

times yet when the child
is old enough to realize
& prize a gift. They are all
gone. I have thought I
should give some such
present as I have written
& then think I was not

humble to give them
anything more, although
if I should see them
& like them I might
give them some little
presents. You wanted
me to write what I thought
I have done or it of course
you can do as you choose.
Write me what you
think of my views
anyway.

I am going to send
Phoebe a couple of verses
in this. I have done
rooms to write her
much this week.
Much love to her
& all the rest.
Yours &c.
A. E. F.
Sally

Dear sister,

I expect you will
look for a letter from me this time, &
I will try not to disappoint you, although
I will not guarantee that it will be interesting.
Sunday was a very showery day. It rained "by
spells" about as hard as I ever saw it. It thundered
some too. We did not go anywhere. Mr.
Thomas was here, & that was all the company we
had. He was here about half the day. (By the
way Mr. T. is a right smart, chance of a bean)
It seems to me that Thom. Larison changes
his mind often. Guess he will be like
us very slow getting rich. What think you?
You say that A. Hopkins tells the most reasonable
stories of the west of any one you ever heard talk.
Now I will tell you a few of my views of the
west, & I think I have been here long enough
to entitle me to a "vote." I think if a person

has plenty of money, he can live much more pleasantly at the east; Or if he gets his living by working in the "mills"; or at many other kinds of business, perhaps he will do as well ^{or better} there than he can here, but if he is a farmer with but little money, I think he can do much better at the West, here he can raise almost every kind of vegetation that grows in the Temperate Zones, ^{at least in this latitude} & with half the labor that it requires at the east, also he can raise stock & horses with but very little expense, as it costs nothing for their summer keeping, & not nearly as much for grain & hay to keep them in winter here as it would in N. E. "To be sure" if times were as hard & crops as poor as they were last year any one would not be thankful if they made a good living & kept out of debt, I think though that the poor here fare about as well as in other parts of the U. S. I would much prefer ^{to} live in N. E. on account of my friends & many other things that I am here deprived of, but for a few years at least, I shall try to content myself to call the west home, for I think it is best for us. As for the country itself I should think anyone would like it, (at least any one that likes flowers, birds, rivers, vales, & hills.) but I allow this country

lacks age & refinement to make it like the N. E. states. I have written three times as much as I expected to about the west, but have written ^{but} a few of my many thoughts &c. If ever you should visit this country I think you will say I have written nothing but what is true. — I think your dream quite a comical one, the dress more unique than any Indian costume I ever saw or heard of. I often have as singular dreams. Don't it strange anyone will dream of such improbable things? We received Father's & Maria's letter of Apr. 5. last night. It came uncommonly quick. You asked in that, what I thought about your sending Nellie a present. I think you had better not send anything of much consequence by mail. I have always thought if I should name a child, I wouldn't give it dresses or any such things for the child would never realize that it ever got a present for its name, but thought I would give it something that would be useful & lasting, such as a silver butter knife, preserver spoon, salt spoon, or if I felt able & so disposed would give it a set of tea spoons that would cost \$4.00 or so, & that I would have it, or them marked with the child's initials, & then it would have something durable & nice, to remind them of me. Many give much more value in dresses, playthings, &c. at different

one & all. 30 years old. "and" I am aged 40 years.
This is my birthday & will give me 40 years
My Dear father,

Apr. 12. 1859.

Again I commence my
weekly chat with you. We are as well as usual, &
hope all of you are the same. It is raining this
afternoon by showers. It has thundered quite hard
part of the time. Our folks want to sow their wheat
now, but it rains, about all of the time. Our rye
looks nice & green. By the way we have got some
little chickens, Have you any young chickens or goslings?
Some of our turkey lay I believe, but none set.
Corn is 50 cts. per bush. here now. Potatoes from
50 to 75 cts. Stock is on the rise, (report says.)
"You want me to send you some pumpkin seeds".
I will do so in course of a week or two. I have been
thinking of sending a package of seeds for you & the girls,
perhaps I shall send them this week. When you get
them you must "sow" them & plant them accor-
-ding to directions. Don't forget to send us a few
white birch seeds when they are ripe. We want to
give them one more trial here. If there are any
other kind of seeds, that I have or can get that you
want, send me words & I will send them to you.
This is rather a short letter although I have written five.
I will make up for it some time. Love to all.
J. Jeffs, Your absent Sarah.

Recd Apr 22/58
Ans. " 26th,

Miss Ann E. Telft,
Kington?
Washington Co.
R. I.

