

Kingville  
Sept 19 - 61

Emma

I have been sitting here with the paper before me and my pen in hand - waiting - waiting and thinking - thinking to whom I should write and what I should write. At length - I think it must have been as much through habit as wish - my pen traced your name, so I must and surely will write to you. I don't know what I want to say, only I think it has been an awful long week since I saw you. I have been lonesome ever since your face vanished from my sight. I don't know how I have lived without you so long, for you seem to have made yourself almost essential to my existence. I feel so funny - so strangely tonight - you could not guess in a <sup>word</sup> what has happened to come into my head tonight, nor what father and I have been talking about. There, you need not open your eyes wide, put your hand down by your side carefully, and say to yourself in a bland way - Perhaps you are mistaken there, my dear - for I am not mistaken. No! not at all, by no manner of

means, never in this world, no never! If you think you can, however, I will let you have all right to think about it so

Good Night

A. W. Tourgee

Good Morning Love. I knew you could never guess that in one night. You need not look so puzzled and glum for I have concluded not to tell you at all. I don't think it good for me to tell you everything. I have some news for you however. I went to Ashtabula with Joe on Wednesday and had a good visit with Anna and Abner. There was something very peculiar happened to my horse going there. Joe's horse was about as near fractious as could be without decided ugliness and at one time he jumped just by a little quibly and the concussion, consequent upon our striking into it was a stunner. I thought my back was surely broken and almost concluded that my last hour was pretty well spent. It pained me severely all day and a great part of the night but since that I feel almost well again. My back is weak but it don't pain me at all scarcely. I don't understand it. It seems a good deal like a hair of the dog the bit you, curing the wound, a regular homeopathic system of treatment. I don't know how long it will last but I hope — well

I don't know as I can say, I hope for I don't think I have reason enough to hope but if it should be a permanent good would it not be funny? Joe has been with me one or two days besides Wednesdays and we have had quite a visit. I think I must see you again before you go away. I don't know just how I shall bring it about, but I suppose I shall come down to see you unless you will come up and see me as both. I think that if you take another horse back ride you had better come this way. Don't you think so? I found a letter from Web and several others waiting my arrival when I came home. I have reviewed them and read everything in the house that was new. I don't get well in a few weeks I am going to get a pension to buy me some books, food must have something to amuse myself in some way or other. Are you lonely down at the grove without me? I have no doubt you are for you could not well avoid being. I have not been up to see Anna yet nor have I seen her since my return. Father said he had concluded that you and I had decided to remain together "till Death do us part" and he expected me to come home with a well back and a contented wife. Romantic ideas for him I think.

O N! I really forgot  
to tell you that I walk out every  
day! I go out into the orchard,  
around the yard, and today I am  
going over to Mrs Merrill's — on  
crutches. Aint that sublime? Of course  
you are delighted as well as I. I should  
not wonder if I crutched myself down  
I can't wait some pleasant day before  
long. I am going over to see Spald-  
ing tomorrow, i.e. I hope to for-  
get intends to do so, and I am to  
see company him. Now Love, dont get  
blue and lonesome over me. I should  
not wonder if I run well in a month, so  
keep your temper and spirits and see what  
turns up. Wish you would kiss yourself  
several times for me, and give my most devoted  
regard to all the family — Yours  
(Abner)