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1859

CHAUTAUDUX COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

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Dear Mother
I received your letter of the 10th and was glad to hear from you
and to hear that you were all well. I am well at present
and hope these few lines will find you all the same.
I have not much news to write at present. I am still
in the same place and doing the same work. I have
not much time to write at present. I must close for
this time. I will write again when I have more news
to write. I love you all very much and hope to see
you all soon. I am your affectionate son,
John Smith

a debate without aid from a Sophomore especially from a member
of a secret society. Length being almost required with the
permanency of the issue that if the world give me a certain sum
of money I would write it for them. I am sure I can
directly consented and only requested that I should keep the
matter secret. I am only willing to do it for it is a subject on
which I wish to write an article, and I consider that it is a
Senior and an Ouder, and if ever the O. should send an
extra vote to an even number of members in the O. I should
when they are in the room, and the O. has been held,
can you do them, by just threatening to disclose the matter
of the O. which would you at once prevent, by a lasting
disgrace both to the man and the society to which he belongs.
I would not like to get control of the whole O. Fraternity,
in fact the same measure would not report some where else
where, by the means of the O. and you would do just what
you are going to put your hands on me, and I
have written this you will remember that that does not
trust it over on the table but some should fall in line with
the and break their hearts for nothing. All this conduct on my part
displeased my O. and I am sure I am sure and you have
been the only likeness on the table for some time. I am
satisfied and remove that before the end of the day a
time of constant rejoicing with - and I am sure I will
send a letter about the matter. I am sure I will
anything about the matter. I am sure I will
sincerely that but I am sure I will
the paper about the matter. I am sure I will

I suppose he writes to his father in the same
respect as at K. but we think he will
work to do so and keep up with his studies
lady when you very much pity who is kept
down by the care of a family of children, and
if Emma would be as patient under similar
You seem to think it wrong that she should be obliged
and labor so for the support of ^{her} small children.
I think that God designed that it should be so. The
the care of that young mother are destroying her
capabilities for usefulness, and I am sure I am
you consider her the victim of her husband's passions. You
do tell you what I think of it, if I consider it right. The
Emma is which it is very difficult to decide. I am
which you speak, you would probably find if you
matter with due attention, and a philosophical
not so much the necessary care of their children
mistaken idea of their wants, to supply what
has, that is, running her health and happiness
not necessary care, but care of a woman
make her children such a life destroying
Very few mothers in our land take such
of their children during the years of their infancy
and their fathers are generally too busy
to take care about them. I am sure
women are in a great measure
that very few men are
I am sure I will

and sensual passions. This is indeed wrong, indeed wrong, indeed wrong.
Now, Emma, I have no doubt but you have often thought,
since you became thoroughly acquainted with me, that I would
love my wife, very much in the ratio of her fecundity. Or
at least, my strong desire for, and ardent love of, offspring,
would lead me to wish my wife to be the mother of many
children, almost regardless of the care and toil, the weariness
and, which they might impose on her. Such Emma, is not the
case. You are never to wear out your life in caring for
my children. When the burden is as great as you can bear
with joy and happiness, it shall not be increased. I think that no
persons should have more lives entrusted to their care, than they can
mentally, morally and physically, thoroughly and completely pro-
vide for. I do not think it to be a woman's duty, to attend to the
wants of a dozen mischievous rogues, from 4 years of age to 16,
to bear another in her arms, and, yet another smother her heart.
I do not believe that God designed, and created women, merely for
child bearing. Indeed, the very laws under which the man formed,
prove that he did not. Let me show you how. You remember that I
told you that probably I was better acquainted with your physi-
cal system than yourself. Judge now if I make correct deductions from
that knowledge. It is probably prejudicial to want women
to become mothers before the age of twenty, or even at that age.
Again few, very few can be mothers, after the age of 45. But during
this time you say, she may be the mother of nearly a score of children.
Very true but when no woman could endure that constant strain
upon her physical system, especially when the care of them devolved
upon herself. It seems, then, that what the Creator, by these laws,
manifestable as his revealed word, intended to set a limit to our
passions and desires. Again, it has been found by indisputable
statistics that the average number of children which women
are capable of bearing is but five. Now, Emma, I cannot say
it would give me any pain, to see you the mother of a numerous
progeny, should you desire, and wealth be mine. Without this
I do not wish to see you the mother of a large family, for I feel that it
would be wrong, that it would be detrimental to you, and to
the state of the world. It is necessary that the

Miss E. L. Kilborn

Cornwall

Ashtabula Co

Ohio