

Grand Rapids. Jan. 16, 1860

My dear Mother,

Your good letter of Jan. 10 was received Saturday-and I thank you most sincerely for it- I hardly expected to hear from you so soon- and when the letter was put into my hand peered carefully into the envelope to see if it was the old familiar hand-and my heart went up in a Thanksgiving when I saw that it was-I am glad to hear your cough is better and hope you will gain flesh and strength again.

As to lying awake-I know all about that -If the last thing troubles me, I don't sleep at all-And often lie awake when my mind is perfectly at ease and all the world goes well with me-I have outlived my heavy heart the little petty annoyances of every day life. That I do not call trouble and so the Parkes have called on you. I am glad to hear it-you could not make the acquaintance of a kinder or better family. Even prosperity has had no power to spoil them. Mrs. Park is one of the very last women I ever knew-I made that discovery when their circumstances were very different from what they now are and her children are very much like her. I owe Anna a letter-and have this long time-In fact, I am indebted all around-Catherine has written to me twice. Carolina once-sisters Laura and Maria-I think I shall take this week and write to them all around-There has been so much partying in our community since our good sleighing came on-that there has been little time for anything else-

Every day last week I either had company or went away from home-I attended two parties last week-both got up in very handsome style-A style that would be no discredit to any place whether new or old. I'm going to try my hand at it before a great while. I do not expect to come quite up to those that have gone before me-but I shall do my best you may be sure of that.

I had a family party Christmas that went off very pleasantly-I wrote to have Charles come out home-But he could not leave his business. He wants me to come and see him. And so next week I have decided to go. Georgie will go with me and Aaron will take care of things at home while we are gone. We expect to be gone four days. I have not been there in two years. I shall take your letter and likeness with me when I go. Charles is so glad to hear from you always and as are all my boys,

Henry Squires gave two concerts at the Rapids in Dec. The neighbor about here was intending to make up a jolly sleigh load and go to hear

him. But just about the time we wanted to start there came up a furious snow storm and we thought like old Granny Atwood that we might better "all stay home at home" and did so-Aaron alone buffeted the storm and went to hear him. And of course, liked him very much-I felt disapointed (sic) but there was no help for it-

I have done a great deal of knitting and sewing this winter. My house work is very light-I never had an easier time in my life. We have a great stout gentle horse-with buggy and (euther?) And if I choose to go anywhere-or send for anyone to come here, I can do so. I prize such privileges because I have not always had them.

We have a colt that will be three years old in April. He is already broke to the harness, but too young to use much.

In the margins:

Nothing much has turned up since I wrote you last-We are all prospering. Thee is a great deal of grumbling about hard times. But, I don't see but times are well enough-I have enough to eat and drink and wear and that is all I ever had in the best of times and all I ever expect.

Give my love to all inquiring friends. I want to see them all.

From your affectionate,  
Adelia

JC: Again lots of dashes, few periods or commas. I note parties and concerts. Travel.