

Watertown June 6th/57

Dear Em.

I expect you begin to think my letters <sup>and few</sup> few between, but I assure you that although they later may be true in your case, neither are generally speaking. I have more correspondents than I can do justice to, and I'll just tell you what I am going to do, or rather what I am not going to do. I am <sup>not</sup> going to write to all the sisters cousins and friends, I have who claim me as a correspondent, "I jist aint", "So now,

I cant, spend the time and it costs too much for paper and pens and ink and postage stamps.

I dont see any use in writing to all you sisters at Comraunt separately any how. My letters are always in the common stock among you it appears so who to the use of corresponding with each's are separately. Now Em. I have taken a large sheet you see (and as you <sup>are</sup> so very fond of long letters no matter what the contents are I suppose so long as brother Neil writes them) and as you so very kindly promised me a word of praise for every long letter

I shall try and write such to you in the future. I do so love to be praised you know? But I am going to scold you most awful for your past offences and command you not to show any more of my letters to any one. You see I might take amotion to tell you a secret some time and then every body would know it at once. I wrote you you know a descriptive catalogue of some of our western girls and I suppose every body read it for they are all boring & teasing me about Miss Mary Evans. Now I suppose if I should tell you, she was my ideal of beauty, loveliness and excellence and that she the "very sweet Prissy Rose" was to be new Bride some day. The return mail would bring me a dozen congratulations and a thousand wishes of much joy & happiness &c.

He Ho Ho now Em aint you tickled. But believe you are mistaken. Miss Em in yours surmises indeed you are. But is not in love as you imagined at last if he is he dont know with whom. The fact is Em I have seen so many good and amiable & beautiful girls here in the west as well as elsewhere that it is impossible for me to tell which I like best. Guess! am bound to be an "old back" in spite of them all. Guess that's the best plan and when I get through my wanderings and get rich and my sister Em gets to be an old maid she can come west and keep house for me. What do you think of it?

You asked a favour of me didn't you well I don't know about that Em I am afraid a half dozen

sisters would be crying out partiality and  
the excuse would be to pay, but if you will promise  
to not show it to any of them I'll promise to see  
about it the next time I meet with a good article

I suppose you had grand times visiting with  
the "Canada company" of cousins and aunts, say I  
could not have been around about that time

I have seen none of them nor do I expect to, un-  
less they come to Waterloo which they probably  
will not do I can not spend the time to go  
to Jackson to see them and I regret it very much  
too. It is a delightful time of year to visit or travel  
the weather fine and pleasant and the prairie blooming  
in all their beauty. But business before pleasure is  
motto and it must follow so I cannot go

Clemons thought when I saw him at the Rapids  
that it was doubtful about his visiting them  
and I presume they will think us rather  
unwelcome unkindly and that best as we are  
both situated at present it would be very in-  
consistent for either of us to do otherwise. I received  
a letter from Aunt Sarah dated May 28th and  
written on board the Steamer just as they were ar-  
riving at Oshtemo urging me very hard to come but I can  
go no how

Now Em I for remember I forbid you from let-  
ting any one read this if you can help I know  
they make a practice of opening of opening all  
letters which are received at home indiscriminately



but its a ridiculous practice and I hope you will  
have sense enough to know that your correspondents  
should not be trifled with in that manner

I certainly dont wish my letters opened and  
read by any and every one and shown to the next  
boys besides. And beside I am positively going  
to quit writing to every one in town just because  
they write to me. but I want you to be my correspon-  
-ent at Lake Shore, now what do you say? You should  
my confidante and when I get in <sup>so many many</sup> ~~many many~~  
travels or any other misfortune happens to me I  
I will inform you of it, and all the rest of my  
adventures. I dont know where I shall start  
west as it is taking me longer to settle up my  
affairs here than I expected but I shall let  
you know all about it befor I start.

Remember me in kind regards to all the folks at  
home. Tell Jane that Ned would be very glad to  
receive a letter from her.

You can write again soon and remember  
long letters should be answered by the same  
bit. As ever your affectionate Brother

Edwin P. Hill

To his Sister Emma