Waukecha New Year's Day

My dear Sister:

Happy New Year!

I suppose you have been wished the same by dozens of persons and I hope, unfavorable as the weather is, you have had a happy day so far. Well we have has our Happy New Year, too. I bought some molasses & Kato & I attempted to make some candy, but burnt it. We are having a happy time eating it. Mother made a Chicken pie too & it tasted so good that I have been unable to do any studying this afternoon. I hope to celebrate it by writing at least half a sermon; but alas never a scratch has been written.

out? I hope I may see her soon. But I must hear from her any how. I have a hundred questions to ask you and lots of nonsense to tell you & I must see you soon how any coin or my burden train will suffer from its load.

Your mother is very anxious to hear from you & still more anyone to see you. Mother says she has one of your stockings; I presume she has something in it, perhaps she is wearing it.

I suppose you knew Bob has finally got Cassie for his own. There have also been other weddings lately among the number, Stewarts, Dickerman, Lilman & Vanderkool &c &c, I am not married yet. There are several young people left yet in Waukecha who are not married.

May I hope to see you soon when you come on a wagon load of yes along.

Your brother

Ed.
I suppose you will have received my letter. I had completely forgotten or I should have sent it. In any case, you will have to wait till I see you before I send you the rest. You need not take down your stockings if you have it hung up. If you come out here some time one afternoon and ask Kate, I will fill it with some of our molasses candy.

I came home the Wednesday night before Christmas last month, somewhat by surprise as usual. The next night, Christmas Eve, I attended an Old English Tea Party at the M.E. Church. Mother officiated at one of the tables with an ace of night-cap on (it was another and worn the night-cap, not the ratte).

It was a jolly affair. Christmas Eve, I'm almost forgotten what I did do. Christmas Eve, I went up to Mr. Tyler's in the afternoon, enjoyed a good supper, and in the evening stood to see the gift distribution from the Christmas Tree. I found myself the fortunate possessor of an autographed autograph album. This pocket handkerchief completes the list of my recollections that day.

Well, what have I been doing since? I have scarcely anything that I remember, so I suppose I have not accomplished much, except to make mother trouble. I can say true, however, in favor of my self, I have been pretty regularly present at meal time.

Well, when is my sister coming?
Mrs. Anna E. Lee,
Elk Horn,
Wisconsin.
Dear Anna,

I received your letter to Elon this morning while Elon was yet in the city, but as I did not know where to find him I forwarded it to Elkhorn. He concluded not to return till this morning to-day because he had some business to attend to. Some friends he wished to see, so I went down town & spent the forenoon with him & at about noon bade him goodbye as I had to go to recitation. On getting to my room I found your letter. He had a very pleasant visit together, at least I enjoyed it, and...
I believe he did. I am sure he received a glad welcome from all his old friends. I accompanied him to the Athenaeum Society as soon as he entered the door he was welcomed with lusty cheers, as was invited to speak, & made a good warm-hearted, chummy address of some fifteen minutes' length which was listened to by all with great satisfaction, & he was warmly applauded at the close.

I cannot tell you all the heart-reception he had among the students elsewhere. I am inclined to write a few lines to you, because you called me a naughty boy & tell you I was not. I wrote you a letter & sent you a book which evidently you had not received. I can only snatch a few moments from my hurry'd hour to write to you tonight. I'd like to tell you all about Elou's experience in the velocipédron & how the velocipédor couldn't go worth a cent but kicked & threw the rider off & tore his trousers &c. &c. Those wooden horses are tlimely for beasts to ride & you want to caution your husband not to get too near their heels.

To-morrow we bid farewell to our pleasant quarters in the Marble block to enter our new one in the...
me, but you may write me if you will tell me.

Mrs. Stone, I see, has published a new book called "The American Woman's Home," to be sold by subscription. I think it is such a book as you want to own, and better get it when it comes around.

A book that will minister and benefit George is "Tom Brown's School Days; at Rugby." A book Elon and I presume would like if he has time to read it is, Dr. Hopkins "Law of Love and Love as Law."

Two books that Mrs. Lee would be delighted to read (and all of you, for that matter) are McCords' "Annals of a Dust Neighborhood" and "The Seaboard Parish." Both of these last are stories, but good ones, not to be lightly skimmed, but full of deep truth and deep religious experience. Do

890 State St. Mar 17th

Dear Anna:

I received your very small letter a few days ago; but I am thankful for small favors as I have many times shown you by writing in answer to your short notes great long letters. I don't know that I have small news to tell you concerning myself, except that I feel rather dull and stupid to-day, that notwithstanding it is St. Patrick's Day. The cause of my dullness is not an external, but an internal one. Caused perhaps by overwork and indigestion.

I leave no Chicago news of importance to tell you, or at least anything that will be especially new to you. For I
suppose you hate a Chicago paper & are posted as to general news
I had a letter from home today ago telling us about a wonderful discovery of a wonderful mineral spring said to excel in its curative properties the waters of Saratoga & all the other fashionable watering places in the country.
I afterwards got a letter from Eugene informing me that the suddenly become celebrated spring is what is popularly called in Saratoga. White’s Spring is located not far from the foot of our lots. Probably the “curative properties” are a humbug as most such things are but it may raise a furor of excitement that will give an impulse to the town & make it a place of fashionable resort & perhaps raise the value of property in the place & vicinity. Possibly it may sometime make our place valuable.

The small pox is abating in Saratoga I believe. All the patients are recovering. Some of them had the disease severely but most of them lightly.

Tell Elon I did not see that German boy he spoke of but I saw Woodward who is the President of the club & paid him 72 cents which was the amount of his indebtedness. I have forgotten how much Elon gave
you get much time to read?
I hope you will continue your
studies & continue them in earnest.
Make the most of your time, for
every moment is a precious gift
from heaven to be usefully & con-
sciously employed. O that we
Could all feel that everything we
are & have is God-given— if we could
really feel it as we ought— how
earnest we would be! It is
not natural either for you or me
to put ourselves into any great in-
 tellectual labor without the most
thorough self-discipline. We must
exercise the utmost power of our
will to make our faculties useful.
I want to know that you are
constantly reading or studying some-
ting during your leisure moments,
& that you do what you do the
most thoroughly possible.
I think such works as I have
recommened will give you an
I am glad to hear that George is so much interested in the subject of religion. I sincerely hope his interest will increase till he finds the Savior as his personal Saviour.

Your Brother,

Edson

Love to all.
arrangements to study it together; and keep each other abed for I know Lizzie will
not study it.

I am getting along very well, shall probably stay till July or till the cholera comes to the
city. I can catch up with my class. The change of climate however has given me a
severe cold, which keeps me cooped up constantly notwithstanding all my efforts.

To the contrary.

Love to you and ma.

Affectionately,

Edson

Chicago Apr 19, 1884

Dear Annal,

Send you today by the United States Express Co. your Pratt's "Rhetorics," Shaw's "English Literature" and "Compendiums of English, Classical and American Literature" in four volumes. I want you to study thoroughly the English Literature and use the Compendium for reference. Get your lessons done thoroughly that you can answer every question that can be asked you on the subject, and read the Compendium with care. And I would advise you that, for the purpose
of cultivating your mind, you make a practice of committing to memory a selection from the best authors every day. These few books will be very valuable to you if you only make the profound idea of them and you will find that by following my advice you will improve your conversational powers, improve your composition, improve your mind, and lay up a store of the most useful knowledge. I recommend that you give special attention to grammar and rhetoric and especially the part of the latter that relates to composition. So careful of these books and make them last you as long as you can for you will not find four more desirable volumes for a library than these are. For they contain the choicest selections from the best authors the world has produced. If you do not think you can study English literature at home you had better write to Miss Scrubner if you can, or to Mr. Thangumbob (I've forgotten his name) at the College. Probably Miss Scrubner will be better posted on the subject than either North or Thangumbob. But you know it will be less expensive if you can study at home and I think you can if you only go about it with a will. Perhaps you and Sigeu Boy can make
clearly before your mind, and I hope they not
prove altogether unprofitable to you.
Mother, I presume, has told you all about
how I am getting along. You of course have
been to go home as often as once a week.
If so you had had an opportunity, I read
all the letters I have written to you. I don't
know that I have anything new to write to you.
I am getting along pretty well, though not so
tall as I might as I might if my eyes were stronger.
My eyes have troubled the considerably for
five since I came here, and especially during
last week, but they feel some better this
week.
Professor Hudnall, my professor
in Engineering, thinks I am leaving school to
survey a railroad route to Connell Bluffs.
He is discovering that I should accompany him, and I consented to go if
he should decide to undertake the job.
This will be a splendid opportunity for learn-
ing what is really necessary in no
thing or work to which I have not
been accustomed. I am always
busy and have no chance to learn
anything. I hope you will
get through with your work and that you
will have the opportunity to
travel. I am sure you would enjoy
the necessity of learning at the rate I am doing,
gained by your
work. I am thankful that you
have
not
had
any
illness. I hope you will
feel well.

Read this to your family.
ought to run so long, and it is suffered. I believe with you
for good conduct and I do believe. I trust
that you have been well and truly treated by some more
influential to set such a rule, and from
the fact that our caution were annoying
and the case. Second did I
learn of. But I see no argument for
it. It is not a matter of taking
myself and the matter becoming much
of your health. If you
do not act with care, it should not
become a matter of being
misled and the matter becoming
of your health. If you
reach and the matter becoming
much of your health.

It is not a matter of taking
myself and the matter becoming
much of your health.
most invariably prevent both Cholera and fever. If the Cholera should come to Hancock, it will hardly leave it without visiting the Reform School as the filthy condition of many of the children make them most fit subjects for such diseases. In saying this, I do not mean to cast any reflections upon the conduct of the school, for I believe it is as well conducted as it could be under the circumstances, but some of these children it is almost impossible to keep clean and tidy. But if the disease does make its appearance in the school you need not fear it if you only regard the rules I have given you. Cholera is not contagious unless the person by improper care, and indulgent habits has prepared the way for the disease to enter his whole system. The first symptoms of Cholera are Diarrhea followed by cramping in the bowels. It is wise then if you are attacked by diarrhoea to check it immediately and not allow it to run, for when Cholera is prevalent that disease will be likely if allowed to continue run into the Cholera. Remember this.

Dear Jno.

I received your letter only a few hours after I had mailed one to you so I have deferred sometime to answer it. I am sure I do not know which of us is the naughtier for delaying so long to write. If you urge the excuse that your time is occupied with your school, I can also urge the excuse that my studies are hard and demand my most decided attention. If you wish to be excused on the ground of negligence, I can counter it with the same excuse, and I doubt whether in the end you could prove that I had been more at fault than you. I think however if the length of my letters be compared with yours, I will win every time. If I am not mistaken my last contained...
more than enough material for two such letters as the last one you wrote me, but perhaps you will evade this by arguing that the matter of yours is so much more valuable it will make up for the difference in length.

I received a letter inform me that mother had gone on or was about to start for Iowa. I really hope she may enjoy her visit and that you may have enough to do to amuse you and keep you from being lonesome while she is gone. I suppose however you do not have the privilege of going home very often to see mother and her absence for a week or so will not make much difference in that respect.

I am glad to hear that you enjoy your position as a teacher for there is no element more necessary for success in the teacher than contentment. I do not mean a contentment which arises from carelessness but from a cheerful performance of duty. I am glad too that you feel you have good feelings for don't get for if you have the desire and the opportunity with the help of God you can do doubt do much good. But what specifically more than anything else is to learn that your health is improving, for without good health all the good opportunities will be lost to you, and your prospects of happiness temporarily if not permanently injured.

In my last I dwell very much upon the importance of taking good care of your health; now in this letter I will endeavor to give you some hints in regard to precautions against the epidemic and fever that are prevalent everywhere at this season of the year. The precautions are few as simple and if you avail yourself of them you will be comparatively out of danger from taking them. Cholera as you are doubtless aware is raging in this city as in other cities and it is more than probable that it will visit Waukesha so you want to be very careful in your diet, keep scrupulously clean, abstain from eating green vegetables, and take care not to over eat too much. These precautions will if rigidly observed will al-
of the high respect which the people of Waukecha entertain for her, and she deserves a good husband— one who will properly appreciate her many excellent qualities.

I regret exceedingly to hear that Fannie Red is lying at the point of death. She was my only child of my own— Fannie Anderton, a dear girl, better than I do for Fannie. I sincerely hope that God in his good providence may see fit to spare her life. Her death will be a loss to the whole community, and a terrible blow to her parents.

I hope you will report the news to me often for I rely entirely upon you at this trying time. I am sending you a "freeman" occasionally, for it will be very interesting for me to know the column of local news.

I am getting along well in my studies now, but a very pleasant reward to study in and if my ears do not fail me I hope to make this year of school as profitable to me as of great assistance to me.

Especially, getting into a fright about cholera is the best medicine one can use for it. To come. Physicians who have had much experience with the disease say that getting frightened has more to do with spreading the disease than almost any other cause. So keep cool. do not leave your post. Above all, I have given you and you must not fear to enter the sick room, and can for those who have the disease. I do not think that if any of my friends were attacked with it that I behooves for a moment hesitate to take care of them.

I have not written this letter to announce any fear in your mind at all, but only to put you on your guard. That you may know what to do and how to conduct yourself if the disease should come to Waukecha. Excited reports are always circulating when any such pestilence is raging and the community is generally in a state of excitement, which is not only useless but it aggravates the danger. These are always comparatively safe who stay at
home coolly to mind their own affairs.

The disease in this city has not been so bad as it has been represented. Several prominent citizens have been in it, which is one Alderman and Dr. Brown, but so far as I can learn, in almost every instance the disease was brought on by intemperance, or by want of proper attention to cleanliness, by eating green fruit or by injudicious exposure.

But I have written enough on this subject. I will pass to other subjects.

You ask why the Misses Bartlett came home. I presume Nellie told you the truth when she spoke of hard fare. The Reform School here I imagine is a far less desirable place for a teacher than the one in Waukesha, and Nellie told me months ago that she did not like it very well.

The rules of the school are very strict and the teachers are more confined and isolated from society and the outside world. There is pleasure for most any one of us.

I do not wonder at all that they should have tires of the world, and I do not see why any of the people of Waukesha have to mistrust that there is anything wrong, as I infer they do from the rumors I have received from various sources about the matter. I shall conclude after a while that I am not the only person nor spectator, Robert.

Waukesha. It is strange how slight a cause will set all the old women and maidens in Waukesha gossiping! By the way I suppose you have opportunities to hear all about the gossip.

Do you not know my affairs do you not? I hear that myself as Maria Nolan are the principal topic for conversation in the village. I wish you would thoroughly inform me in regard to the matter for I do not want to be a scapegoat for conversation without self-knowledge. What the conversation is.

Please, Frederick, you are married. Well I wish her marriage will be a happy one for she certainly is a young lady worth...
cast. It has some faults as all books and as all fads I shall have so long as man is the imperfect being he is now, but I must say that I believe besides being an exceedingly interesting book it is also one that will exert a good influence both on the taste and morals of thousands of readers.

Knowing that my little sister would like it. I shall be pleased to send it to her if she has not already had the opportunity to read it. I have been getting along very well in my studies this year. Our class is not very large and leaving from the limited opportunities I have had for observation I do not think there are any exceedingly brilliant ones except Smith and myself of course). I hope to keep up with my class and at the head of it and at the same time do much outside work in the way of reading and composition. Thus far I seem to have studied pretty hard but not to have accomplished much but it shall not be so through.
with delight. The peculiar way in which God designed we should rest seems best adapted for the recreation of our mental energies and at the same time an improvement. God designed that we should rest, not by abstaining from thought and labor by utter inactivity but simply by turning our thoughts to a different channel, and laboring in a different way.

From worldly thoughts and aims, from the anxiety and labor of providing for our bodily and mental wants and the wants of those depending upon us, He bids us turn our thoughts heavenward, to attend particularly to the cultivation of the moral and religious part of our nature, and to the moral and religious welfare of others.

So it is our privilege, while using our material energies by the change, to be at the same time profuse, growing morally stronger and better. It would seem as though the All-wise Creator would insist that the immortal mind should stand still, but that it should always be making some progress, always improving and developing itself. Mechanics, you know, at the end of a regular period strike a balance behave their losses and gains so as to see just how their business stands.

Our good Heavenly Father thought it best for me to have one day in the week in which to strike a balance between our good and bad conduct. —

Feb. 9th: I commenced this last Sat. evening. During the last week my eyes troubled me so I was unable to complete it. Since then I have had no leisure till now. I fear however my eyes are not in a condition to allow me to finish tonight. I shall have to use my small attic spare moments for a day or two, I presume. I shall not attempt to renew the theme I commenced Saturday but will pass to something else and if I have left it incomplete I hope you will supply the rest. Last Sunday I spent in church, and in reading for the most part. I have purchased Holland's new religious poem called Katherine and I got so deeply interested in it that I read it most all the time on Sunday that I was not in church, and read it more than half way through. It seems to me quite as interesting as "Purcell's " but more solemn and was more of a religious
make a better appearance than you.
I believe you have a much more
solid mind than many of those
whom you may think your super-
iors. You may not have the
brilliance and outward show of wit
that fascinates the multitude but
you have what is far better solid
worth and sound judgment. A
life led by pure and holy motives,
both ambition hallowed and sanctified
by the sweet influences of religion
cannot fail of success.

My dear sister, to feel, always, what
even your life is not your own, but
God's; that he gave you being for
his glory, that the highest happiness
it is possible for you to possess is
in serving him and benefiting the world
and remember that, to do this, you
must labor to perfect and enable
the faculties he has given you,
to bear out and fit for highest use
the immortal mind.

To build up at the same time a pure
Christian character that shall
be as a light in thick darkness
a light that may, and I hope will,
be the means of salvation and
dedral happiness to many of your
fellow creatures.

So high

motives than these can actuate a
human soul and none will more cer-

tionly lead to success. Actuated then
by such motives as these, my dear
sister, do not fear that you will
fail; you cannot fail, for God
has promised that you should
succeed. To the kind that such
motives may always inspire you,
always be the ruling power in your
life, pray often to God for strength
to help you to stand fast in
your holy purpose.

You speak in your
letter about an excursion into the
Alleghenies and asked whether I
thought it best for you to go. I
am sorry I was not able to send you the
permission. I hope if the excursion
has already gone you took it for
granted that indulgence was consented
to. I should like to have you

The scenery is of a perfect
different kind from anything you ever saw, kind and grand, and beu-
tiful beyond description, I suppose. Only wish I could go on such a
delightful excursion. I hope you will go, and on your return give me
description in your best style of the scenery and incidents of
your trip.

I received a letter from mother yesterday. She has returned from
her visit to Whitewater and Jamestown and is just now rejoicing in the thought
that she will soon be freed of the unpleasant tenants of the other half
of the house. They move this week I believe.

But my sheet is full and my eyes and aches. I will
close, and, for fear I shall not have
another chance to write in a day or
two, I will seal up what I have written.
It is now much longer than any of
your letters! (I ambiasing not of quality
remember but of length.)

Your loving brother
Edson

the term of lack makes my life gives me health. I put most
paper and magazines come and are con-
taining Whelenlay and Hitchcock. I
take the latter for Sunday reading and
the former for my lecture notes.

I am exceedingly pleased, Anna, to
know that you are getting along so
nicely in your studies. I am not
surprised, however, that you feel some-
what discouraged when you see so
many young ladies farther advanced
than you, kind of superior accomplish-
hutes, but you are wise not
to give up the contest ni despair. Perse-
venace and well directed labor will re-
move obstacles that seem like mon-
tains at first. Final success, re-
member, will be ample reward for
the chagrin of a thousand failures.

You must remember that, though your
advantages for mental improvement have
been good there are yet others who have
had far better opportunities than you
have had and that therefore it is not
so much to be wondered at if they
Dear Anna,

It is true I had answered your letter and as one of our Professors will be about today and I will have but one recitation I thought this would be a favorable chance to write to you and mother. I was glad indeed to hear that you went on the excursion you spoke of and that you made a good use of your time in noting the beauty of the natural scenery on the route. One of the most beneficial results of mental culture is to make every circumstance and incident in life to contribute the greatest amount possible to our stock of information. Life is very short and we need ought to turn every moment of our studying hours to advantage, and that discipline which enables us to do this is just the discipline we need. (Your journey, I trust, was not merely a rest from study, but also a helpful lesson to you. If your stock of experience is enlarged thereby, you have
childhood scenes which whose beauty and grandeur will be indelibly impressed on your memory all through life, will be a source of happiness to you when, a woman, tried with the cares of active life, you have time to think of your childhood days.

Your appreciation of the sublime and beautiful in the world has been heightened by your tastes and finer feelings cultivated. As you grow you will know how often better prepared to appreciate whatever is sublime and beautiful in art and nature. Your mind and heart are brought into a closer and deeper sympathy with God's great works, and not doubt, you feel a deeper sense of His mighty power and boundless goodness.

Your description of the scenery you witnessed showed better than any other evidence I could have that you have caught the spirit of the scholar. I find no better proof that you are improving your time and opportunities in school. Your letters exhibit more taste in composition, a greater mastery of language, and a greater depth of thought and feeling than they did even a few months ago.

You do not know how much I feel are these things give your brother. You do not know with what anticipations of brilliant success and highest usefulness he looks forward to your career as a noble, educated, yet loving Christian woman. I wish not than you proud; I know you are too sensible to be vain so I should not tell you so frankly how much I hope for in you. I say it because I think it will help you from discouragement, because I think the truth, from making you proud, and content with present accommodations, will make you to press forward and reach for higher mental and moral attainment.

I feel almost compensated for the privation of not being able to accompany you on your delightful trip by the beautiful description you have given of it. Surely I never could have gained a better idea of the grandeur
to you, and that if you have time for the luxuries of accomplishment, you may acquire them. But what you must not now do is a thorough cultivation of your mind by reading, by studying, by writing, and by study. You are deficient in historical knowledge and you want to study history. You are not well-read in literature and you want to read the best productions of the best authors; you have not yet found a good style of essay writing and you want practice in that. You are not generally very well informed on the great moral and political questions that are now agitating the minds of the people, and you want to read the best newspapers and post yourself upon the general principles of government and the theory of morals.

This I conceive to be the work you have before you for the next two years. As for graduating and getting a diploma, I do not know of examinations to have you do so.

BY Douglas Place, January 27, 1869

Dear Anna,

I ought to have written again before this, but I have had too much on my hands so that I have neglected it. I suppose by the letter you are able to do some forewords and a good deal of reading. I was glad to hear in your last letter that you had been assisting mother in the kitchen. I don’t suppose you were of much assistance, but it shows that you are well enough so that you think you can work. I was sorry to hear that mother was unwell and sincerely hope she may not become seriously sick. You must urge her to take medicine for fear that unless she does, she will surely have a fit of sickness, and it would be a terrible thing for all of us if she should have such an attack as you have just received from.

From your description I judge, you are having more snow in Washington than we are here. You spoke of
the mazy ring of high hills when the ground was certainly almost bare here; but within the last few days we have had a light fall of snow. I believe the most of it came the night before last; yesterday it drifted considerably and last night the wind became still again and, during the night, we had another light fall. Occasionally we hear the jingle of bells from the window but not nearly so often as we used to hear them last winter at this time.

The sleighing you know never lasts long in this city, and the light fall of snow we have had are hardly sufficient for sleighing here."

"You spoke about sending the Independent," Probably you have by this time received the note I sent you in regard to it; I was only anxious to know whether you received it or not. I could not possibly find time to read it if you sent it. But I want you to have it and profit as much as you can by it. It is a much better paper now than when we first subscribed for it, don't you think so?

Now, in regard to your studies. I have been thinking lately that perhaps you have enough of French, and that it would be better to devote your attention to something of more practical importance. I know the tendency of the age is toward accomplishment rather than to meet the requirements of real useful knowledge. Empty heads are not so admirable to critics because they don't care a fig for good reading, the sciences or mathematics but they must have music, painting, and French. Now these things are all good enough on their places but they can't pay any man out of their places. A sensible farmer or business man always provides the things necessary for the comfortable support of himself & family before indulging in the luxuries of life. So should it be in the acquisition of knowledge; first get that which will be of the most practical service.
Procrastination is not only the thief of time but of intellect, character and money. Punctuality and regularity with perseverance are the only sure meaning of success in anything. Remember this, Anna, and practice it; these means and you will succeed. In pursuing your studies by yourself, though your progress only at a small pace, it is necessary to master every subject you turn your attention to. Such a course will not only cultivate in you an indomitable perseverance but it will develop thought. Do not misunderstand me. I do not mean that you should commit every thing you see to memory; I believe such an attempt would do you more harm than good, but what I mean is that you should never leave a subject till you understand it; that when you have an argument you will get it as well that you can give the substance in your own words and perhaps be able to carry it out even farther than the Author has done.

Now when you are able to do so, I recommend as good discipline for you that you write an essay once in two weeks, and at the same time study and send it to me to criticize. If you conclude to do this you had better study Quackenbush's Rhetoric, this will be of great assistance to you in composition.

Now I want you to write and tell me what you are reading, what work you have laid out for, so that I may know how to advise. I have now given you some general hints, and when you give me this information I may be able to suggest something of more immediate and practical value.

Elon, Eugene, this I attended Vincenty lecture which he was in this city and I enjoyed it exceedingly. You remember he spoke in the 4th Baptist Church.
You cannot do it without studying things that can be of but little use to you, and neglecting things of great practical importance. I have of late inclined to the opinion that you had better spend the next two years you have to attend school on pursuing those studies you most need without regard to a regular college course. Are you not, however, finding time to read, let me caution you not to attempt to do too much. It is a great deal better to do a little and do it well than a great deal and slight it. Work out your work and do so much every day as more and no less, for the most systematic way is always the best in everything, even to you. You need more than most consistent else is system. You must cultivate order and complete regularity of life. This is the only way to remedy your greatest defects and weaknesses. Oh, am doing my best to remedy. Oh, and do not delay to procrastinate duty, to put...
will think I am reflecting her. But of course you let her had yours.
If I hadn't exhausted all my ideas on this I would write to her to-night but I will post-pone it for a few days in consideration then.
I don't believe you can read this but perhaps you can guess at what you can't read. I know you are good at guessing.

Good night

Edson
our little world at the Seminary. It are not at a standstill of course, but the changes are so gradual & the forward movement so steady & noiselessly that the progress is imperceptible like the motion of a balloon rushing through the heavens at almost lightning speed far outstripping the rattling, puffing, snorting, engine, but seeming to those it carries motes visible in mid air. So we are "moving" & rapidly too, but so noiselessly that unless we look over the edge of our car & watch the objects appearing & disappearing beneath we should be unconscious of progress.

But you think there is too much "gas" in our "balloon"; well we will prod the almighty Come down to earth.

Well, I went to hear our friend Anna D., do some more scolding to the "naughty" men for not letting the good women have the right to go to the polls & pay poll taxes, etc.

Her lecture was more crude & less closely & neatly compacted than any former effort of hers I have heard; it was, in fact an extemporary lecture gotten up for that special occasion, & to give the "Tribune" "Times" & "Advance" & Dr. Thomson's & Peregrine Pickle & others a thorough doubting
for their "strange & unwarrantable"
opposition to the female suffrage
movement. Of course her lec-
ture abounded in sharp things;
her lectures always do, but the
sharpness of this must have
been felt more painfully by
the poor unfortunate editors
forward whom it was directed,
than any other lecture she has
delivered in the city.

Well, this must do for city news;
now for personal. Sunday before
last I preached at a little place
called Sapsapville on the C B & Q road
& last Sunday at Mendota on
the same road. At the former
place I had a stormy experience;
viz. the day was stormy & the con-
gragation small; but last Sunday
the day was good, the audience
good & I had a pretty good time.

I have not been to Clinton yet;
now have I heard from Brooky.
Now tell me some news from
home & from Elkhorn & everywhere
you can send Amy. Besides

March 3rd 1865

Dear little Sister —

February has

marched away; the cold

weather will it; & the gentler

air is very welcome; & the place; and

tomorrow Andrew Johnson mark

is out of the White House

& his disgraceful administra-
tion with him & Grant &

better times will march

on & make his other places.

But such three changes of

great magnitude are

taking place in the physi-
cal & political world, &

great changes are

apparently taking place in
My little Sister,

I suppose, is looking for a letter from me, and wondering perhaps, why her naughty brother does not write often as he does. I suppose one reason is that the time is so short that I have to remain here that I feel that you wont scold me very hard if I do not write very often, if I do what is better than writing a thousand letters.

Come and see you in person. Well, there are only about fifteen, sixteen, or seventeen days left and I shall see my good mamma and little Sister again and there will I hope, be a general rejoicing.

I suppose the coming vacation is the last me shall ever enjoy with mother and Anna in our own old home; for you, supposon we are going to leave us and write your
fortunes with Eliza. He and I have been talking over the matter some lately, and the conclusions at which we have both arrived are that the matter will be consummated at a period not very far distant, probably about next fall. So, my little sister, you must begin to look upon married life as something you are to know something about by practical experiment at no distant day, so it becomes you to make all preparation for your responsible duties. You must not forget that you are to be mistress of a home and that the duties of managing household affairs and doing household duties will devolve upon you, and you need a preparation for that as well as a knowledge of books. It will be wisdom, then, that if, while you are pursuing your studies, you learn all you can about household economy. Your life henceforth will be earnest and real; a great responsibility will devolve upon you, and you must spare no pains to prepare yourself for it.

It makes me feel sad that you are thus soon to leave us, but I believe it is for your best interest and for Eliza. When I come home I expect to assist you in your studies. I don't want your education to stop here; you must study all the harder now the time is so near that you are to cease to be a schoolgirl. But I hope soon marriage may not prevent but rather promote your intellectual and moral growth. You will need to study long and hard before your mind is so well stores as Eliza; but when you have him for a tutor you will make rapid progress. Love Shop will stimulate your ambition. If you really love your chosen lord, you will certainly strive to become better fitted intellectually for his companion, especially as you know he...
By you about the Beaver Dam School. I would be an ex-
cellent chance for Elon to
die or extinguish himself.
Being a branch of Chicago Uni-
versity, I believe it will be well
founded and well sustained by
the people. I believe he could
build up an institution there that
would be a credit to the Badger
State & Chicago University & if
that of course to the whole
world. Ben Butler is
back here on a visit & stops with
me to-night. He has not yet
determined what to do. He is
read & Butler, but I should not
be surprised if he stayed here
as a theological student. He
was present at reception to-day &
was completely captivated by War-
ren. Possibly this may influence
his decision.
Write often to your Br. Edson.

33 Wapamack Ave. Chicago
Oct. 2nd 1868

Dear Sister:—
I am afraid you con-
sider me a rather unfruitful
brother because I have been
so dilatory in answering your
letters. I assure you it is
not because I have not thought
of you often & often wished to
write & wished to see you; but
you must remember that I have
not time to be hardly brethren.
I have an immense amount to
do & must do every bit of it
by daylight, for my eyes are
so bad that I cannot study at
night, & it takes them a good
deal to study in the daytime.
I am now again settled in
my new boarding-place at Dr.
Bailys. I was comforted
located at 94 Ellie Ao. but changed
so as to sit with Sunderland.
He is having a glorious time
(I don't think that I too strong
an expression to use) studying
together. This year promises
be much more interesting & prof-
itable than last & I believe
that was the most interesting
profitable year by far, since I
have been a student in school.
We like Prof. Warren better now
than ever before. He has a
firm & I believe, lasting hold of
our affections. Notwithstanding
I may say a much more than
ordinarily good teacher, but he
is not beloved & envied as
Warren is. I believe as theolo-
gical students we are having
about the rarest advantages
that the world can afford.

I received a good long
letter from mother a day or
two ago. She was feeling quite
lonely & wondering why we did
not write often. Poor Merta!
I am sorry for her when I
think of this. I almost wish
for her sake that duty called
me home instead of to the
Theological Seminary. But God
knows what is best for us all.
My success in my studies &
the enthusiasm I have in
the work I accept as part
sure evidence that God wants
me here. I feel like submitting
to his guidance not only in this
but in all things.

I am happy in the
thought that you are happy
& pleased with your new
home & associations.
I dropped a short note
32 Wantamack St. Oct. 21/68

My little Sister:

Your tiny little letter was received a few moments ago, & I thought I might as well pay it back immediately, for I dislike exceeding much to have a large obligation hanging on my mind very long. I do not know as I have any letter of importance to write, except that I have several letters from Leach & Will. They have arrived at last, after traveling near the whole State of Arkansas horseback, at Madison from Arkansas, & will arrive holding court, I believe. Leach accompanies him in his round by waiting for something to turn up. He is of the opinion that about the first thing that will turn up will be the Chills. Every one that resides there two weeks is expected to have them, so Will says. Between these unpleasant prospects, the Ku Klux will thinks it not the most desirable place in the world. When it thinks is soon as he gets through with the court sessions he will go to Washington & remain till the next term of Court. P. W. McWhorter at Little Rock has been appointed Colonel of Militia & has been admitted to the bar. Hope he will wear his honors with dignity.

I have not been down again last Sunday & saw Melvin there, & had a good visit with.
After dinner Sunday we took a walk & traveled all over the little town. He told me all about his recent visit to your house & how pleasant it seemed to him & your folks. Mabel is not in good health, but better than he has been. Prob'ly will not return till the close of this term. He acts on the wise principle that health should not be sacrificed for knowledge.

I am living as pleasantly as could be expected for a theological student, at Mr. Baileys. The family is not such an one as I should like to make it my home with for any length of time; however, there are too many unknown, ill-roads & ill- bred children to pay the niceties, kick the molases & make us sick to suit me. I consider myself fortunate that I am not compelled to enjoy their society nightly & there are a quite bountiful in learning the duties of my app'ts. & I have not subject to these duties of board eating to which so many students fall victims. My room is quite small but, but am not complaining for life has its compensations in this instance. They are ample. I am with Hanover, one of the best of Colleges & with the unremarried association, I am enabled to make much better progress than I could if I had ever so pleasant a boarding place & room with almost any other person for a closest.

I expect to go home to vote & the time is fast drawing near. I shall carry mother a quantity of flowers & a bottle of milk.

My regards to Elen & all the folks.

Your Br. Ed
two miles to recitation; but that will be rather a benefit than otherwise. I think too that my expenses here will be some what less than they were at Bailey’s.

But you must excuse me from writing more for it is dinner time & I must go. Hope you had a long & pleasant visit with mother. Mrs. Hudnut was going to visit your folks at Dr. Hortin, hope all found Elon at home. I know he would like to see her. We is in Oregon.

Your Brother

Ed

890 State St. Chicago
Nov. 8th 1868

My dear Sister:

I suppose you will be surprised to see this letter coming to me. Well, I will say.

When I return Mr. Sunderland informed me that he had been offered $5 per week to report the prayer-meetings of the Y.M.C.A. for the St. Louis. He was going to accept the offer. This would make it necessary for him to move nearer to the Central part of the city. He had found that Bush was willing to take two classmates & asked me if I did not wish to change my boarding place to a room with Bush. The
proposition did not strike me unfavorably as I wished to remain with Sunderland & did not care particularly for so much of the Society of Bailey's people so we proceeded at once to perfect our plan & put them in execution. Friday & Saturday were occupied in knowing & getting our rooms orderly arranged. We have a very pleasant study room, high, tolerably well ventilated, carpeted & well furnished with everything necessary for a student. Comfort, good table, lamp, a first rate coal stove etc. Our three libraries combined too make one quite large & respectable library & in that respect the change is certainly advantageous. Moreover, & I feel sure she will like my present arrangement to get it either at the University or at some private house between here & there. We have a very pleasant bed room beside our study room. I am 20 glad to get away from strong butter & dirty children & poorly cooked meals for breakfast & supper & get a German woman who lives next door to us to cook them for me. She does her work admirably & we are much pleased with the arrangement. As to dinner we have been getting that where it came most handy, but probably we will make some definite arrangement to get it either at the University or at some private house between here & there.
890 State St. Dec. 10/08

My dear Sister:

I thought I would write to you again & let you know that I am to have a vacation before long & hope to come & see you or have you come & see me, or both.

We are going to have from about the 24th of this month till about the 25th of January, a little more than a month, that I don't know what to do with. Can you give me any information as to how I may dispose of it?

I have been going away at another Sermon & next night & find it exceedingly
hard work to turn the crank. The machinery needs greasing. Somewhere.

I had the opportunity to redeem my reputation at Clinton last Sunday but think I did not improve matters any. To tell the truth I feel rather blunted on the subject of preaching. I may take Elon's advice. I'm not a mechanic, if I have not already spoilt the opportunity to become a good mechanic by attempting to become a minister.

Well, perhaps I'll see you before long and you can give a poor fellow some sage advice on the subject.

My regards to Elon and the rest of the folks.

Yours aff.

Ed