

WESTFIELD
OCT
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Ohio.

Miss Emma L. Kilborn

Westfield

N.Y.

Chataugue Co.

October 6th 1861
Kinnoville
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CHAUTAUQUE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2017

Kingville, Ohio
Oct. 6th 1891

Emma

Both of your kind loving letters were received. The first was indeed a pleasing surprise. You and Lizzie are a pair of darlings to think of giving me so much pleasure. I am so glad you love each other so well. I knew you would, and you see I am again not mistaken. I hope neither of you will feel at all disappointed in the other, for you so completely fill the niches which my heart has assigned to each that I cannot think of having you separated for a moment. I am almost glad you have been delayed there, for it will enable you to learn each other's hearts so much better, than you would otherwise. I do not doubt that Lizzie might be induced to say 'yes,' to my going home with her, but I don't think she will have

an opportunity to say yes or no. Now
you may wish to know why. I don't
know whether I had better tell you
now or not. I don't know but I may as
well. So you may look for it somewhere
in this. I am very sorry to learn that
you are feeling so ill. Really I am afraid
you are going to be sick. You know you
^{have been} ~~are~~ in a dead and alive state, for so long
that you are really liable to disease. If
you should be able to go, on Tuesday
you must be very careful afterwards
and not think of doing too much.

I am willing that you should love,
just as much as you choose, but you
must not let your life run off on the
rices of Affection. I can't afford to have
my "lily" die, before it has fully opened its
sweet petals. Emma must not leave
me to go to the fair land, until I have
shown her, that with all my faults and incon-
sistencies, my love for her is yet pure, true
and fervent. I do fear my own, that

you will be going to join the
angels, ere Life has shown you half its
varied phases. I know that you are, as it
would seem, too pure for Earth. Why is
it that I always think of you as such a pure
and humble Christian? You have seldom
given vent to your religious feelings, in my
hearing, but you seem to me a much purer
Christian than almost any other. I always feel
reproached by your innocency, and ever
thank God, that in Heaven there is no thought
of Sin (as I do not believe there is). Should
you ever die, Love, before me, I could not
bear to think that you could look back upon
Earth and see any evilness. I know that
it would mar your heavenly rest and
happiness. It is enough, and sometimes
even it, requires an effort, that your acts
are all patent to God, to Jesus. Why
must one sin so constantly? I know that
sometimes I have felt that what I was about
to say or do was wrong and yet I have
continued in my course, and for days

Feel that God's smile is not for me;
and then with some sweet thought will come
the knowledge that, however erring and dis-
obedient - I am still one of God's little ones.

It always reminds me of Coleridge's Ancient
Mariner, who had ~~stood~~ so long with the Albatross
tross strung around his neck, and

" - looked to heaven and tried to pray;
But ~~not~~ ever a prayer had he said,
As wicked whispers came and made
My heart as dry as dust." And then
you remember long afterwards when he had
that first kindly thought and left his burden of
guilt: "Beyond the shadow of the ship -
I watched the water-shukes.
They moved in tracks of shining white
And when they curved the elfish light
Fell off in hoary flakes!"

"Within the shadow of the ship
I watched their rich attire
Blue glossy green and velvet black
They coiled and swam; and every track
Was a flush of golden fire."

"O! happy living things! No tongue
Their beauty might declare;
A spring of love gushed from my heart
And I blessed them unaware,
Sure my kind star took pity on me
And I blessed them unaware."

"That selfsame moment I could pray
And from my neck so free
The Albatross fell off and sank
Like lead into the sea."

I never could read that without
weeping. It is so sweet an expression of
a great heart-truth. So beautiful a repre-
sentation of that sentiment has not entered the
mind of any other author so far as I am aware.
How sweet and cheering! The incubus of
sin, the ^{dead} Albatross, the foul, putrid carcass
of guilt, falling from the neck of the disem-
powered spirit, and sinking like lead into
the sea of Oblivion. Thank God there is no
memory of evil in the Kingdom of Heaven.

I think you are a real bad love
to tell Lizzie what trouble I had over my
clean clothes! Well, mercie à Dieu, I have
got over that now, but I don't know
but I shall have another in getting them
fixed to my mind. Oh; no I shall not
for you know I am going to the war again
and it won't pay to fret over them. I have
been as smart as a cricket since I came
home. Would you believe it? On Friday

I walked from Mrs. Bushnell's to the Academy, up to Anna's and back again, besides riding all about town, without being tired very much. Joe gave me his support a part of the time and the rest of the way. I only had my cane for assistance. ~~Am I~~ not smart? Don't you think ~~it will~~ go to the war again? Well dear, I will tell you that I expect to receive a lieutenant's commission during the present week. I wrote to Sen. Sherman last week in regard to the matter and expect a favorable answer from him tomorrow. If my expectations are just, I shall go to Columbus to be mustered and begin to recruit a company at once. If I am disappointed there I shall take other measures to get authority to enlist recruits. I shall probably be at work upon this before the week is over. You see as I told you I am bound to try it again, and you must prepare to consent graciously. Now confess Love, would you not

consider me a poltroon and coward if I got well enough and did not go again? Of course you would, and so would any noble woman. The truth is Darling it is as evidently my duty as breathing can be. I shall not however unless I have a commission for I know I am worth more to my country at home than as a private. If I keep on getting better as fast as for the last ten days I can go into the field again in two or three weeks. You need not have any especial fears, however, for me until you are sure I will go. Oh! My Darling, you cannot imagine how lonely I am today. I have thought oftener of last Sunday and the contrast had not been especially cheering. You may perhaps account for my bestowing all sorts of endearing epithets on Joe the other night when I slept with him as he declares I did. Please give Lizzie a bout half

a dozen kisses for me. — on her
neck. — I would write
more but it is almost dark
and I must stop as I want
to write two or three more letters
tonight. — Give me a sweet
thought and in your dreams
come to my vision.

Loveingly Yours

Ed. Souzger

P.S. I forgot to tell you that I
have had a letter from Chum in
which he informs me that he intends
to throw up his school, though that
is reasonably profitable and successful,
and enlist for the war. I cannot
let Jim go unless I go with him.
If I go he will be in my com-
pany — also Joe.

Ed. Souzger