

experienced many trials and
also knowing that you can be
relied on and that you will
give me the best of your advice
I would consult you as a sister
and friend what I shall
do in order to attract my
attention from useless to
useful objects I will follow
your advice if in my power
and shall also inform you
of my situation. For want
of paper I shall have to stop
writing on this subject in
order to tell you that I am
well and to ask your pardon
for not writing to you before
this. I shall expect an answer
from this in a very few days
and I will be more punctual
in writing to you. Hoping this
will find you well. I remain
very sincerely your friend
and brother
John

write
as soon
as you
receive
this
and
after
I
do
not
think
I
have
before
forgotten
you
I
do
mean
I
do
mean
I
do
mean

Shoharie Dec 25th

My Dear Sister Kate

Please burn this letter as soon as read I have
not written to you as I promised
for several reasons the
best of which is that I have
been in the store and
my mind has been
occupied so much with
my daily transactions as
to withdraw my mind
somewhat from absent
friends. Now I sign an
hour and will try and make
up for my apparent remissness
I am greatly pleased with
my situation in a store

and think that I will remain here for some length of time. I have not heard from Sid. but were since he left us and would be greatly pleased if I could receive a letter from him. We have had beautiful weather and splendid sleighing for a few days past although it has done me no good yet it has pleased me to ^{see} young Ladies and Gents of this place out a riding. It caused me to think of my youthful days when I was young and used to take a Sleigh ride occasionally and how

I enjoyed it. But now my youthful days are past and am arriving at manhood although I am not married yet I must begin to think of something else besides the girls yet I will admit that there is a very few that attracts my attention at times so much that I forget many things I ought not to and having made up my mind never to marry and thinking that a single life would be more convenient to me I apply to you for advise knowing that you are an old woman and have

Miss Mary Briggs
Stephensville
New York

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