

Grand Rapids, Dec. 12, 1853

My dear Mother,

Your letter of Nov. 12 has laid unanswered too long, but doings in our neighborhood could not be neglected or put off for anything else. Weddings has (sic) of late been all the go and are not over with yet. There is to be one next wednesday (sic) to the nearest neighbors and that will be the last that I shall attend this winter.

You made a long visit in Sharon. I should have been most happy to have met you there but my family affairs look a different turn from what I expected and obliged me to give it up. However, if both our lives are spared a year or two longer, I intend to see you again and hope to live over again the happy days we had in the corner pew. That was a sunshiny spot; no cloud ever rested there, and the bare retrospect of that visit is always a pleasure to me.

The death of Mrs. Church must have been a most distressing event to her parents. The grandchildren can never make up her place. I have not heard from either Caroline or Catharine since I wrote last to you. I feel very anxious about Netty and shall write to Orange in a few days.

Brother Read sent me a paper "The Orange Journal" since Caroline wrote. There was nothing in that about Netty, so I am in hopes she is getting along. I think they must have been highly gratified with the visit they received from their Bennington friends. By the by, what is Kina about and where is she? Has Edmund settled permanently in Ben(nington) or only occupies the old place as a summer residence? Tell Kina to give up all her old air castle heroes and come to Michigan and marry a good substantial bachelor; one that is good looking and rich withal. Lots of them, all she will have to do is to take her pick. This is a great country for getting married.

I believe I wrote in may other letter that Hollis had gone into the woods on the Muskegon river to lumber it this winter. I have just got a letter from him. He is well and perfectly happy-gives a glowing description of his house. It is twelve by fourteen feet, with a board floor and trough roof chinked or calked with moss tight as a drum. He thinks they have got neighbors a little distance in the woods as he can hear the children cry. He works hard; is as tough as a knot, but then he makes his forty dollars a month and that is better than he could do here at home. He wants to get

through with his job before the roads break up and then settle for good and all on his own place.

Charles has not been home since July, but will as soon as the hurry of business is over. That will not be till navigation closes. So, I live pretty much alone. Aaron is in every day, does all my errands (sic) to the Rapids for me and sees that I am provided for.

I did not know that Mr. Ballard had gone east till I got your letter. They had a great time in turning him out of the Church, but finally succeeded. Bill Henry and his wife were his most bitter enemies and showed anything but a christian (sic) spirit in getting him excommunicated. It has not hurt Mr. Ballard's character either as a man or a christian (sic) in the estimation of the public; as it all grew out of private malice. I was sorry he could not take charge of the carpet as there will not be likely to be an other opportunity. I suppose he has got back before this time. I have not heard.

I was invited to Mr. Colton's Thanksgiving to dinner and went, of course. They had the usual complement of good things such as roast turkey, chicken pie with all the other fixins that go to make up an un old (?) fashioned Thanksgiving. Mr. Colton always goes around with his toddy and punch and I tell him he is the only man in Michigan that knows how to keep Thanksgiving right.

My love to all the family connexions . I want to see them all.

From your ever affectionate,

Adelia

In the margin

I wrote to you early in Nov...don't remember the date but think you must have got it about the time yours reached me.