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Weybridge August 6<sup>th</sup> 1859

Dear Aunt Polly

I did not think when I bade you good bye that I should not write to you for so long but although you did not ask me to I intended to write ~~for direct~~ to you direct by - I have had no time to write since I came - we had a safe passage found some of the folks as well as usual & some sick Father had been quite sick & Aunt Sylvia was so ill as to employ Dr Russell the saturday before I came he said she had liver trouble the immediate cause but you cannot imagine how low & nervous she was (for she is better now) seemed as if she would die with fear that she or somebody else would be sick Aunt Sylvia Peri is there & has been ever since Grandmother got very lame before Aunt S. got better Uncle Solomon is complaining a good deal - I have been into Nobodys house house but Grandpa in Weybridge have been to meeting once at five o'clock that is all Aunt Harriet - came here & brought the baby the day after I got home & Aunt Mary has also been here but they dont hitch for she had not seen the baby for a fortnight - I was druffal sorry she loved it so well - George has been sick to-day but I hope will be better in the morning - I wish you would write & tell me all about you & how you get on have you had a good quiet time seems as if I should enjoy it - Bab has six teeth he spits

in grandmas churn of things & out her bedroom windows just  
as she does, Ella enjoys herself I can tell you she is every where  
all over Grandfather's farm & father's without restriction



please remember me to Miss Wood when is the time & where  
does the Dr, call every other day to see you — ?

every body wants to know are not Mr & Mrs Shaw  
coming up Ella says she wants to tell you that she shall  
come home with her flosses

*[The remainder of the page is filled with dense, illegible cursive handwriting.]*

Stockholm, Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 1869.

Dear Aunt Sylvia,

I hasten to redeem my promise to you, partly to be sure of not forgetting it, but more because I want to hear from you and grandpa and the rest of your good folks. We arrived safely at home Saturday night, found every thing right and all well. Our big tin trunk was jolly good company on the road, and your turn-overs and the sweet apples were thoroughly appreciated. Tell uncle that I gave Carrie one of the apples when I got home telling her that her Isaac sent it "Did he?" she said "I like it" and forthwith two rows of teeth were set most to the core. Tell cousin Emily that I have commenced the volume of poems and am much pleased with it. Ella's Pitcher plant is prospering, the slips that Aunt Polly gave me from her plants have wilted some but I hope they will grow.

I met with a little accident at the place where we stopped to eat our lunch Saturday last. In stepping from a knoll down into a hollow I turned my ankle over side and sprained it, but not very badly.

It is swollen yet and doctor Fick won't let me stir hardly, so I have to content myself with patchwork, but I hope to be at work around the house next week. Frank, Isaac, Harriet and Anna have gone to Lawrenceville, on business relative to the estate. I am quite ignorant, for Isaac has not had time to explain matters to me but I know Anna will tell me all about it. I suppose uncle Cyrus and family went to Royalton as they expected, I am quite anxious to hear how aunt Louise is. Frank and Caroline expect to start for their loved Iowa next Monday; we shall prevail on them to stay longer if possible.

I suppose you are having a quiet time in the big house now, and don't have quite as much to do as when we were all at home. I think of you often of you and aunt Polly as ever going back and forth over the house supplying every ones wants, ever with a smile and a word for each; of grandpa as sitting where the hanging basket swings between him and the barn door, or on his lounge in the dining <sup>room</sup> and as I remember the hearty laugh we had when aunt Polly sent the old shoe bounding after us, all sadness takes itself away and I hope to see you all together again in the old, old home that became so dear to me in so short a time. Remember me to all my friends, give my love to grandpa and accept of mine for my country. Don't forget write soon,

Yours Truly  
Minnie L. C. Drake

to ask you to write with love  
in the winter to all our friends  
John's garden all well. F.B.S.

Ottawa Iowa Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> 1870

Good Evening Grandpa

I am ashamed that I have  
not written before. We are all  
around the fire. (Anna Caroline &  
I.) and as well as usual - Uncle  
Solomon has been unwell for a  
short time, is better now. Aunt  
Anna & Baby are well. I rec'd a  
letter from Cousin Delana some  
time since & thank her and you  
for it. we were sorry to learn  
that Uncle and Aunt Lucy were  
not well nor as well as usual.  
we sympathize with our friends in  
their loss by the wind and hope  
you will not have another visit from  
the Storm King. We have had a very nice  
winter thus far have not had much  
snow but very good sleighing for some  
time, a few days of warm weather have spoiled

Last night spoiled our thaw and today has been cold. There has been some religious interest and 3 additions to the Church since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January.

Our Methodist neighbors have been holding a series of meetings which God has appeared to bless. It is not probable that our Minister will stay with us another year. Sister Anna says

I must tell you that your Iowa Baby's name is Baby-Dede. that she talks dad-dad very much as other babies do - It is a very remarkable child because she stands up on mother's lap & wiggles

promise of foot-pads in the future. 16<sup>th</sup> I saw Uncle Solomon Sabbath day. He said Baby was teething and not very well. Uncle Solomon wished the address of the Manufacturer or Seller of your Elietreal Machine, for the benefit of a young man who had

Rheumatism. I don't know as I can describe the process of making horse shoe nails so as to be intelligible.

The Machines were all in motion when we were at the Mill so I could not examine the different parts.

Each machine had a small fire beside it for heating the Nail rods

Several rods were heating at once about six inches of the end being heated at once. The Machine is rather small & appears simple. It has an Iron Cylinder about 8 inches in diameter & 12 inches in length with teeth inserted something like

the Crushing Machine. There was only one row of teeth around the cylinder which was being horizontally & driven by a belt at a high rate of speed. The teeth coming close down upon a little anvil directly under them. I judge the anvil had a flant in the top just the shape of the Nail. So as to shape the sides & head

there is an apparatus for holding the  
rod & feeding it into the machine steadily.  
A rod is taken from the fire & the heated  
end placed where the teeth in  
the cylinder & Anvil come close to-  
gether. it is taken hold of by the machine  
& carried steadily forward. a certain  
number of revolutions of the cylinder  
when a chisel comes up from  
below and ~~cuts~~ cuts off the point  
end <sup>of the nose</sup> as to sharpen it and give it  
proper thickness another cuts the  
tail from the rod & it drops under  
the machine as red as ever. while  
the machine is feeding other  
rails after it at the rate of  
about one rail in about 2 or 3  
seconds. I hope you will  
see though I fear not.

Corn is some what in demand  
at 40 to 45 Cts. Wheat no sale  
at 40 to 50 Cts. We have a  
Rail Road running north -  
5 miles west of us. Station 6 mt.  
from us. Cars running everyday.  
Please let us hear from you at your  
convenience. Love to all. F. B. Drake

Oltho Lona Feb 15/80

Dear Grand Father

as I am alone this evening my thoughts went off to Wt- & I was thinking about you & the promise that I made you, while there & I thought - it was time that I should fulfill it. ( & I will try to in my spare way) I often think of you & the few but very pleasant hours that I spent in Wt. but hope that I am thankful that I had the privilege of seeing so many of your friends, if it was but a short

I found my Parents & Brothers with their families well. <sup>on my return</sup> Father's health has been very good this winter. has been out with his team hauling almost every day. this winter, came out to see us with New Year & fetched a load of Lard (from 4 to 11 years old) all very enjoyed it very much Mother's health

with much love to all Caroline & Drake

that the friend



the winter are taking lessons from the  
the cards concerned with the lessons  
the winter is not very good this winter  
she has failed a good deal since we  
came home the little folks have  
had hard colds but are most of them  
better now, Sister Annas health has im-  
proved since coming here she was very  
homesick for a while & thought she  
must go back this spring but since  
she has seen from her folks after  
is better contented & thinks she  
will stay the year that she thought  
to when she come! (says it does not  
seem so far away as it did) we have  
Reaching every Sabbath morning, Prayer meetings  
in the evening & on Wednesday

While Solomon has singing school  
school house to night I believe, but I  
have not been, as it is the same evening  
that Francis is away, we have a graded  
school here this winter is said to be a  
very good school have two teachers, one  
gentleman & one lady teacher, one Sabbath  
school is kept up during the winter here

a very good school

13<sup>x</sup> 12  
lectures, 1860's etc

156-

Vt.

So. Malden Dec 23<sup>d</sup>

Dear Sister Sylvia

I wonder if you have been in my kitchen today, noting my preparations for Christmas. If you have I wonder if you can tell me what has kept me trudging until this time of day (5 P.M.) for the results. Like yourself are invisible to me. I went about making some mince pies, this morning with the intent to do many other things beside & attend the Female prayer meeting this afternoon but alas! I have failed in the last & have accom

If you direct to Dr. M. Shaw Boston Mass, it will be sufficient

plished but little else, & so my days  
pass away—nothing done which  
amounts to anything. Last eve-  
ning Dr. H. & wife were here, Doctor  
applied some leeches to Mr. Rose  
to cure it of some kind of humor  
which has troubled him consid-  
erable of late at first he had  
a little boil on one side & since  
that it has been sore upon one  
side or the other so much so  
that it has been quite painful  
& we were afraid of something  
serious, but after the leeches  
had taken their fill it was  
relieved so that I expect it will  
get well now. With the Doctor &  
the leeches brought 'Bub Frankie'  
fresh to mind, his sayings & doings  
& we all wished we could  
see him & all the rest. Tomorrow  
our Sewing Circle meets at Mrs.

"  
I hope that you will consider your  
self in debt & act accordingly."  
This is a little poor copy & felt so  
much worse than you

I don't know as I have  
any thing more of the tragic to  
relate perhaps I might some  
thing of a comic nature but I  
should probably fail as usual  
so I will proceed to answer  
some of your questions with  
regard to the singing. It was  
Mr. W. Sen who invited me to  
sing—but I am out now!  
Mr. Ed. Clapp is Leader & I  
rather think I shant sing with  
him because he is so "scientific"  
that I dont dare & besides I have  
a little grudge—because he tried  
so hard to break down the singing  
when Mrs. Warden was sick & I hope  
he got his pay the first time she

made her appearance in the choir  
after her convalescence happened  
to be his first appearance as leader  
there was no treble but her &  
his sister & I have never heard  
such bad singing in that choir  
last Sabbath morn he thought  
it was going to be so again  
& he came & urged me quite  
hard to go up & help them  
so I went in the morning but  
I rather think I shall not in  
future I may occasionally if  
necessary. Mr. P has given up having  
become disgusted with the proceedings  
of some particular people, I thank  
you for all your news & wish I had  
something to return so please give  
my love to all I am glad to hear  
that Cyrus is better write again  
soon & tell <sup>Dele</sup> I expecting a long letter  
from her. Your Aff. Servt. S. P. Shaw

Samuel Clapp's I expect there will  
be a great gathering for it has  
not met at a private dwelling  
since the Annual Meeting in Oct.  
It met two weeks since at the  
Messy & we had quite a pleasant  
time some of the Officers resigned  
by which <sup>means</sup> the poor Ex Secretary  
got promoted to the Vice Presidency  
(How dignified) Annis was here  
Thanksgiving day & I expect her  
soon to spend some time. Their  
wages have been cut down some  
and the Speed taken off so that  
they cannot accomplish so much  
& this is the way they serve the  
poor girls Grand Ma has full  
employ in fattening the Pig!  
but he will get out of the pen  
once in a while & then it takes  
a long time to regain what he

loses - the week today I thought  
we had lost him surely. It was  
a very rainy day the wind blew  
a hurricane. At dinner the pig  
was missing! nobody see him  
go! or knew how long he had  
been gone. the gates were open  
& as you know the whole world  
is open down here. Well, I started  
out! & around the town I went,  
scrutinizing. I examined the  
roads to track him but all in  
vain. I remained out until I  
thought people would think me  
crazy & gave it up. Then I went  
into the city to tell H that his  
procker had left for parts un-  
known. I finally succeeded in get-  
ting ~~the~~ home before dark, so  
that he found out where he was  
& got him home in the course of  
the evening - but he has not recovered  
from the effects of his jaunt yet.  
Now I do not believe that you  
can half realize such an experi-  
ence as this.

Royalton Tuesday noon

My Dear Sister Sylvia

You did not write to me but I am going to write a word or two to you. We have been thinking all winter long that some of our own to Mountain friends would be over to see us, but the winter has passed so far without this hope realized, the snow is so very deep now I have almost given it up.

Louisa and I are alone today Mr. Strube has gone up on Seewey Hill to attend a funeral. I think you rode up there once with your brother so you can pity him with me for it is a very windy unpleasant day to be out. I hope it will not make him sick, he has a very good cola as almost every one has now.

We thank you and our dear Father very much for your kind letter. I am hoping by and by you will get very much more time to write letters than you have done in days that are fast.

I am glad you are going to release of some of your cases soon. I think you have taken care of yourself and the world about long enough. ~~to~~ ~~the~~ Patten speaks in his letter of your meetings being well attended and interesting. I am glad to hear it; but it seems to me after a mystery that we do not see the Holy Spirit pour out us in days that are fast is it because we are not single hearted enough when we come to God with our petitions. This church has many times (as far as the human eye could see) seemed in a waiting posture, still we would not witness the descent of the Spirit; we know there is something wrong I feel that we can all cry out my leanness my leanness.

I cannot write more now for Louisa is in such a hurry to put her letter in the mail but more some time perhaps.

Love to Patten, Aunt Sylvia and all the dear ones at the other house. Please ask Mr Labe if he has got through laying yet  
 your sister Louisa

Dear Father

As I went into the shed yesterday morning for wood to build the fire, I was agreeably surprised to see Asaph with Satchel in hand, coming through the gate. but the time is so short that he allows himself to stay with us, that it is almost an aggravation, but we must content ourselves.

We are truly thankful for the very kind letter you sent us last week, & hope we may be permitted to read many more from the same dear hand. How grateful we should be for the introduction into the world of the art of writing, as also for the facility with which by means of the same, we can communicate with absent friends. This has been a cold day for this season of the year, and we have all found some excuse for staying at home. except that Asaph and Harriet have ventured out to the thirsd service. I am much better of that cough, but did not think it prudent to go so far in the cold air. We have had no letter from Isaac since the first week in this month. he was well at that time. My husband was helping our blacksmith the other evening when the hammer fell off the handle onto his toes and they are quite sore, but he keeps about with a rubber



Father I thank you for your welcome letter  
I am sorry the Potatoes Rot. we had a light  
crop and they Rot some yet there not much  
complaint of the Rot you Enquire for a Mass  
I think such as would suit you are scarce  
and pretty high in price say from 80 to 100 dollars  
there have buyers almost every week at  
the Depot all the season and the last buyers  
took mous as well as Horses. Adolph will tell  
you more than I can write

I am glad to hear that your health is as good  
as could be expected I hope Ann will finish  
her visit before she tires you all as she may  
want to go again and I think we can  
afford to keep her a part of the time

I hope Brother Lauren will get down to  
Weybridge to live this winter I feel as you  
do about his staying there alone I am  
glad he is well how much reason we  
have to be grateful for health even for  
what we do enjoy I hope we shall all try  
to be thankful for so many mercies as we  
have enjoyed

Caroline

on that foot. With much love your daughter

How do write and see if you can tell us much news as I have

me & how - I do want to see these children you - don't  
give my best love to all the folks & has all the babies for

Dear Sister Sylvia I received a line from Dela-  
ware some time since enclosed were some <sup>postage</sup> ~~letter~~ stamps to  
pay for flower seeds being sent by mail. I had sent  
the day before some seeds in a letter which I thought  
might be separated with little trouble & consequently  
did not know what to do, but have done nothing  
as usual hoping that I might hear from her  
I thought perhaps that she would prefer that some  
other use be made of the stamps if she received  
the seeds as I sent them Now I should think that  
among you all that you might afford to write  
to a poor disconsolate body as often as once in a  
month Not that I blame any of you or think  
myself worthy of half the attention which I do re-  
ceive - I will tell you for your comfort that  
I have resigned my office in the Sewing Circle &  
laid down my commission to the extreme regret  
of all concerned of course "because there is nobody  
that can fill my place." There was a great wedding  
in the neighborhood last week Wednesday eve Eunice  
Turner was tied for life to her beau Knott There  
were no married people invited but their near

Columbus Corey is going to wife belong to Bowdoin St Church A Family by the name of Hull have taken Mr Dale's Cottage above the church a Family of nine from Mr. Clark's Church East Boston They have hired a pew & it is well filled. The eldest daughter is in my class in Sabbath School I have called upon three new Families within three weeks, Mrs. Corey came to see me since they moved. she seems quite pleased with her home in Charlestown they have given a lease of their house for two years to Mr Dyan son in law Mr. Parsons. Mr Dyan bought Dea Kimball's place & they have all lived there the past year

neighbors, Remicks, Ware's, Slater's, James Baldwin's, Emmon's, Stimpson's, Custis, Ayres Cooke, Augusta Baldwin, The other guests were from the Cities of Boston & Chelsea & the bridegroom's friends from Melrose these are all that I know with the exception of Mr. & Mrs. Pratt It was the first of Mrs. Pratt, going out since her confinement The Married pair left early next morning for New York & Troy to be absent a week or ten days Mr. & Mrs. F. M. Shaw received a Card the second day after the Wedding ask Delia what she thinks of that? Mr. Remick's has got to find another place by the first of September & they dont like it much as they expected when they came that they could stay any length of time they chose & perhaps buy the place — But Eunie cant spread, sufficiently without going to house keeping. Mr. Phelps Cousin Mr Warden has bought a place that belonged to young Dea Kimball & moved onto it, They have three children, Flemsid & wife belong to Bowdoin St Church A Family by the name of Hull have taken Mr Dale's Cottage above the church a Family of nine from Mr. Clark's Church East Boston They have hired a pew & it is well filled. The eldest daughter is in my class in Sabbath School I have called upon three new Families within three weeks, Mrs. Corey came to see me since they moved. she seems quite pleased with her home in Charlestown they have given a lease of their house for two years to Mr Dyan son in law Mr. Parsons. Mr Dyan bought Dea Kimball's place & they have all lived there the past year

Saturday Morn.

Dear Sister P. I understand G. is intending to set out for B. today so I will scratch a few lines just to tell you how glad I would be to go with him, but going is out of the question with me. I do not know of a person in the wide world that could be got to keep house, as for Delana's doing it, she could not get along with our family and hers put together to save her life, her time here is not an easy one by any means. She has not desisted enough to <sup>50</sup> say visit. I can hardly realize that she is here. The Baby was quite sick the week Mrs Shaw left here but he is pretty well now and talks a little. Mary Cotton has been sick ever since Mrs S. left, she was quite sick with the Dysentery and it takes her a long time to get up again. Aunt Patty Lawrence is very low and probably will not hold out much longer. Father received a letter from Cyrus & his daughter not long since. They could not tell when they would be here. Sister was recovering if her health will permit they will come before cold weather. I suppose Mrs Shaw has learned the way of the new house by this time so that she can cook her own dinner & we shall look for you up here next off. I expect we shall see you and C. here at the same time, as to my own health it is much as usual. I have found out by experience that if a person begins to watch their aches and pains, & fidgets they will never be out of employ. I rather wish I had not learned the trade.

Father would have written if he had known yesterday of the opportunity to send. Have you heard of Mrs. E. B. Wright's brother - shooting a man? it is a horrid story, you can ask G about it. We have not heard from Francis since he left. I liked him much. Anne wrote me about two weeks ago, she was well, Asaph is with us now, I attended the county fair on Thursday & saw a great many fine paintings, & much embroidery. Sabbath eve I was scratching away as fast as I could yesterday when G. came in and said he had decided to wait until Monday, Eliza Bell came here and <sup>made</sup> us a visit when Frank was here, she brought packages for Anna Skinner. She said she wished to go to your house but it did seem to be convenient, Mr. Marshall has been very sick since E. came from there but is better, Mr. J. A. Post is to be ordained in Cornwall next Thursday & one of the college officers professor Boardman will be ordained at the same time. I did not attend church to-day, but I went up this evening to hear Rev. Enoch Mead talk about the great W. It. He has come in with his thought to place her in the school at Fort Plain. We have neighbors again <sup>in</sup> the old house an old man & woman, the <sup>man</sup> works for us by the year, & so I <sup>have</sup> got to stop writing so will conclude by saying that it will do you & F. good to come up here & see that all the vexations of life are not in one place every <sup>one</sup> thinks they have the most. Please remember us all to Mrs. S. & accept the love all yourself. Write & tell us when to meet you at the Sept. Yours  
Livia