

Lapeer May 18th

1852

Sister Mary

I will endeavour to communicate my thoughts to you, this evening; but will not promise to arrange them in the best order for I am very tired, both of body and mind;

I have so often spoken of Aunt's declining health to you all; that I hope it will not alarm ~~you~~ ^{any}; (but it certainly alarms me) when I tell you she is no better; but constantly failing; one week ago to day she was attacked with the chills-fever; the Doctor has broken it up; to day she has sit up a very little; She has had the ague this spring; and with these; about, a dozen, other complaints, which I must not mention: her health was very poor a year ago; but nothing to what it now is; the Doctor thinks she will recover;

She often tells me not to write, about her health to any one; but I do; and cannot help it; although I never lett her know what I write.

As to my health I think but little about it nor get time to think; if thoughts would only mend the broken constitution: I ~~would~~ ^{will} not complain, if I can crawl, around, for it, worries Aunt, to think I have to work so hard. But to hire a girl, is impossible: I hope no money will not, there is none you cannot find a girl far nor near, There is seven in our family constantly: besides the coners which are daily; now there is work to do and it

card - you will discover N. B. involved in the card - papers that - so you will also see the name of the one, I intended with. The first - marriage.

must be done, besides Aunt must be taken care of, work as no work; and who will do it? Why! Nancy will of course, for there is no one else: Well then if Nancy does all this; she must not complain; for if she was not tuff as an Owl, she could not do it; (and so I to.) but Mary none knows my feelings, how knows what I daily suffer; and not none but myself and I to will know to let others know, as long as I am blessed with as much health as I now am.

The rest of the family are well; and I sincerely hope this my find all there in good health. You must tell me how Sister Betsey, & Elizabeth get along; & William also. & Mother, Father; Henry, and all, give me a general history of all the friends; for it is over a year, since I saw any of you. May I must close for it is going hart on to twelve; & at four I must rise, and must rest all I can. But there is ^{one} Person I have not even mentioned yet, but I have not forget him, nor any of the rest Give my respects to him; & all the rest, done up in pound papers. My Love to all our friends, and a share to yourselves. Good Nite. (write as soon as possible)

From your ever loving Sister Nancy

To Mary V. Briggs

P.S. I forgot to tell you we have had a great number of Sugar-parties this spring: I will send you a card of one - the rest I have but one card; and must keep them to look at; there was a quantity left of these so I happened to get an extra.



JENNY LINE

Miss Mary G. Briggs
Sheldon
Wyoming co
N.Y.



Natick N.S.

June the 2nd 1852

Cousin William

Being rather lonesome I thought I would write to you just to inform you that I am in the land of the living and as roguish as ever but it is my nature and if you were here with me you would have to fly round some I can tell you. I got tired of being pent up in the village so last Sunday I got a carriage and two of my acquaintance young ladies went with me and we went about 3 miles we went to my Fathers farm you had better believe we had a gay time Oh how I wish you was down here this summer

We have had a very backward spring the farmers have just finished putting their grain into the ground. I want you to come to N.S. this summer if you can I do not believe that you mean to come down at all you have been so long a talking about it. I should not think it strange if you see me up that way before next spring I think now if nothing happens more than I know of that I shall start to come up there the middle of September I wish you were

down here so to go back with me so
I should not have to start alone I know
that it will be rather lonely to start alone to
go so far and a young woman too.

My brother has arrived home he got home
the 26th of April he did very well but the best
of all he is in good health and is not going again
he is ~~going~~ learning a carpenters trade with my
Father's brother if you could been here when he
arrived you would thought that we were all easy
for some laughed and some cried I was so
glad to see him that I could not cry. He looks as
he did when he left home only he is taller
he lacks not quite one inch of him 6 feet high
Father has cut his ankle pretty badly with
an adze I hope it will not be much if he is
carefull with it I guess it will soon be so that he
can step on it again.

Tell Uncle that my mother sheeps growing large
she weighs now 195 pounds. Tell you she is one
of the big Biggs's. Our family are all well at
present Mother says tell William she hopes that

he will come down here before her eyesight
fails her she says she has been looking to see
your miniature but it does not appear to come
I have had a letter from your sister Nancy under
the date of April the 29th she was well at that time
My brother says give his love to you and tell you
if you will come down he will tell you some of his
voyage around the World a Whaling I must soon close
for I have written about enough for once write as
soon as you can and as often as you can my love
to you and I hope I shall see you down here this
season without fail.

Write as soon as possible for I want to hear from
you very much

Yours forever Sybil Spencer

the slightest noise, or even our conversation often excites her, so she cannot keep still, William is very unpleasant, but much worse to her, for she is in great pain; whenever these are so severe. for three days she has been better but to day is much worse again. the rest of the family are well. Uncle grows old, the fastest I ever saw a person. as to my own health I will say nothing for I work like a slave; and of course must be well. think a moment there are seven in the family, and I do the hole; the care on my mind is often more than the work I have not been to Co. get; nor do I know when I can go; last winter a gentleman spoke of going there for a ride, I did not wish to go unless I could remain a week, therefore we put it off; and went another way, he often asks if I have a vessel to spend, and if so he is ready to carry me, and then come after me; but the week has not come; nor can I see it coming. but I must close, or I shall have no time to write to friends &c. we write in sending our love to all friends & acquaintances
From your devoted Uncle,

A. Briggs

Anna Briggs
without excuse to folding of this letter for I am sick this is the longest I have been up to day which is seven hours. adieu

Lapeer June 6th 1852

Dear Brother

Some I received June 2nd and it is before me; excuse me for being in such haste to answer it; for I have ~~you~~ ^{you} unanswered letters now before me; and what one received before yours; You may argue why I do not answer some of them first? I will answer, that I happened to feel more like communicating my thoughts to you than any one else; again you may argue why can't they be found, I will tell you; one from L. M. Brown. M. J. Brain, H. Arnold, P. Bell. & Spencer & C. P. the last mentioned, I received Feb 11th, but have delayed writing, but shall send one to the office at the time I send this. he is well and being well I believe I think not, I have entered into a correspondence with him not I have not, but have received two or three from him; but had no thoughts of answering them; friend B. was here yesterday; he urged me much to write to D. stating it would be his wish for me to do so; and to gratify his pleas. I intend to write. C. sends his best wishes to you; he has nearly completed his Store, but whether he intends to go into business or not I cannot say; but William Remond what I told you before in regard to this Store by matters, I think as I then thought.

D. G. is my most punctual correspondent, at present

she complains of your neglect; but I think she has no right to for she hears from you much oftener than I do; & I will not complain for I am so happy to receive a letter from you that I instantly forgive all neglect.

Mr O. Bell, is not on the Lake; last winter he tended lectures all winter and this spring very early commenced practice; the name of the place I have forgotten; it is in Swick at all events; I understand by a friend, that he is well liked, & and shines exceedingly good luck. Mr O. Miller was in Oxford when I last heard his resting place, he also has been tending medical lectures this winter. Miss Eliza Ferguson, is no more Ferguson but Mrs Mires; you well remember John Mires (the old Bach) whose farm joined Uncle George's well he is the one; I cannot say positively whether J. Clemons is there; but I think she is far from not heard of her return. as to L. Hillman, she is living but her race is run in Ox; every time I see any one from there they tell me a great deal about her, & said yesterday, he had spoken but once to her in over a year; She does not go to Uncle Egges (the Carpenter) any more, she has not been there since I went east; do you not think she enjoys herself much; no one visits, at all, but all I have to say is to those you know will seek for the truth; and see how long they can stand on good ground: so much for L. Hillman

William you often speak of Orley B. but call no names I shall begin to think; you have a finger in the pie; but to this I can say but one thing and that is, let nothing but pure affections join your hand to another; look around on every side see the miseries of this world; then look at the great Cause; from whence all or nearly all arise.

Is it not those which have joined their galls with those they nearly respect; or is those who have united hands, in pure affections? I will not answer. But for myself; as yet have never seen the man to whom I thought I could afford my little affection. This assertion; you may think false but William you have a sisters word for it. if I had I dare say my name would at this time commenced with some letter in place of \$ for it is those that I most respect that have offered their hand; I say those, it is for those are three; But William I cannot, think of it, Mr! I will not; at all moments for the present. but I will leave this subject, for I am, sure it interest you but very little.

Aunt, is quite out of health, I often fear she will be no better; it has some time since she able to do anything; a great deal of which she is not able to wait on herself; but what complaint is the worst I cannot tell; there are several lingering around: so that medicine have very poor effect and a great trouble; she is so nervous that

Brother if I were to hurry this day, I hardly know how I should choose, providing I could have anyone I might choose, I look at it as a letter; perhaps I may not think always, as I now do, as regards the ^{friendship} existing, but every one will have it, ^{it is} we are to be married this spring, but spring will soon pass by, and it will be ^{perhaps} they have some reasons for thinking of Miss Briggs; and perhaps they are in each others society much; and he will not ^{be} unless I can; and I do not go unless he does; for he is always ready, so I have no occasion, as I choose his company in preference to any one else, and I don't know but I ought say any one in my acquaintance. But let me leave this, and talk of something else; ^{and} you spoke of Fathers visit to Fed. ^{is} that business settled you also spoke of Cousins sending their minitars, oh! how pleased I shall be to receive mine; I have not heard from ^{Ypsil}, nor ^{Carson} since I wrote you; I thought I would not write to ^{C.} until I received the minitars he wrote me last.

Brother Will write soon and write the news in gene I feel so miserable; and weak; and my hand hobbles and crawls and all together; I fear this will be hardly a welcome letter; but do excuse it; and I will take good care of myself that I may be well, and have composed thoughts when next I write you. so farewell give my love to all, Mother, Father, Sister & Brothers

Yours truly ever beloved brother
W. P. Briggs
W. Briggs

Lapeer March 27th / 1838

Affectionate Brother

I will again write; and hope you will forgive me; for my rashness in my previous letter; you took very ^{poorly} the meaning, of some parts, than I meant, yet I did feel very much injured; by your neglect, but freely I forgive you, and pray you will forgive me for abusing you so unkindly. Dear brother let not the thought enter thy mind again, that I was so cruel, nor no; never again shall my thoughts be so wrought upon; but dear let us forgive each other, and ~~over~~ more be true brother and sister. William I have many times wished you here to day, Oh! yes if wishes would bring us together; I am sure we should meet often, to day it has rained & snowed & been very squally all day; it is horrid getting out, for the mud; besides I could not go out if there was no mud, and it was pleasant; I have a cough which is very bad my lungs are very much affected; much worse than they were the spring you were here; it is five weeks since I was taken; it is two weeks to day since I commenced docterin; I think I am a little better; at least hope I am better so you can judge; if I have not seen some long days when I have wished for you; and for others; and

I ought not to complain, for many call; yet I cannot help feeling lonely; and wish for my friends to be with me, & wish to go today. Pe spent the day with me, and several others called but to day no one has ventured out.

Bob Davis is going to Pontiac next month; he is register of deeds; I was there five weeks ago; I had a very pleasant visit. Bob spoke of you several times, and wished me to remember him; to you; I promised to call on them again before they moved; but I think it very doubtful; as my health now is, I certainly cannot. I sent word Friday, to Mrs. Davis that I had been sick ever since I left there. Mrs. Kimmer died about six weeks ago - Joseph Powell's wife about five weeks ago, many mourn the loss. for both were loved and dearly loved by all. Mr. Powell, (the old gentleman) has had sore eyes over a year; some times he is blind other times he can go out some, but not much; he looks very bad; the rest are well as far as I know. friend E is well I believe; but I learn he is not much liked; and at present traps but little. he is not married yet, his rich lady has found another admirer; so his price ticket is blank. joy & peace to the admirer of glittering gold. Ah! Brothers could I but see you I would tell you much; but if I undertake to write it, you can hardly catch the

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first idea, but I will give a short sketch of them. it commenced thus; first E learned that Mr. B. had been paying attention to Miss Briggs; and because they met in Pontiac (last summer) also Pe, so E enquires of Pe how I was and so on but says nothing to B and tried to shun him; soon E invited Pe to take a stroll around town with him, which Pe did, and E commenced asking if his brother B was not paying some attention to Miss E, he replied, that report was such in dapeer; but he did not expect people at a distance knew it; this answer led E to ask many questions; and Pe knowing he had previous to my leaving Oxford waited on me of ears, answered him in a manner to get all he could from E, and he gathered considerable; some three weeks after E was hear; and enquired of some other acquaintances; in regard to B. H. says B when he was informed; that it was Pe in room of B. for E he lost one time in calling on Pe and advised he had done wrong, and brought a jibe on himself, but E always spoke well of me; but he has shown a weak spot in the top of his head; he has now said he cared nothing for the rich lady (I spoke of) but tried to have it reach my ears, that he did, to see if it would make any effect on me; I say he is a foolish boy and will make himself out as such, if he continues -

Lapeer April 29 53

Yours of the 20th was duly received together
with the miniature but it was not much satisfaction
to Nancy as she could not enjoy it. I wrote to
your father that we did not think she would
live till it reached him, but she is still a
living but she is not materially better she is
a failing as to strength her cough is very bad
and raises good deal of matter, but she may live
some little time, yet so that you could have
time to come here and see her if you felt
disposed so. So she says she has nothing in particular
to write to you, ~~but~~ but so as ^{you} like about
coming, I should like to have you come here and
see her it ^{may} be some satisfaction to her. She says
it will do no good for any of her friends to
come as they can not help her. her loss will
be felt among the young people as much as any
one in the place she is thought of as much as any
one she is respected by all old and young.
I have nothing in particular to write to you about
if you do not come write immediately. Tell your
people watch the postoffice if worse you may
expect a line from us. Yours in haste
Geo. Trunk