

which was one item quite equal ⁱⁿ interest to the principal one in yours. If she has not done so already I presume she will very soon make a development which will astound you so you had better be prepared. She tells me that she has enjoyed herself very much in her new avocation but has felt most deeply the loss of the ~~pleasant~~ pleasant companionship which she formed and parted from, within the classic shades of Skingville.

I have written three times to Hanson but have not heard a word from him as yet. What the reason of his silence can be is more than I can imagine unless it be that he ~~has~~ ^{has} fallen a victim to the Pike's Peak fever & left this scene of hard times. I am sorry if I have misled you into the supposition that cupid had succeeded in ensharing me. If I have done so why I must un deceive you and ~~not~~ discredit my ~~self~~ ^{self} as the disavowal may appear, it must be made.

I believe that my fate is to remain a bachelor. dont you pity me Tom. Well I cant say that I think I deserve much pity for I think I might win the love of some silly creature who might possess a pretty fair share of common sense and ^{perhaps} ^{wisdom} but only ^{being} that of loving me a ~~little~~ ^{little} more. I do not know but I have done ~~it~~ ^{it} as much. Miss Mary P. Evans may

be that foolish creature for aught that I know to
the contrary one thing is true and I don't know but I
may tell her so some time or other, which is, that if
there is a creature in this world whom I love any more
than I do my sister Emma, it is the "Rose of the Prairie",
the flower of "Oak Dale", Now Sister I suppose you feel
flattered and if you do, why who knows but my beauti-
ful and amiable friend Mary might also should
I make ^{to} her the same declaration please to give me your
views on the subject. ~~shows~~ she knows something of you from hav-
ing seen your likeness to which she paid the compliment
of that it looked like the picture of a sweet and lovely girl
and also from hearing my own opinion of your many
virtues which I am afraid was rather an exaggerated one

I think she would have no objection to condescending
with you and if you would like to write her I will
try and obtain for you the privilege I will send you
a picture of a western Surveyor just returned from a seven
month tour on the prairies; if you do not like the gentle
man's appearance please describe your taste in regard
to dress whiskers moustache &c. and if any changes can be
made to appearance of the original so as to conform to
your views I will try and effect the desired change

Please tell Sister Angie that I will write her in
a week. Wishing you to be much happier
I remain as ever your affectionate brother Wm. H. W.