Waterloo Jany 31st /57

Dear sister Emma

Will please accept my thanks, in return for her kind wishes & hopes for my happiness & enjoyment on New Years day as well as the assurance that those wishes & hopes were realised to the fullest extent that circumstances would permit in consideration of the absence of all old acquaintances

There was not an individual in Waterloo on that day whom I ever saw before I came here but I have made a host of acquaintances since and as news is of interest is rather out of market just now perhaps a passing notice of some of the Ladies of a "Prairie town" Away out West might interest you. I suppose however before commencing on that topic I had better proceed to answer some of your inquiries

Firstly then Did I ever know Miss Martha Pettit,

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

well y[illegible] u[illegible] s, [illegible] Jackson [illegible]
If I remember right she once had a
time of it getting a kiss from a brother [illegible]
of yours for the particulars of that affair
between I refer you to Uncle Cyrus who
has the peculiar faculty of making the inci-
-dent very interesting Miss Susan Ferguson I
shall always remember as a splendid young
lady educated accomplished and all that but
ah! she is an "heiress" Santa Claus brought me
"nothing" as usual Sister Ems likeness has been
[illegible] the [illegible] ladies [illegible] house ~~and~~
for some time and is pronounced by all the per-
sons who see it to be "very pretty" With regard
to your suspicions that "horse back rides"
"Moonlight Strolls" "Sleigh rides" "Cotillion parties"
&c would not be very interesting unless some fair
one was in company I have only to refer you to
any [illegible] for a confirmation of them
I have not been not been able however to select
any particular one from the fair of Waterloo
as an especial favourite as they are all such dear
good creatures I like them all & I am in a good deal

of a quandary what to do about it I'll just give you a sketch of "all of em" and promise to love the one you select as the "loveliest"

Well here is Miss Hattie Ellsworth our landlady's daughter about the age of sweet sixteen she is from the Green Mountain State a sort of a sweet looking girl with dark eyes and hair red cheeks & lips & plays the Piano some & her drawings & paintings are very nice indeed. She attends sewing societies, burning parties and the like but doesn't dance. Rhoda D. Bur-leland is a neat pretty looking girl of about 17 from New Hampshire with black hair and eyes sweet rosy lips, & cheeks is red as a cherry she is a good temperar a beautiful singer & a dancer, Ellen B Williams is a good Templar also a good looking girl of about 18 New York her native state she has pretty red cheeks pretty sparkling eyes and attends singing schools sewing societies & dancing parties Jessie Crittenden is the prettiest dancer in town a fancy little thing whom every body likes but no one loves she is from Buffalo N.Y. Emily Moore the milliner is a tall good natured well educated young lady from Vermont probably about 22 years of age she is a dancer & a Good Templar

Miss Eunice Ann Wester the Belle of Waterloo is a native of New York City very pretty & of course knows it. A very fine young lady however. She dances every thing from the Fishers Hornpipe or Virginia reel to the Fashionable Varsouvienne and renowned Redowa. Asenath Worthington is a York State girl dances, sings, and attends sewing societies is a pretty looking girl with light brown ringlets all over her head and face Pennie Smith is a Literary star from Mt Vernon Ohio She writes poetry for the Iowa ~~State~~ Register belongs to the G.T. attends dancing parties &c. The Misses Bancroft are twin sisters from N.Y. State. dont dance but are on hand at all sewing societies sleigh rides kissing parties &c. Miss Mary Field is a New Yorker a member of the Presbyterian Church an excellent young lady a teacher & secretary of the sewing society Ciscela Hungerford is from Mass. a plump good natured creature who loves to dance better than eating, drinking, or sleeping. she is slightly near sighted and wears glasses Jennie Cannon is a Good Templar and a beautiful Girl as is her sister Josephine The prettiest ~~girl~~ and to me the most interesting Girl in town is Mary Evans. She is a Southerner from New Orleans has very dark hair and eyes as dark, a complexion just my Ideal pure and fresh as the wild rose of the Prairie which I once described to you in a former letter and which with all its modest beauty grace & loveliness she rivals if not surpasses. She dances waltzes & sings like a Fairy — — but I fear I am

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

becoming partial which I have not intended to do. Well She is a
perfect love of a girl any how just sixteen has a gentlemanly old Father
and a half dozen little brothers & sisters who including all compose one of
the most interesting families I [illegible] know. Lib Phillips is a keen little black
eyed girl who is a Good Templar & loves dancing better than her sup-
per [illegible] friends or any thing else on earth. [illegible] is a pretty
girl with rosy cheeks, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] good Templar, rides on horseback when
the weather is fine and I wish you to [illegible] [illegible] Pennsylvanian a methodist
and [illegible] [illegible] Templar of our [illegible]. [illegible] Pendleton is a young &
pretty little miss who attends [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] are my most intimate
lady acquaintances. besides them I might name [illegible] Mary Aspinwall
Julia [illegible] Lucy [illegible] Rosina [illegible] Mary Brainard Lucy Pratt
Katy Bliss & a dozen others of the younger [illegible] [illegible] Fewnd School
who are some of them very pretty girls nearly all of them
Good Templars and some of them dancers Don't you think
we have a host of pretty girls in [illegible] [illegible] Good Templars
quite a number of dancers among them. We have two lodges
and a [illegible] [illegible] party every ~~week~~ this winter which with our Singing
Schools, Sewing Societies and Sleigh rides makes lively times I tell
you I wish you were here Em for a couple of months if you ~~wish~~ would
be gay and lively time, I think you might find all you could ask
for from now untill spring in the line of amusements. But I suppose
Your Elder Sister and Preceptress would tell you ~~this would not~~ that
the benefit you would derive from such a course would not ~~[illegible]~~ much

weight in a balance to that which you will recive from her instruction and I am somewhat of the same opinion I must confess
I think I have probably written all you will wish to write at one "down sitting" and when you wish another as lengthy just sit down and write me one and I'll try again When you have done with this just hand it over to Augie and if there is any thing else which she would like to know that this does not contain if you will have the kindness to let me know what it is about I will try and gratify her

As ever your brother
Edwin R Dilson

To Miss Emma

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2015