

Wilson N.Y.

Dec. 15-1860

My Dear Love.

I received your loving letter, of the 7th inst. all safe, yesterday, it having been forwarded from Rock by Seneca. It was just as well as if I had received it before, for I was able very easily to get all the money I wished just then. I am sorry that the "tone of desperation" in my letter should have so seriously alarmed you. I will confess, that I was desperate, and as you know have been this long time, and now my Dear for your request, that I will tell you all about it and promise never to withhold anything of the kind from you again. You know it is hard for me to refuse to comply with anything that you desire especially when as in the present instance I am fully convinced that you are

right or very near it. The fact is
no one knows when I left the Univer-
sity and came here. I have told my
friends some one thing and some another
all partial truths and each one thinks he
or she knows the reason, but they do not.
I am stubborn about it. I don't want to
tell. No one knows it fully but me, and I
don't know as I shall tell anyone. I
know I am real naughty but I can't
help it. I feel now something of that old
pride which I used to have when nobody
knew my motives. You have never seen
me so before and to you it seems strange.
I know you wish to console me as you
think but there is no consolation needed
my love. You have let your jealous love
your careful affection magnify everything
and I know just how anxious you
are about the matter. Just dismiss all
thought my Dear and believe, that I
have no better reason for withholding it from
you than my own senseless whim.

I am having a very good time here
in Wilton. I am not transcendently
happy but am trying to be contented. I can
not say that I do not dread somewhat the
ringing of the glock bell for Aboulay's
school yet I am rather anxious for it to
come. I have almost all the higher branches
to teach, Latin, Algebra, Geometry, &c. Of
course I have to be pretty busy. You know
how nervous I am in regard to my
such thing. This is much increased by the
knowledge that this is as it were, an experi-
ment in real life which may affect my
future prospects; & success. I have therefore
been in a state of incessant excitement
ever since Wednesday morning. When I
got through at night I am completely tired
and will have to lie down to rest, then I have
to prepare for the next day, the text books
are poor, I am rusty and every thing frets
me. There is not if all I have all the
reading on my hands and you know
how intensely excited I always get over

What. They are most admirable poor read-
ers here and Kelcey is about as good as the
scholars. I mean to have some good
readers here before the term is over. Now I
have Physiology. You know how passionate-
ly fond I am of that especially the anatomy
of the human frame. I mean to present
I have succeeded in getting up a little enthu-
siasm over that and could almost weep
for joy that it is so. Our janitor is a fine
energetic girl from Wiloughby Co. Good na-
tured and I guess able to do so at least.
My present is the Prof. of the Commer-
cial department, a pretty good fellow I guess
but young and a bit of a green. I rather like
him however for he tries his best to do
some thing or all, "let those do better who better
can do." But I have said enough about this
in my present report to make you happy
and will stop. I may feel better to morrow
and will continue my account of school matters
from then let me say, how long does your
vacation last? I don't know as we shall have
any vacation during the holidays but if we
do and yours is not over you will see me
in fact it is not for more than 24 hours.
I would give you can't imagine what
I would not give, - but it to be a good
visit with Emma. It would be far more
good than anything else on earth. But as
I am not I will just go to bed and
have sweet dreams & thoughts of you
good night my dear, Dear love
Albion

Sunday

I have just returned from Church.
Have had a most very edifying discourse but
unwilling to keep awake. The village is blessed
with three churches and a Bazarite organization to
counteract their influence. Mrs Wilson my friend
lady has just brought us up a fine lunch of cake
bread and milk and a large China fruit
dish full of apples. I like Mrs Wilson very much
her husband not quite so well. It is a nice
place to board however as we have every thing
convenient and such good coffee. You
know my love for that beverage, and how
it was my especial cross at Mrs Fester's that
it was so bad. I am finely suited here in
that respect. My boarding place is but a few
rods from the school buildings and close by
the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. The
Baptist house is further off in another quarter
of the village. I was invited to, and attended
a surprise (donation) on Thursday
night at the house of the Presbyterian min-
ister Rev. Hubbard. There were very many
of the towns people present and I had a fine
time to become acquainted with them. I
was much pleased with their general tone

and appearance. I don't know what
Church I shall attend but think I shall
content myself with one sermon a day in
order to have an uninterrupted opportunity
to write to — my friends.

I have never read Dr Keedrick's last
works, but have noticed a few passages. I
have heard otherwise that it was a fine thing
in the doctor's peculiar, happy style. I am certain
it is highly flattered by the resemblance, which your
mind may draw between such humble epistolary
efforts and those of Dr Johnson. I have no
idea that they have much in common unless
it be the orthodoxy of those loud objects to
whom they are addressed. By the way how
I have not yet commenced my course of Galienus
I have reviewed him a few times in a month though
I did have a little adventure at the coronation
the other night. After having been passed a
round and introduced to all the ladies
of the court, as of course a man of note
nearly would, and destroying the gravity
of all of them by some ludicrous remarks

I found a far pleasanter position
among a party of young people, mostly
students who were having some merry
conversation. I was in a fine mood & you
may be sure I made myself such a plea-
sant and popular among them. By a sort
of break, I attached myself personally to the
very homeliest lady in the house — I have
never seen one who could outdo her in my
eyes, without any disagreeability of expression.
She had been in several of my classes for
two days & I ought to have known her name
but did not. Asked it and she said it was
Beck. Told her I believed leeches were always
prescribed for certain diseases, I would if she
pleased try the application. She promptly ac-
plied that I must shrink from having blood
drawn if I did. I found her intelligent &
witty and had a pleasant time with her.

But I have a favorite in the school. A little girl
named Chase. She reminds me constantly of
Lelia Hills — nie Sheldov, and her Christian
name is Ermina. Of course those two things

are quite sufficient to prevent me in her
know. Perhaps you think that something of
beginning. Got a bit of it now - Don't feel a
ry surplus. I would glad you are to remain
at Mr Wadsworth's instead of going to B -
with Nellie, for several reasons. I should
go to see you during the holidays I would about
as lief go to go as to B - and we should have
much better times there than at B. I would
like much to see Nellie but as I cannot see
both you & Anne now the preference, and she
must, I will regard it as it means to they get
a respite from the Friday night before the
week until Wednesday after it. If I can I can
leave here at 10 o'clock on Sat. night, & then return Tuesday, or start from G -
Monday P.M. if possible - Please remember &
tell me in your next at what time train
pass G -. Perhaps we shall meet more
satisfaction if we do. I will surely come. It
would be such happiness to be with you but a
renewed, - however long and so to see you
before it may be that I cannot come at
all. It so I cannot of course assume, but it
will be terribly hard to do so. You must
not feel lonely it. I don't write you very
long letters after this for I expect to be tired
every Sunday. You must think I am
working real hard and loving you with
my might. I will come to see you if
I be in any way possible. Give love to
Mr & Mrs W, and if I could only have
a kiss I would be willing to say Good Bye.
Alfred



Miss Emma L. Kilborn

Gainesville

Wyoming Co.

N.Y.

12 letters

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

Wilson Dec. 15th 1861

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