



Miss Emma L. Keller  
Rushford.  
Allegheny Co. West York.

CHAUTAUCUS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2018

Hartford, N.Y.  
Dec. 23. 1861

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

Westfield Dec<sup>r</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1861.

9-50. P.M.

Almost too late, dear Emma, to  
send you all the Christmas wishes my heart  
has been sending you today, but, all the week,  
I have been promising myself the pleasure  
of writing you today, and I cannot forget it  
Further-more. For a nice, new, writing-desk,  
which I wish to christen in this way! It was  
a Christmas gift from my pupils! Treat  
this dear good pudding! At the same time,  
very presented. Her long with broke. God of  
course has passed a merry day, and been  
well remembered. I hope you have enjoyed it as  
well as I have, and Heaven grant many a

joyous return of this anniversary to you. Tell me all about your "Tree", will you? We have enjoyed the day very quietly. It has been as lovely out of doors, as one could have desired. The sleighing very good this morning, and we all improved it.

Tonight Corrie has gone again, with a load of students. Not Carlisle took dinner with us; the afternoon passed in fun and frolic, and the evening we spent at Mrs. C's.

Our exchange of presents was very pleasant. Mrs. H. having the gift, a beautiful set of china, and a set of ivory-handled dinner knives. Do you have a vacation this week? I am heartily glad you do, for I have felt strongly inclined to play lazy (you know I could not really be so) the two weeks past. My charge keeps me hard at work all day. I fear I do not give them as full justice as you can. Your four ten hours a day would be no more time than it could well fill up - but we would be to teachers and pupils, if we worked upon

the Southern plan. O, Emma! dearly I'd love to come and spend this week, or a part of it, with you. It certainly would be fun. If I were half "rich" I would. I received a very urgent invitation from my classmate in Jamestown, to visit her at this time, but it came too late. Thursday night I had to leave my letter last night. I was as weary and sleepy. But now I've come to chat with you again. And so you ask if you have "waited long enough," before answering my letter. "Long enough!" - Oh! you could not answer me too quickly. It makes me very happy to know you love to answer my letters quickly. Emma, never you fear they would be too frequent, if sent by the return of mail after mine were received. They're a strangely "happy going" influence upon me, and Emma's love I believe was a special benison from Heaven, sent me - well, I know what for - and I pray it may never be withdrawn. No! let me cherish the treasure always, as much as I mine. The wind blows diabolically without, tonight, and

I do not feel in a mood to listen to it; there  
too comes the rain pattering against the blinds.  
Such things sound dreary to me, very often of late.  
It's strange, but I hardly love ~~the~~ wild harmony  
of Nature pour upon my ear tonight - and yet  
- I do love it. I'd like you to put your arms  
around me, draw me close to your warm, loving  
heart; and I'd be very happy, nor care for the  
storm. Carrie is a dear sister, but she never  
does that, and never cared to have me. But it  
is very foolish, I know, in me - and I ought  
perhaps, not to care for it; yet how can I help  
it; Emma? We are very, very happy here together.  
It is as much pleasanter than being alone.  
I'd like to roam with you, Dear, you might be alone  
sometimes, - as much as twice in a while -  
and you might "dream" when you would, un-  
less you were inclined to indulge to your harm.  
Oh! no! Oh! no! you see it is a mist to close one's  
eyes upon the present, and indulge in fantasy's  
wanderings amid such a bright future as awaits  
you.

Call it foolish, let those who will. I'm confi-  
dent I should be alike foolish, under similar  
circumstances. God grant those "blissful, love  
visions" may, one by one, merge into blissful  
and more endearing realities, to be fully perfec-  
ed in the unutterable joys of Heaven. I wrote  
to Abner, the letter I said I should, and he  
did not send one chiding word in reply. He  
says: "I am strongly inclined to think that we are  
of precisely the same opinion with regard to the  
demonstrations, of which you speak, except that  
we arrive at our conclusions by very different  
course of reasoning, and use very different  
terms in expressing our conclusion." Make what  
you can of the latter part, it is blind to me - but the  
first will assure Emma, that she need never  
fear Abner and Lizzie will do, as they have  
done, again. I know you trust us. Oh! I am  
so glad we had that visit together. But nothing  
that was developed then, increased my usual  
lingers that he should know you read that letter,

or added to my regret that you saw it. So that,  
I never communicated to you anything design-  
ed for my ears <sup>alone</sup>. To mind about Heloise, that  
right, could you know Emma would be faithful  
from me to be less honorable than, by, my  
only misgiving is that he may think I have been  
deceived, of course, & the pain I have felt for you be-  
cause you were pained, at the time, I thought  
his conclusion of the whole matter, given in the  
same letter, would atone for what (I say you might  
feel pained by. Then too, knowing he held no  
right to send me, or I to possess a letter of  
such a nature, that you might not see, I  
dared not withhold it, when you asked for his  
letters, I could not be untruthful and let  
you believe that was all, when the one contained  
more than all the rest together; nor could I  
make you unhappy by leaving you to imagine  
more than there was need of. When you tell  
him you have seen it, tell him or read him this,  
and if he thinks I did wrong, he will, at least, acquit  
me of wrong intent. When it has served your  
purpose, please send it back to me. If the  
whole or a part ~~has been~~ be destroyed, I will do  
it but he must not, or you; come let it I would  
keep. He did not ask for your letters. I should not  
have shown them, if he had, and I had had  
them with me. Albin meant no wrong you say.  
Emma did I ever utter or write one condemning  
word? How should I chide him & true I said it  
would <sup>have</sup> been better had he never written that letter,  
and I say it still, but without the least  
harsh feeling. Ever, never for one moment have  
I blamed him <sup>for wrong to me, or dreamed of meant anything</sup> where there is mutual error, shall  
chide? Think of me soon I shall day with you!  
Heaven send you, each year, our joys and fuller,  
while your life may be spared Pray for our true  
Agree Christ