

Grand Rapids. July 30, 1860

My dear Mother,

It has been a very long time since I have heard from you or wrote to you. I have had so much to do that must be done-I could get no time to write to any body-I hope you are in comfortable health and that I shall hear from you before long-I wish I could say see you-but I don't know when that will be a long road lies between us still I keep on hoping that I shall see you again-There has not any thing happened in my family since writing last-out of the common course of things. There has been neither deaths, births or marriages. We have prospered beyond our expectations in farming-The wheat crop is the best I have ever known. It is a season of great abundance with everybody-that is in the farming line.

We have built a very large barn this summer and expect it will be well filled by the time our harvesting is all done. Georgie has never fully made up his mind to be a farmer-is afraid it will not pay-Thinks there is too many risks (sic) to run. Such as-late and early frosts-drought, weevil and a host of other things to cut off all profit-Don't want to work for nothing and all the sort of thing-However, he is well satisfied with what he has done this year and I think he will try it again-I want to have him follow farming as a business. He does not have half as much to contend against as he thinks for-His older brothers are ready and willing to stand by him and back him up in all his undertakings-As regards myself-I prefer being on a farm to any other place. I have to work awful hard now-but don't intend to always.

I believe I have written to you that Charles has an invalid child. She will be three years old in October and has never stood alone yet-The doctors say she has no nervous force-Well, Jenny has gone to the water cure with her-Started the first of June- The establishment is in the Danville Livingston, Co. about twenty miles from Rochester-Dr. Jackson, the head of the water cure says he can help her but it will take time-The charge is ten dollars a week for board and water-I have no faith in it at all-Neither has Charles-But Jenny was so anxious to go that he consented to have her make a three months trial. The child had received no benefit at the last accounts-Of course, the doctors would not let a fat customer slip through their fingers if they could help it-But it will all end in disappointment. Not to Charles or me, But to Jenny.

There has been a perfect mania in the neighborhood this summer for making currant wine-Aaron has made two barrels-and the rest have followed suit as far as they were able-I went into it on a moderate scale as I don't like to have my neighbors bragging over me-And another thing. I did not know what is to do with my currants-It was so with every one. In a new country-all are so greedy for everything in the shape of fruit that they soon get more than they know what to do with-of course, there are some in every community that never have anything. Such ones I never take into account at all.

I intended to have written sister Maria long ago but have not got around to it yet-but think I shall before long. I shall have no hired man after this week-There is a woman with a family living near by-that comes in and gives me a lift whenever I hang a cloth out of the window. Last week she came every day.

Give my love to all the family-I wish you could write me a few lines-My men will soon be expecting supper and I must stop.

Very affectionately,  
Adelia