Home March 20th 1860
Tuesday Evening

My dear dear Don

I was made so glad to-night by the receiving of your letter for did it seem such a long [illegible] since I had read a letter from you, nearly [illegible] two months many of weeks. You did [illegible] last week but I think you [illegible] have said so. I thought [illegible] before today since two weeks today [illegible] will [illegible] your body [illegible] last week. I [illegible] on my feelings nevertheless and I wish you see it I am sure [illegible] it would [illegible] that you were [illegible] I was frigh[illegible] [illegible] only I got no letter [illegible] your [illegible] with [illegible] life was [illegible] to [illegible] brought up in your could I but [illegible] my arms [illegible] around your neck and [illegible] your [illegible] head [illegible] close to my bosom [illegible] so very far away [illegible] find its way back again [illegible] that thought to you - but it is this "I would rather seek to [illegible] that [illegible] than [illegible] destroy"

But my own dear Love let me comfort you if I can. I shall never be disappointed in my husband and your [illegible] never [illegible] only an exhilara[illegible] [illegible] from [illegible] future [illegible] your glorious dreams of the future should prove to be only dreams. God would [illegible] it [illegible] for our best good - Often if I thought that instead of being a comfort and joy to you as your

wife I should be a burden and [illegible].
I would pray God to die before you called me your wife
I feel more of a woman [illegible] since [illegible] to be called your
betrothed [illegible] Father [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] loved you [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

Wednesday Evening —

My Dear Love [illegible] Emma
[illegible] to you [illegible]
[illegible] our adventure — [illegible] at home
since Sunday and to-day Emilia and I were to go [illegible]
[illegible] a sick lady [illegible] [illegible] — [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] dusk started for
[illegible] having been speaking [illegible] afternoon and
were in high spirits, [illegible] father's gray
horse and a light open buggy — I [illegible] you will
remember [illegible] about the [illegible] bridge [illegible] and
[illegible] was not
very good — [illegible]
[illegible] about half way down the hill on the west side of
the bridge — [illegible] and thought
I would not go through [illegible] did not look on the other
side [illegible] pulled the rein to guide the horse
[illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible] pulled the rein too much — the road was just
wide enough to let a team [illegible] Everything had been
right but [illegible] side [illegible] and that I did
[illegible] the bit and the first I knew we were in that hole
and going down the bank which was almost perpen-
-dicular some twenty or thirty feet — [illegible] the dan-
ger — [illegible] I still kept a tight hold of the
lines — the horse stopped and sat right back on her
haunches — instinct told her of the danger — had she
gone straight on we could not have escaped unhurt

mother — who was the most frightened of any of us — held
her head while I kept a tight hold of the lines and
Emilia who was all composure unfastened her from the buggy
— then what could she do — [illegible]
[illegible] and get her back — she stood perfectly still and
trembled all over while [illegible]
[illegible] mother talked kindly to her and patted
her to soothe her agitation — when she found herself
loose from the buggy she pulled her head [illegible] and
went up the bank and stopped still — we pulled the
buggy around so there was no danger of its going further
down the bank — then mother went for help to a house nearly
a quarter of a mile ahead — but before she came back the
men [illegible] pulled the buggy up into the road
[illegible] the front wheels
had gone down into the [illegible] that had [illegible] out — but we
got it out some way, that I am sure of. the men hitched
the horse on again and we went on our way rejoicing
in our safe deliverance — nothing was broken [illegible]
about the buggy but if the horse had acted badly
everything would have been broken to pieces and we
could not have escaped without injury. Dear old blind
horse you may be sure we shall not forget this [illegible]
[illegible] — and you may thank me Love that your [illegible]
[illegible] Emma is able to write to you to-night. I cannot
but shudder [illegible] I think how near we came to [illegible]
[illegible] — I do not know but I really always shudder when
I think of it [illegible] when I think of the [illegible]
my [illegible] — I thought
[illegible] a chill crept all over me as it did when
I first felt the [illegible] on the bone — I know I uttered one
scream and [illegible] and knew nothing more till I found
myself in father's arms [illegible] frightened faces bend-
ing over me and my clothes all wet with blood. I have
thought often how could I have escaped death then
[illegible]
[illegible] — for you to love perhaps — I have
thought of this often since I did love you
[illegible] Dear Love — how little did I dream
[illegible] while I laughed and admired your [illegible]
that you would one day be dearer to me than life itself
and a few years later when I again [illegible]
and [illegible] almost entranced with your [illegible]
and genius not then did it come to me that you
would one day be to me — still later [illegible]
[illegible] to gather a few bright flowers that the
frost king had not touched with his icy fingers and
arrange them in a bouquet for you [illegible]
[illegible] but a few months after when before the bright
fire [illegible] my head lying upon your bosom and I felt
soft lips upon my [illegible]
of [illegible] I asked you to call me sister
but it did not seem to satisfy me to think you called
me [illegible] but when beneath the arbor shade you called
me only Emma there seemed to nestle in my bosom
a [illegible] which has never left its nest
[illegible] my [illegible] beloved [illegible] me [illegible] just your

hand was laid on my bosom I felt then that until I pass your wife
I could feel no greater joy but I did and that [illegible] first
the soft pressure of your lips where [illegible] God I shall some day feel
even a softer pressure where [illegible] shall rest our babe and I
sure that until I am called wife and at nightfall I rest within
my husbands arms I shall have no greater joy than this last
[illegible] sweet remembrances [illegible] to beguile
the months of our separation I am almost as happy sometimes
thinking of these things as I was when I passed [illegible] from
God has been so good so kind to us Albion I am sure I we will
never forget his great mercies to us I passed over the place to
day where if I remember rightly I first called [illegible] to you
and called you "Albion" [illegible] the morning after the [illegible] when you
were taking me over to school I remember [illegible] almost fearful
I was to tell you that, yet I had said the name over to myself
more than a dozen times I know the night before after we had parted
and I was your betrothed wife I could not sleep for the great joy
that was in my heart but would say to myself "Albion Albion, mine
mine all mine" and after I did sleep I know not but my lips
uttered these same sweet words
It is nearly eleven o'clock I have been alone for nearly two hours I
do not know how much longer I might write to you but I think
it best not to much longer my subject is not giving out but my
eyes are and they seem to long to rest so I'll not bother you with
a much longer epistle this time I am very happy that your class
have honored you so highly and think you well deserving the
honor and sure all will be satisfied with your efforts
I hope my Love will be all well and happy when next I hear
from him It does not seem as if I had answered much of
your letter but I have written what came in my mind first
Good night Love Emma

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