

Westfield St. V. Aug 11th 62
Sabbath P. M.

Darling:

Tras a happiness I had almost
feared I should never know when your
own handwriting greeted me upon my
arrival yesterday. That letter will not
let me rest until the Sabbath is over
before I write. Ho! ho! Come to me now
loving, stricken sister and let me press
you to my heart. Oh you will go home
soon won't you? And you will stop
here? I care, can wait though it may
be soon: Tras as hard to doubt. Emma's
love, Emma's constant love. Ah I know
it would not prove that she had loved
me less since last she wrote me and
Emma, in future I will trust you,
nothing doubting, though tried as
many months should pass in silence
on your part. Only say I may send you

kiss and a tear, if I know your heart
is breaking in grief. And I pray you for-
give, forgive, what seemed cruel in my
last. Oh you know I want nothing
of the kind. Burn the letter quickly.
Keep nothing that my hand has traced,
which has such a meaning.

I thank Heaven that the 'dark fall'
has been postponed. I could not com-
prehend how it was possible for
you to be otherwise than wretched,
with affairs in such a state; and
I know ~~there~~ are poisons which
drink up one's very life-blood; there
are woes which so crush the heart
it cannot but shut itself up from
the world, even ^{from} near and dear friends,
alone with its sorrow. I know at such
times the dearest friends may be un-
wise. Such I rightly divined was the
attitude of your soul; and I could
only wait patiently. Feeling thus I
should not have annoyed you with

a third letter. But oh! such a terri-
ble thing to believe if you were suggested
to one's home, where I had happened
to mention the steps Albin had taken,
prompted by a sense of honor, and
where they knew I had heard nothing
from you in such a long time. I
know nothing of aught my heart
has ever cherished, know nothing of
my imprudences, in which (however
numerous) I have never been actuated
Heaven knows; you know and he knows
by any wish for you, but for your present
truest happiness in each other. They
know not the nobility of your heart
or and one would have dared intimate
a thing quite in keeping with some
notions, but wholly contradictory to
yours. I could not & would not believe
you could distrust one I accord to
accredit you and more of pure woman-
hood, and to think I should be so
unjustly judged by anyone. Yet I made my

miserable over it day and night, and
tried only to find relief to my own
mind, and prove to you how truly my
heart clung to you, - felt for you, that I
wrote a third letter. And now I feel as
sured you will never again think of
any thing in that letter which pained
you. It is too good to be true, and
can only be attributed by comparison
with the feelings which would have been
mine, when convinced that your confi-
dence in me was gone forever. Such be-
lief I should have been compelled to admit
had you ever answered my letter. But
I believe it will never penetrate itself
into my heart now. As to the particular
query you thought so "cruel," Heaven forgive me
for inflicting an unintentional wound,
as I know you have forgiven me. But
not being able to comprehend how I
could expect upon anything which seem-
ed to me as blighting to you both, and
disagreeing in your hearts so much that I
could be any body else, I thought there
must be some mutual agreement
between you that made the condition of
things a letter, after all, than it seemed
to me. This was what I might have
asked in different manner, and
ought to. But I rejoice to know your
pain is alleviated, and I do hope if other
goes into the quarry again, you will be
married before he leaves.

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You certainly deserve it, and
be made happier by it. I should be
home unable to support himself, a
Providence will not leave you to
But then - I cannot believe he
go, or ought to go. Perhaps I am a very
ignorant. Trying to express the latter idea,
but I cannot feel otherwise, even though
I am so wrought upon by the terrible ne-
cessities of the hour, that the wish often
arises involuntarily, that I was a man.
Of course you will see him before his de-
parture. I should he go. How I wish I
could, if only a half hour. Why I cannot
credit the possibility of his going. But
as you say, it is just his. I know
of it until you write. The Regt. will camp
in Cleveland but I'll waste no words
about that for I'm sure he cannot go.
I hasten my reply to you accordingly that
you may not pass one day if you get
home. I beg of you to stop, if only a
train, but to remain as long as you

tent with your impatience to see
 home. Beside the through trains from
 Buffalo there is an accommodation
 train running to this place which ar-
 rives at 4 P.M. from there I tell you of it as
 it might happen to avail you some-
 thing. It leaves Dunkirk at 6 or after -
 Let me know if possible when you will
 come, for if any train brings you, except
 the morning mail - arriving here about
 ten I shall be on hand to greet you ^{possibly I might then} in
 case you cannot let me know, or I am
 not there, just come to Mr. Ellis; or should
 you forget they remove the omnibus driver
 I know where I am. I dreaded as never before
 to come back to school. We opened our doors
 but I shall expect a small attendance.
 I wish I was in a school that was on a
 sewer foundation. But these are dark
 days for us any where. I've had a happy
 happy vacation, aside from my distress
 on account of our country, and on your
 account, and it was hard to leave home.
 But here have I written eye disconnected paper
 and you will surely thank me to take no other
 half sheet. Heaven bless you soon. Yours constant



Miss Emma L. Rice

Concord

Bradford

Ohio

Albany

N.Y.