

P. J. Beejer on the
morning after breakfast
and ordered a carriage to carry

Wm. Smith's House

Decorah Iowa

1.29, 1871

My dear Father Mother
Lis Buster. Sister her
and Willie.

How is that for
all of you? I call it
the next thing to spend-
ing the day with you.
I have been thinking
if you will be interested
in my journey to Chica-
go. I think you will
be, more so. than in
any other thing I can
write. You will see. I
am again on the road
looking after "Lame Suck's"
as we call them

in other words col-
lecting. J.W. has al-
ways made this trip,
but this time tota Ev.
Horry could do as well
as any one. So I am
probably hooked ^{for} this bus-
iness hereafter. It re-
quires all the nerve, tact
and ability a man
possesses, and I shall
try and make myself
equal to it. The country
is unimpaired now, and
I shall break for home
as soon as I get a
maller piece up here
and one in Clinton Wis
But I was going to tell
you something of my
southern west.

After leaving Sather-

I excused myself to
 Gen Pratt, telling ^{him} I ex-
 pected to meet a friend
 who was going part of
 the way, and I should
 be glad to see more of
 him after reaching N.H.

I found Miss Carpenter.
 So don't read this - I won't
 say what I commenced
 or thought of or you
 may read it to any
 one. It was something
 sentimental, and I left
 all of that at W.

I found Miss C. in
 the rear coach, and
 had a right pleasant
 ride as far as N.H.
 She is kinder nice.

and not a bit of
a coyulte - oh no!
His gov. may tell her
I remember that part
of my trip very pleas-
antly, and ask if she
found the card I gave
her. By George, if I string
this thing, Ellen - I mean
our like this I never
will get you to NY.

I had a good sensible
talk with Gov. Pratt
for an hour or so, ^{then} went
^{to my seat} to my seat
to inchi rear car, made
the acquaintance of a
lady. ~~for~~ who had been
visiting some of my
old school mates in D
one of the, bow-tie.
consequently a little
affected at first.



after a bit came to
her senses, I found
she had been driven
from the Capital of
Florida. August if I
remember aright with
her father on account
of Union sentiment
lost a great part of their
wealth. ~~had~~ and one
brother, who escaped to
Europe, and one who
was forced into the
Confederate army, and
only one left, who is
supporting herself and
father, so they are
again in good cir-
cumstances wealthy I
judge from what they

love, I hope you are
our loving interest
there are only a few
more ladies and six
children, and then I
will have you in C.

I saw Henry Stillman
in N.Y. took him to
dinner at Dr Nicholas
House, with me passed
the greater part of the
evening with him af-
ter calling on two or
three other friends.

Before leaving him, he
went to the depot with
me and saw me off
He is a fine fellow
with a good situation
I judge and going to
succeed, I have just
written him.



I got into my berth -
 a little after ten. It
 as some tell sleeping
 as I thought, but no
 thing must needs be some
 more young ladies, and
 in the opposite berth -
 at that, they got that
 exactly opposite - just
 so to keep me awake
 with their confounded
 chatter and giggle until
 after - five o'clock, I made
 up my mind if they
 didn't dry up, at ten
 I would speak to them,
 if some one else did not
 every one seemed disinclin-
 ed to do so, as they
 talked as if they were

Somebody, as they were
no doubt, so am I
and don't want to be
disturbed every by Senator's
daughters. At five o
clock, I asked the porter
to present my compli-
ments, and say I was
sick, and wanted to
get some sleep. I was
sick of them. They
got quiet, and I had
a good sleep until next
morning. At seven and
a half o'clock, I had
no difficulty in finding
Gussie. After getting
breakfast, ^{cool and not much of her coffee} I hardly had
time to see her during
the day, as I was
busy with. In the
evening I went to the

theater with G. and
passed the happily
Gussie is a bump, and
full hand, I would rather
the result of business
investigation. I suppose
I saw all or no more
than his and her diet
of Wash, I diet not no
the very much, the
will tell of all these is
there, better than I can,
I saw Gussie home and
went to my hotel at
one o'clock and had
a good sleep until six
am. And now I am
fairly on my way to
Chicago.

There is very little of
interest on the route
through Maryland other
than the general wildness
of scenery. A part of
the way we follow along
the banks of the Potomac
which is a very beautiful
stream. We pass through
Manassas, Point of Rocks
and take dinner at
Harpers Ferry. Here and
at the Point of Rocks the
scenery is magnificent-
ly wild & picturesque
And one other thing
which interests me more
than any other, is the
remains of slavery, and
the effects of the war.
Almost every house has
two or three four

and sometimes more
or less, negro cabins
clustered about it, some
of them are very neat
and white; but yet
there is an air of
thriftlessness about the
whole. I saw one gang
of muggers of twenty
or more, chopping wood
but they all have time
to stop and look at
the train as far as
in sight either way
and a gang of five
or less one time to do
the work and four
to look on I am told
and it seemed true
every where. The principal

crop. seemed to be
corn. nearly every
house had immense
stacks, around it;
one of them - larger
than any other stacks
of hay you ever saw.
I noticed acres and
acres, on the side
hills, not harvested.
Almost every thing is
on the side or top of a
hill, and the rain
had washed the gul-
lys full of corn and
stalks and husks, was-
ting hundreds of bushels.
There is at least one
redeeming thing. I
saw the finest horses
as a whole. I ever
have seen. the best

builds. must have
 small thin ears. well
 nostrils. strong arm.
 every limb. vitally
 pluck and life and
 every thing that goes
 to the make up of a
 good horse. is there.
 From Hoopers Ferry the
 country is somewhat
 less wild. we take the
 North branch of the Po-
 to mac. and follow a
 long through a country
 that well raise grain
 nothing but Hoop poles
 the shipments of which
 are very heavy. and
 pay well. We take
 supper at ~~the~~ ^{Cum} Cumberland

and very soon began
the ascent of ^{the} Cumberland
range. The moon is not
yet up. But I am told
it is but a repetition
of what we have seen.
The weldist of the whole
chain: (these are ranges
of the Appalachian
chain) is the Cheat-
range. a river of
the same name ad-
ding to this - unless it

We commenced the
ascent about twelve o-
clock P.M. Here we
will stop a minute -
which proved two hours
Running at about twenty
five miles or more
an hour. We breed that
often repeated experiment

meeting and
 of passing a train
 without taking the
 switch, - and as al-
 ready many times
 demonstrated. It
can not be done
 The engineer did not
 say he was going
 to try or all. The first
 thing he did was to
 throw us out of our
 seats and berths (I
 had not taken a berth
 yet.) so quick you
 could not wink your
 eye. I was sitting facing
 a gentleman he said
 back words. The first
 thing we did or knew
 we embraced without

any such intentions.
after we displayed
our offence. we looked
about. to see. if any
others were waxing
the same feeling. some
were hugging seats
some the floor. others
their baggage. When
~~the~~ we were station-
ary I went to see
what the matter was
We had succeeded in
driving our engine
five or six feet into
and under the ~~opposite~~
opposing one, or
rather the stationary
one, as they were not mov-
ing. Had they been
far could have in
all probability escaped

It was a heavy long
freight train, and was
a light passenger
consequently. It was
somewhat like throwing
a stone against a
large rock. Fortunately,
they had stopped their
train and were wait-
ing for us on the
wrong track, very long
good of them to stop at
all. I was telling you
of the damage. The
fireman's head was cut
pretty badly. But he
will get well. Some
of the passengers bruised
not badly. The engine
injured considerably

The platforms of
the cars smashed
to splinters. As that
from the door of one
coach ^{to the other} was not more
than ten inches. But
not one car telescoped
(that is to slide into
the next.) Every one
looked so calmly after
the accident was o-
ver. In a few hours
we had a new train
and went on two hours
and a half to make
connections. I tell you
we rattled and chattered
through those tunnels
and gorges, thirty +
four miles an hour.
It was the most ex-
citing ride I ever had

I wish I could describe
it to you. The moon
was full, making every
object distinct. The road
bed of solid rock. There
were seemingly a hundred
trains climbing those
mountains. Echoes behind
before at the sides. above
below almost everywhere
Now we are at the side
of the mountain. The
path behind looking
hardly more than
a goat's path. Nearly
two hundred feet to
the river below almost
straight down, and
two hundred feet to
the top of the moun-

turn and chut ^{equally} straight
up. Now we cross a
gorge, four hundred
feet. Li chi river below
the heavens only, at
the sides and above
trussle work below
sometimes a bridge.
From mountain to
mountain spanning
spanning the gorge
I rode on the platform
of the last coach, a
part of the time next
the engine. It was
fearfully exciting. We
had only live coaches
and the tender, and
the whole train could
felt every quiver and
breath of the engine
I had need for all the

nerve. I have, you may think
 We changed cars at
 Crafton and passed
 into the oil region
 which one can see
 in the water and al-
 most starting out of
 the very rocks it would
 seem. We were almost
 the first train across
 the new bridge at Par-
 kersburg, which is one
 of the finest in the
 country. This is similar
 to the western states of
 which I have often told
 you mostly Prussia,
 although along the river
 it is somewhat more
 cautious. The river is self

is I suppose. subject
to rapid rising and
falling, more than any
other in the country
I am told at Cin-
cinnati. It has been
known to rise six ty
60. feet in six hours
and I do not doubt it
from the country sur-
rounding it. I was obly-
ed to remain in Cin-
cinnati - over Sunday
I should probably have
done so if I could have
gottin away. After get-
ting a bath. I have
clean shirt &c. Satur-
day P.M. I commenced
to rearrange myself
with the city. I met
with my arrangements

spent part of the evening
at the theatre. (Maggie
Mitchell was playing Fan-
chon. the Croker on the
hearth.) The early part
in looking at the town.
I got to bed, and a good
deal or was, about eleven
o'clock but I sleep. I
did not turn over or
open my eyes until
dinner time the next
day. I had not slept
enough for a car for
three nights, after
dinner. I went over the
river to Coventry Ky
and out the state
a little way. I have
never been in Ky before

and wouldn't see how
or looked. I passed
thru hours of the PM
looking about Erie,
and feel as well as you
can with it as with my
and bellu. It is a fine
and large city, well
located of 250,000
inhabitants. I think

In the country I went
to a scarser coast
grown by the Russians,
of whom you have
heard. At an island
I started again for
Chicago. I then stop-
ped a little time at
Indianapolis Ind.,
and found one of the
largest inland cities
of the U.S. for water

of special interest,
 By George, I
 would write - any more,
 I have. Looked at the
 price of paper or my
 left almost for the first
 time. I have looked up
 If I had not got up
 to get my fire I might
 have written all day

I saw Mary Osham
 a few minutes after my
 arrival a. p. our
 her on ch. st. shall
 call when I get back

As to that accident
 I was not intending to
 say anything. For
 but their got might see
 or in ch. papers, and

so have told or all.
I saw that the messages
sent, ^{East} were not of a very
good nature. I should
have let you know
my safety, by telegram
and you must not worry
about me a bit. Rail.
Roads and my self are
friendly, and in the
best of terms. I hope
you will get along
with this without much
trouble. I expect a
letter from some of you
soon. Of that Busby-
dour will she catch
it. I warn her.

Affectionately
Horry