

Oh how I do wish I had
the privilege of seeing
you all & going once
more to the "Old school
house" to meeting, I am
deprived of going to meeting
for I believe they have
hardly had a meeting
since could weather get
in.

But I hope I shall
get a chance to go home
to meeting before many
years pass by my life
is spared.

Then I hope I shall
see you all. Is it
not a joyful thought
May God grant to
spare us to all meet
again in the flesh
his my desire.

Good night

Sally

Princeton Jan. 15th 1857

My Dear Sisters

As it is a week since I wrote John
I will now write you both together as I received your letters both
the past week. I did not get Mac's until 13 days after it was
written & if John had not written I should not have had a letter
from home last week, Oh how badly I should ^{have} felt I expect I should
have cried about it. The mails are very irregular now, I suppose it
is on account of the snow. You wrote you had received no letter
from me in more than two weeks. I did not write in two weeks
the reasons I gave in my letter written Dec. 2 & 3rd which you ought
to have received before John wrote. I have been sorry I did not write
a few lines any way; ever since I neglected, but I do hope you will
not do like me. I will try to get, do it again, as long as you wish
to hear from us as often as once a week. when you think that two
often just write me word & I will stop. As for me I can truly
say I would like to hear from home every day if there was any
thing to write as often, but I know there is not, so I will be content
with a ~~few~~ sheet as well filled as yours last, every week, only I
wish it was "fool's cap" instead of note paper, but I will not find
fault anyway. We are well, hope you are all the same. It is so
cold here no one can hardly venture out. It is good sleighing, how

Ms. finished out this motto.

*Synops
you had
better
not direct
any thing
simply
We have
but one
place
farther
is a
Hawkey
Woodcock
not far
from here
if he might
take them
out of the
office
I forgot
to tell
you
before
"Sade"
M*

I wish you were out here, we would get up some western Sleighrides,
I have been so lonesome since I have been helping house. I would
give a great deal if one of you was out here to stay with me, but vain
the thought. We go down to Jesse's or else some of them are up here
two or three times a week, but still when I am alone as day or two
I am lonesome. We live about a mile east of Jesse's on the high
prairie. J lives on the low land or bottom as it is called here.
We live a little more than two miles from the R. C. which is at the
village as I should call it) town of Princeton as they call it here.
On the same road about 4 miles farther is LeClaire about 16 or 17
miles farther on the same road is Tarentum. But there are nearer
ways to by several miles for us to go to Tarentum. The road from Princeton
to T. runs within a few feet of the river all the way I believe. I
know it does as far as LeClaire. It affords a clear view of the
Miss. with its Steamboats, Ferry boats, rafts &c. The rafts consist of
many thousands of feet of lumber (in logs) fastened together & on some
of them there is a little cabin built, in which the raftmen as they are
called live, while the raft is coming down the river. They come ashore
I suppose once in a while to get provisions, for they come from
away up north & sell their lumber at various places along the
river. I tell you those rafts are funny looking concerns.
But the river is frozen over now & rafts, ferry boats & one or
two steamboats are frozen in. They cross the river now with teams &c.
But enough of that, for I don't expect you care about the river &c.
You wrote some time ago that there was a report of Joseph
Eaton's death, have you heard anything more about him?
And if you see "Peggy or" "Tolly" Lawton please ask them if

their sister has moved to Iowa & in what part. We have been
down to Josses today & I told them I was going to ^{write} you this evening
& they said I must write often so as to get a letter from B.S. often.
Sam^l sent his respects to both; says you ^(and) must not let anyone have
that Daguerrotype for he is coming for it, some time. Jim says
he is quite well acquainted with Ann & he is going to make
a wedding for ^{her} if she comes out ^{here} to get married. he says your
likeness "looks as if there was mischief in your eye". Tim. Baxter
said if he had seen it anywhere he would have sworn it was
mine. says if those pictures I have, are fair samples of the B.S.
girls, he is going there to get him one. he says Mac is a nice looking
little woman, thinks he shall call on her. By the way if you
have not received but 8 letters from ^{you have not got home} me, for I have written 9 nice.
Oct. 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th Dec. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, which have you
not received; I have not got that paper of seaweed yet & I am
real sorry. I am going to send you some leaves I picked out of the
hay, & the blossom that belongs to it but I must pick it to pieces,
for it is some like a daisy & would make too large a bulk whole.
you can plant the seeds if you wish. It does not look nice &
you know that anything dried in a stack of hay never does.
And I am going to send you a piece of my window curtains; a piece
of the ground work; they have a vine around them & a large flower
vase in the centre; they cost a "bit" a piece. I have only got now
-gh for one room yet. What do you think of them? I shall ^{send} these
things, & you & Mac can do with them as you please. (Quite a
privilege.) When you get tired reading, throw it by I guess there
is enough in this to furnish you with reading for a week.

I showed J's folks one of father's ^{little} that is how full the sheet was written
they said they did not wonder that we could write such long letters
they thought it must be natural to the family. Tell father I am
looking for a letter from him, as I think it is time he wrote to his
absent folks again. Tell him I think of ^{him} these cold days when he is going
away to the plain. I don't want him to expose himself & get sick,
tell him to be careful of his health. Horace says tell father he is helping
build a barn or rather an addition to a barn, it is just raised & they
are going to shingle tomorrow if it is not too cold. This morning the
thermometer was 20 degs. below zero. The barn is down to Jess's, the
addition is 30 feet long & 2 wide, the barn will be nearly 100 feet
long then. He says tell Uncle Daniel it is not quite so hot as it was
when they was shingling the barn on the "plain"

Tell Mother "How do you do" for me, tell her she shall have a
kiss when I see her. Tell John to look out & not get lary again.
Tell Bob to fly round round & not freeze. He just says tell Chas.
that Tim. is "round" ^{on the look out} John says you both have two beaux a piece
nearly every Sunday night. Do tell us all about them will you not?

How does Ann & Chr. Chesse progress in "Love"? Chas & Chr. Somebody
I have sent a few lines in your letters ^{for others} without asking your
permission, if you had rather I would not do so, please send me
word. If you are willing I think I shall send more sometimes &
don't want you to go to any trouble to send or carry them. But when
you see them or come send with me brother is time enough.

Horace is going to send Uncle Daniel a paper tomorrow if you
see any of them ask them if they have got it. You must excuse
this writing for it is evening & I have a poor light & write in
haste. You said those "Mottos" were "whoppers" what think you
of this whole "Establishment"? I now close wishing you happy
days, & asking a place in your memories. Our love to all

To:
From your absent Sister
M. & A. E. Jeffs
Sarah