

Eau Claire, Sept. 16th, 1861

Dear Sister

I suppose you are almost out of patience with me for not writing sooner, but really so many cares have come along every day that it seemed as though I could not well find time. Besides I have been sick, was taken the first of April and for eleven weeks had to keep a hired girl. Since that I have kept around and done my work, but still can not very well. But if I can only do my work I will not complain.

Oh how I wish I could have one of Joels girls to live with me. me; I regret it more and more every day I live. I am glad you like Melissa so well. She must be a great comfort to you. And now you have Mother with you; I think you are doubly blest. How I would like to have her come and stay with me awhile; it seems as though it would do me good. Give our love to her.

Sarah I feel a little childish. I feel just like having a good cry, I want to see you all so bad. Just think, here I am without even the most distant relative that I can see, & do not often hear from any one. Oh what a blessed privilege to be so near Addison as you are. Poor brother, I know well how to sympathize with him on account of his health. Do not think I am homesick, for I am not. I had rather live here than in Mass, but I do want to see you once more. Why could not John kept on and made us a visit when he went to Ohio. It is too bad. We would have been so glad to have seen him, well perhaps he will come sometime. I have not heard from Almira for a

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long time. I wrote her last. I had a letter from Lysander last spring. He was then at Ann Arbor but thought he should not stay much longer; would have been glad to have come out here if we could have given encouragement of doing well, but that we could not do, for it is dull hard times. He sent me his likeness. It looks very natural, although it looks old & careworn, like the rest of us I suppose. We are old people now.

Well how do you feel in regard to the war. Is it not dreadful? Do you remember what Father used to say? Who ever (never?) lived to see it. There would be war yet between the North & South or dis-union of the North & South. Here it is in part. War is upon us. What will be the result we know not. Eau Claire has just sent off a fine company. We had a great time when they left, music and marching with them to the boat, & then a time of parting. I tell you it was a solemn time. There was about eighty soldiers perhaps but few if any will ever return. God only knows there is talk of getting another company, but I do hope they will not for we have scarcely men enough left for a home guard if necessary to form one.

You will wonder what we want a home guard for so I will tell. There is danger of the Indians coming upon us. They have already committed depredations in some places & many fear if this war continues through the winter we may expect dreadful



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times. I almost wish myself back east when I think of the danger to which we are exposed for I tell you it is not very pleasant to think of being murdered & robbed by the Indians, but then they may remain quiet. Eau Claire has always been considered neutral ground. There has never been any here since we came to this place untill a few weeks since. There was five ventured here. They were the Chippewa's. They and the Sioux are at enmity with each other. That is why this is neutral ground. Should they meet each other there would be a battle. The people here told those five that were here that the Sioux were coming & they cleared quick.

I tell you we should stand in no fear of the Indians if it was not for the secessionist. They are stirring them up. The government bought this land of the Indians and it so happened some of the commissioners that were to pay this money to the Indians were secesionist and instead of paying the money to the Indians, paid it over to the southern people to carry on the war, and tell that we cheated them, & so get them to fighting with them & fight us. In some places they have already enlisted but we will hope for the best. Perhaps I ought not to have mentioned this for I fear you will worry about us but I trust no such trouble will come upon us.

We have had a beautiful season. Crops are excellent although wheat is not quite as good as last year.

I had a letter from Carrie not long since. She was well but little Carrie had fallen down the steps and cut a large gash on

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her nose. It was then getting better, but had been very bad. How I wish I could have her. If Carrie does not provide any grave stones for Erastus, we will try and do something towards getting some. Do not let his grave be neglected, dear kind brother, it must not be neglected. I want you should set something out around it for me, a white rose at the head, or a willow. Is there anything around Joel's grave? I would like dearly to go that graveyard. I have written just as fast as I can make the pen go. Consequently it is badly written, but if you can not read it bring it to me & I will read it for you. Our love to you all.

L A H