

Andover, Ashtabula Co. Ohio

5/9th 1889

Dear Cousin. To one not acquainted with the circumstances it may look as though an apology from me would be justly your due. Among all my mother's near relatives whose acts of kindness remain imprinted upon the pages of my childhood's memory, whose blunt, wise and valued counsels in later years helped to guide the wavering steps of youth, your father stood preeminent. He was endeared to me by

by every recollection of our
past association ^{and} it would
have been proper that I
should have stood among
those who assembled to pay
their last respects to the
departed, but more than
a week had elapsed before
I learned of his death ^{and} then
through the columns of a
county paper. To be sure
I had not been to his home
much of late, the reason
being that the actions of the
daughter of his were not
such as to invite repeated
visits. Had it been other-
wise I should have enjoyed
many more hours of asso-
-ciation with him during
his later years.

My own days are passing
very quietly, smoothly ^{and} happily.
A continuous ray of sunshine
has come into our home
filling our lives with gladness.
We call him "Rex et Guardis."
(Coined a word of our own you see)
I will send you his photo soon.
By the way shall be glad
to receive photograph of
yourself ^{and} wife. They would be
highly prized. Did I send
our own photos to you? If
not will do so if you care
for them. Wife ^{and} I have
been working for an artist
(Mr Dabbs) of Pittsburgh since
last Nov. Have stopped now
but shall begin again
sometime next fall. I suppose
you are busy in your

literary labors and I am
decidedly rejoiced to learn
of your continued success.

Mother is quite healthy
for one of her advanced
years (82 in July next) All
your relatives in this
vicinity so far as I know
are enjoying a fair
measure of success in
life and usually well and
happy.

Hoping to hear from
you I remain

Respy your Kinsman
and well-wisher C. J. Leonard