so you have reason to rejoice we came here instead of mourning. Besides you can come see us just as easy & cheap. It is much more healthy here than at Oxford: the water is better (it is soft & good as ever I tasted in my life), there has been nothing of the Ague here this season. Provisions are not as high as they have

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been but are well high up yet. Have just bought a jar of butter at 35 cts a lb (we have paid 40), flour is 8 dollars a barrell, potatoes 30 cts or less a bushell.

I have not much news to write. I have had a letter from Lysander, from what I hear think he doing well. Said he had been to see Almira & had a good visit; I suppose you know Almira M is married & lives about 4 miles from home. You did not tell me what Addison said about my letters, nor did you say whether Freedom had received my letter or not.

It must seem lonely indeed to you & brother Adams to have one after another taken away by death, it would seem sad to me to visit there again & not see the old friends left there. But death is not a respecter of persons; no, the loved, the rich & poor alike fall victims to his solemn call. Oh how necessary it is that we live in constant preparation for that day in which we must exchange worlds. Sister have you yet given your heart to God? Oh wait not to be better, not the righteous sinners Jesus came to call. Be hopeful, trust the boundless mercy of a crucified & risen Saviour, & all will indeed be well for time & for eternity.

I have received a paper from you; it was a real treat to see a Greenfield paper once more, do send them oftener & not be afraid I shall not get them.

I would like to send you some of the big fish we catch out of the Chippewa river. Mr Hastings brought up one weighing about 15 lbs the other morning, we have all we want. As for Huckleberries old montague plains is nothing compared to them. I never saw them so thick, nor near as large as they



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are here. I went out a little while one afternoon, picked 10 qts. Every bluff is covered with them. Cranberries in great abundance, but not quite as plenty as they were last year.

It is some weeks since I have heard from Mrs Haynes; they were all well then. Mrs Hunt, I think, is well contented. Is old Uncle David Newel living? One of our neighbors, Mr Willard, is a nephew of his; came from York state here, lives with his son in law Mr Kidder, the Congregational minister of this place. Mr K, I think, has a sister married & living in Gill; I do not think of the name now. I should think Mother would almost feel as though she was outliving everybody, she must be sad & lonely. Give my love to her, & say she is not forgotten. Where is Sarah P & husband? Write soon for I am always anxious to hear from you. Why does not Eliza write me? My love to her & John, & remember me to all enquiring friends. Smead sends respects also.

Love & good wishes of your Sister L A Hastings