

No 3 Kent St - Rochester
Feb 19 - 1860

Dear Love I have not been to church to-
day but have staid at home and quarreled with
my Chum. That's so, - we had a real quarrel
and that is not all we had a pretty close run
and pretty earnest too, for he choked me
I caught him by the beard jerked him back
words and forced him to let go & let me
up. We have got all over it now but we
did not act as silly about the matter as you
can imagine. You would have thought to
have seen us rolling over and over on the floor
with the door locked that we were the most
deadly enemies, and to have seen us ma-
king up you would have thought us two wild
boyfriends in masculine attire. It is some-
thing entirely unprecedented with us, but I
fear it will sooner or later happen again. It has
however thoroughly discomposed me and will
probably spoil your letter entirely. If it is an
circumstance only for one please don't be vexed
but remembered, I could not help it. I suppose you
have read my last letter and perhaps you ex-
pect to see me, about as much as you expect
to see a letter. No danger however of my coming
as I meant. The Excelsior cooled down and for
ought that I know the matter of back labor
has blown over entirely. It may come up and
cut me off from Soph. Prize & reclamation
but I guess not for I am probably the best
speaker in my class, at least in or beyond
it. I was very highly complimented by cutting out

As to the collar which I wore when my likeness
was taken I don't know what one it was
but presume it was nothing finer or less than
a common garrote collar. I will cut a
slip of paper, rounding at each end like one
of them however and send it. I have no re-
collection of any other at that time and seldom
wear any other. Mr Webster would have sent
me a note the last time I wrote but I forgot
to tell them when I did so. He might have known
however for I always write Sundays. I told
him he could send today but he said that
would be too late for what he wished to send.
I am very sorry for any carelessness, but would
not offer to write during the week for though
he might write himself if it was of so great
importance that you receive it soon, as he
seemed to think. If therefore he send a note
& it come too late to be of any service to you
you must lay it all to rest. I had a letter from
Nellie the other day and she said "Mrs N. B.
looks very sweet and interesting -
those marks are not mine - yes. Was not
that considerable for Nellie? All but that of the thought
I understood that hint she would blush. I am
not at all surprised that it is so with Mrs B.
Indeed I should be surprised were it otherwise.
And - in your own opinion she is not the only one
in R, with whom he has had improper relations.
The whole family are just so. I used to think
that Cate & Mate were exceptions but they are
not. I consider Cate as a meaner man than
N. B., and N. B. would never have married
her had he not been afraid to do otherwise
and thought her father pretty well off."

If H. J. should treat you as he did
Miss Barrett he would get pretty prompt
pay for his devilishness. I think he is just as
corrupt and consummate a hypocrite as the
earth furnishes. Do care to M.
Heartaches and a dull & stupid but
will try and write a little more to
you. I have read a story called "Natalie"
since supper. There were very interest-
ing characters in it - but they are not
well managed. I should rather say
that the conceptions seem to be good but
are not well worked out. Natalie is
the daughter of an American gentleman
and an Italian mother. A frail fair beau-
tiful creature and fifty named a seaflower.
There are some serious anachronisms
in the work. Among other things Natalie's
grandfather is represented as being a strong
vigorous, middle aged man twenty years
after her mother's death - when according
to common usage he must at least
have been over sixty years of age. There is no
need of showing instances however, but the
characters of Clarence and Natalie are
irretrievably ruined by the author's treatment
of the bond of a Cogman is but too evident through-
out the whole. It seems like drawing streaks
the face of Magdalena. By the by they have carried off my
love (Magdalena) but if ever we see her again I'll make
sure of her as I did of you at once.

It is really strange what a hold that pic-
ture had upon my fancy or affection. If
you prefer the term, I used to go every day
and sometimes two or three times to look
at it. As often at least as I went to the O,
I would stop in and look at my Magdalen
until the clerks came to know that I had
~~not~~ ~~to~~ ~~go~~ to buy anything but came only
to see Magdalen. At length one day I went
and it was not there. I did not ask if it
was sold - I did not want to know and
really I felt as lonesome for several days
as if I had lost a friend and even now I
never pass that store without a sort of regret
for my lost Magdalen. The photographs of the
Galeria Marbles are on prohibition here now.
They are fine things but do not like some of
the figures very well. I think our modern artists
are faultily almost always in their treatment
of the male form. They are not sufficiently
acquainted with it and cannot get perfect
models. He has one or two pretty women and
some beautiful faces especially evening shadows
- I think this is a great idea while I am
here in Rochester you are receiving offers
of marriage from old bachelors of the
Hope is me what rivals I have!! I am afraid
I shall not dare to trust you another year.
You ask if I would not like to step into
your uncle B's and see how you succeed in
housekeeping - I hope you don't think I wish
to anticipate the evil days do you? Just tell
that cousin of yours - your beam in Rowell's
side it is quite a favor ^{to be} ~~to be~~ ~~sent~~ ~~out~~ ~~if~~ ~~he~~
can do it.

I can't write anything to-
night. I've done just as well
as a fool. I hope you will have good
success in your house keeping and
not become entirely disgusted with
housewifely duties if you do I must leave
you to close them again for you must
love our home. I know my dear that
we shall have a pleasant home, for we shall
both strive to make it pleasant. As it is not
strange and is it not well that we have
some discretion? It does seem strange
that one so feverishly careless and impro-
dent should do as I have done. I think that
God must have led me and I hope
I shall be well still continue to believe
really believe you have taken the place
of everybody else to me. I don't agree
half as much for they will as I used
to, and almost all the care for it's
for your sake. By the way I mean
I want to know what at your the
Catherine wrote you in reference to
myself. I don't know but if
you are any part of it I don't think
I want it now. I really wish to be

It's no use for me to
try to write more tonight. I
can't think of the same thing
two minutes at a time. I
will just send what I have &
write again during the week if
I have time to do so.

Yours Truly

Alison

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

Miss Emma Kilbourn
Cosmeant
Ohio

Feb-19-1861
Rehoboth

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