Lee Aug. 7 - 1859
Berkshire Co. Mass.

My dear Love

You will perceive from the heading of this sheet that I have departed from the land of the "buckeyes" even as I purposed doing when I last saw you, and I suppose that in writing to you now I cannot better interest you them by narrating some of the events of the past week, which, perhaps I cannot better do them by taking them in their natural sequence. To begin then Web and I chatted constantly and gaily for a time after leaving Cherry Grove last Monday night but by and by the conversation dwindled down to monosyllables; then these became few & scattering, until at length we both went off to Nod-land. I stand with

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[illegible] until the morrow and the
went upon [illegible]
[illegible]. I spent [illegible]
up [illegible] to see [illegible] and
writing to [illegible], [illegible] that
[illegible] a letter. That night I
copied that piece for Nora, and you
may be sure I had a sleepy time of it
[illegible] hers and request
[illegible] to give it [illegible] if she ever saw you
& if you wish it [illegible] must make
yourself [illegible] to her when you go to [illegible].
About night our folks concluded that
that I was really going whether they would
or not. The next day father and I had
quite a talk. I do not believe Emma but
that he will, and intends to, assist me
in pursuing my Coll. course. He really
felt bad when I came to leave, and
Rosetta mourned almost as if I were
dead. I am sure she never realized be-
fore how much she loved me. I think
however it is well for her as well as me that
I should go, and leave her. You may scold

me Emma if you wish (but it will
not do any good,) when I tell you that
I left home without even saying good
Bye to Rowena, I passed her in the door
way as I left the house, but opened not
my lips. Que pensez-vous de cela? After
I arrived at the depot Maltby came down
from Ashtabula to see me a moment. I
left K— about noon on the mail train,
and arrived in Lee at 10 A.M. on the
morrow. The journey though very quickly
made was very wearisome to me. The cars
in which I rode were not very good, and
I scarcely tasted food from the time I left my
father's house until I arrived at my Aunts.
In fact I was very near sick; and have but
just recovered my usual tone of spirits. You
know I was anticipating very much pleasure
in Lee. I was woefully disappointed in some
respects. The place is changed, my friends
have many of them died or left the place
and I have so changed that I scarce
consider those who remain worthy of my
notice and know that very few if any of

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them are worthy of the friendship of Emma's Love. If that remark be egotistical, then I am most certainly an egotist, for I feel it's truth. I tell you Emma Thursday and Friday were the two most lonely days I ever knew. I was amazing sick and very much disappointed, so of course I had the blues. I would have liked it well had you been here to box my ears according to threat. On Saturday however I got my books, &c, arranged in just the nicest little study you ever saw ~~but~~ either in the spirit or the flesh. I do wish my Love that you could look in on me a moment now, while I am writing. I should hate however to have you vanish without making yourself manifest to me and giving me a good loving kiss. I have in very truth the neatest easiest little snuggery here you ever thought of. It only needs thy presence now and then, and a good Library to make it my ideal of a study. Let me try and give you a pen picture of it. It is in the South eastern angle of the house upon the ground floor, having as Cesar would have said it two windows the one looking toward the Orient and the other toward the meridian. In the angle between these windows stands the table with my books

ranged neatly along the southern side against the wall. (All right side up my Love) before me on the table stands a nice shade lamp and a glass of water, at my right hand, and leaning against the Dictionary, on which lays a package of letters I have been writing, stands the open likeness of My Love, My Own Beloved's beauteous face

Beaming brightly from the case.

Upon the western side of the room stands a most splendid Melodeon, which now and then beneath the touch of fairy fingers discourseth most excellent music; and over it hangs my photographs of the teachers of K—. You may think a Melodeon a strange adornment of my room, as indeed it is, but it is not the only musical instrument, for on the music stand beside it is a flute, and flutina. I really enjoy their harmony sometimes, and once or twice have tried to wow Harmonia myself but was frightened at the discord

I produced. Sometimes however I almost wish my study was a garret and quite unfurnished, with musical instruments at least, for I shall be sorely annoyed by certain music-stricken, brainless beauties of the place who have fallen in love with their fellow sufferer at first sight, and most desperately too. I shall just lock them out and dig away. I found here on my arrival a cousin before unknown to me — 49th germain — who seems to have laid seige to my heart in good earnest; for she told me then she was to go home, to Troy, to-morrow, but to-night she said she should stay until one week from to-morrow. She is a light airy, fragile creature full of fun and music — innocent and gleeful — and withal quite pretty. She reminds me very much of her that was. Lelia Sheldon, except that she has not so much mind she only thinks and talks of trifles nothings. Of course I am willing to extend to her all the courtesies of social life, and am quite willing to be the cavalier of so prepossessing a damsel, and the term ma cousine seems very appropriate to her but she can't talk sensibly, she is a pretty doll. She came in tonight while I was writing and bantered me very pleasantly awhile and then demanded my company for a promenade, and after we returned, begged it for the evening. Thinking it would be her last evening here I consented, and for the past two or three hours have been sitting with my head in the pretty creature's lap saying sweetened nothings, feeding her with sugared nonsense, and am really glad, my Love, to come and chat with one who has some sense & mind. When I spoke of going she playfully attempted to sit down in my lap. I would not permit her to do so. She looked up in my face and asked me if she might, so prettily, twas hard, not that I wished her to but it seemed too bad to refuse her the but I said no none but my Betrothed pleasure sits there. The little minx threw herself

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down on the sofa for a pout, and I left without even kissing her. She will be cross tomorrow but some honeyed words will make all right. I had sweet thoughts and dreams of you last night, my Love. Did you not feel my hand in its loved resting place? I was there in fancy at least. I have not yet shown your likeness to Aunt Sophronia but Aunt Ann and I had a long talk about you the other night. She has fallen in love with your miniature and knows she would like you very much. She is a true woman with all her faults, many of which she has almost or quite overcome. We speak very freely and frankly of almost everything. I like her very much better than I formerly did and think you would love her now. I have very much more to write but if you please will wait till morning to do it. So good night, Elvira.

Monday Morn

I have just looked forth upon the mountains, Love, and come again to greet you. You remember Emma that I told you when I last saw you (it seems a month ago there has been so much bustle and excitement since) that I should be tempted to forget my constancy to the

I mean that constant tribute of affection which my heart should ever give to thee, I did fear that at some unguarded moment I might forget my love to Emma. I did not fear that any one would usurp her place for any length of time, but not for a moment would I forget that Emma is my plighted bride, and that no one else should share the love kiss of my lips, none else receive the love-caress from me. I did expect to meet these temptations in Lee, and was really prepared, to consider them temptations, and resist them as such; Mais je vous demande pardon ma Belle, I did not give due weight to that superiority over your sex in general, which I should. I have felt nothing like temptation even for a moment. There is one bosom, a very fair one too, which assiduously courts my gage, and would I know throb quick at my caress, but I regard it with something of disgust. Forgive me, Love, that I ever doubted your power over me.

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But I have something else to write which requires your attention and consideration. My Love, i.e. mes affares du finance. You will recollect, My Bride, that I told you I expected to receive about $4.00 with interest on a part of it, at least, for about eight years. This last I find, from a claws in the will I cannot collect, and I don't know that I am very sorry; but the principal will probably be paid to me in installments of $25 and $50 during the year as I may require it. Thus you see your Lover has but his head and hands and a $4.00 plank to keep him afloat on the Ocean of Life. Now the thing which requires your consideration is this. I have been thinking quite hard since my arrival here of going to Rochester University instead of Harvard, at least for a year or two. The reasons for this change of purpose I will give as briefly and succinctly as possible and I wish my sometime Wife to think of it carefully and seriously and give me her opinion, her advice in regard to the matter.

My reasons then are these.

First. I have been informed by those who are good and disinterested authority in such things, that Harvard gives her students only tutor-instruction during the two first College years. That is the Freshman and Sophomore classes are under the charge of Alumni tutors, or students who have just graduated from the University, such as Mr Hegman have that he has had some experience in teaching. This system of emasculating the mind is not what I want by any means. Again I can go to R—, enter as Sophomore, stay one year and then go to Harvard if I wish and enter Junior or two years in advance. The reason of this is that my course of Education heretofore has been such as to fit me for R— instead of H—. And while I am sure my mental strength & culture would entitle me to a high place in H— I also am aware that I am not posted on the peculiarities of her course, which is of far more importance there th

I had anticipated. While therefore I could easily sustain myself as a Junior in H— after having spent one year in R— I should be obliged to take two, if I should go there now. Again I can take the one year in R— at about one fourth the cost of two years in H— Now my pretty Ministre du Finance, que pensez vous de cela? Now my Love, I will not agree to abide by your decision in regard to it; but Emma's wishes never shall be unheeded by me. You may be sure I will give them due weight my Own. I will tell you that so far as I have looked at the matter I must say I think it for my best interest to go there for a year at least. You however may see it in a different light; I wish you therefore to be sure & tell me what you think of it. I have written to Seneca about it and shall write to Dominic Gale to-day. You know I have the greatest confidence in his judgment. Tell Mitia that I intend, — if I can invent any way to keep it moist — to send her a slip of a most splendid tea rose the very queen of roses in my eye, — the noblest I ever saw. I have packed up any amount of love in this letter, and all that you can spare you may dispose of as you wish. Toujours le même Albion

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