



Home on the bluff, Feb. 21st.

My Dear Sister,

Now for a chat with one, though lost to sight to memory dead. It is evening. We have had almost all kinds of weather today. When I got up this morning it was raining, soon after breakfast, it quit raining & commenced to snow; about noon it quit snowing, & the sun, has shone warm & bright nearly all the afternoon, & more than half the snow melted off.

We had a "roast turkey" for dinner today. It was very fat, indeed, I haven't measured it but I think there is a quart of clear oil, on the water that I parboiled it in, with some that I took out before I cooked it & tried separate. While we were eating dinner I said "I would give lots of chat & Ann were only here." & after I had done eating, before I got up from the table I said, "if Ann was only here now, we would have an old fashioned laugh". I felt just like it then. Towards night S. & I took a notion to make some "lasses" candy so we put some "lasses" on to boil, well when we thought it had boiled enough, she set it out to cool,

but when we undertook to "work" it, we found
it was not "cooked" enough, so put it on & boiled
over again, put it out to cool, he has just brought
it in, says it's right nice now. Told me to tell
you, he wished you was here he would cover your
face all over with it, then you would be a sweet
little girl. Horace sits here, eating & working a
great ball of candy, says "ask Ann if she likes
"lapses candy", if she does come out, & get a "gob";
Horace says "tell Mac he wishes she was here; says
he would twist his around her neck & then,
fill his ^{with candy} mouth & kiss her." I guess I have written
enough about "lapses" candy, so will proceed to
other matters, although I don't know as there
is any news afloat around here at present.
All the talk here, is about "Lake Peak" &
"Cherry Creek" gold diggings. It seems to me
you have lots of company "now-a-days". I think
the folks who go to the "old school house" are
very fortunate in having some one to preach
to them now that Eld. T. has left them entirely.
I would like well to hear Mr. Shidmore.
Does he preach for nothing, or do they pay him?
Horace says tell you not to forget, to tell your
dream, for he is waiting to hear it.

I am sorry to hear Aunt Mary is so feeble,
hope however that she will get better when
the weather gets warmer. Oh! Ann did you get
the "American Union" I sent you some time ago?
And have you got the Princeton paper that
I sent a week or two since? If you have how
did you like them? As I can't think of any-
thing to fill this besides what I want to write
father, I will close yours here & write him on
the rest of this sheet. I don't suppose it will
any difference to him or you, Does it? Good-by

My Dear Father, Yours. Sarah.

Again I am blessed
with the privilege of writing to you & I do it with
as much pleasure as I did two years (& more)
ago. O how thankful I am, that all of us
have had life & health given us, & have
been permitted to address each other so often,
for such a long time. Truly we have been
greatly blessed. I look for my weekly message
from home with as much anxiety as I would
a friend, whom I expected. It snowed a little
Thurs. night, but it was so warm Friday & yesterday that
it nearly all thawed off, today it snowed a little
more, but is warm for the season. They say there is

but little good in the ground now. By the way

if you don't get my letters so soon, you may

attribute it to the mail arrangements, for we

don't get our letters & papers as soon as usual, lately

they say that there was not a mail at all

more than one week from the last week,

& we have not got our papers one last week.

According to this, I will now finish this, & send it

to the office this P.M. and expect one of the

boys will go down. They have altered the mail

arrangement again. It goes down to Davenport on

Thursday, Friday, & Sunday, it comes up Tue, Thur, &

Sat. Such marks as they have here in the mail

line I give you under head of, I matter to

about it. It is rather early now, than it

has been for some time, that is, I believe,

tell me, I hope the wife will be home

of visiting me soon. Tell her not to get much as

me because I haven't written much as for

this time, for she will get a whole letter next

time I expect. Give our respects to all inquiring

friends. Write all the things in your next -

however, for me all like to hear. Tell mother

I will not forget her, but send her lots of love.

Yours affectionately - David

John P. M.