

Grand Rapids, July 19, 1857

My dear Mother,

Your very welcome letter was received last night. I was very glad indeed to hear from you and should have written long ago if I had have been certain of your whereabouts. But I did not know until three days ago that you was (sic) in Ben(nington).

I need a letter from Nettie (her mother was not able to write) saying you left Craneville the first day of July. And that her father and mother were both sick, and that they intended to get away themselves as soon as they could. I am sorry they have got to break up again; they seemed so happy in their Craneville home. I was in hope they would be able to stay there.

Catharine would like to have them com to Sharon and stay till they got recruited and find some abiding place where they can enjoy health once more.

I should be well pleased to have Mr. Ballard's company on my journey, and should certainly have no objection to his assistance. But I have so long been accustomed to taking care of myself, that I feel no misgivings on that score-and should not be afraid to travel the world over if I only had the companionship of a well filled purse.

Ellen wants to go with me very much. And if she can get her sister to keep house for her and take care of little Harry, she will go. I want to have you get all your things in readiness to go with me to Sharon. I suppose we can go in a day, and then, if we find Caroline there, it will be all right. I shall not be able to get away till quite the latter part of Sept.

I hope I shall find you well and able to go about with me. I shall want to go to Shaftsbury to see niece Betsy-if I should fail of meeting her at sister Laura's. I have never heard one word from Caroline Jennings since I heard she had twins. I should like very much to see her and her babies. And I hope she will happen in Ben(nington) at the time I shall be there.

I have just had a letter from Charles. He wants me to come to Muskegon this week. His wife is going away next week to be gone two months. And as I was expecting to go some time this summer, I think I shall start on saturday (sic) next and be gone from home about five days.

Georgie and I feel quite independent in possession of our pony and buggy. We can go now when and where we like. When Charles was out

on his visit; he was so pleased with our pony that he made Georgie a present of a nice new harness. The old one was not good enough. So now we are rigged to all intents and purposes.

Ann has been obliged to wean her baby. She had the nursing sore mouth so bad we all thought it best. The child took readily to the bottle and is doing well...Has grown faster and is better natured than she was before she was taken off. She was born the first day of May and we commenced weaning her the 5th of July. We call her Jennie. Charles' wife named her when she was out on a visit the first of June.

As we have no church to go to in this knighted region I have accepted of an invitation to go to John Ellis's to dinner today. Green peas and new potatoes are mentioned in the bill of fare and as I have had neither yet this year, I do not intend to let the opportunity slip by.

My garden is good but late. Plenty of string beans but no peas yet.

In the margin

I will write again before I start that you may know about what time to expect me. Children and grandchildren are all well and we are interested in everything that concerns you. I expect that the ears will be running from Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo by the time I get ready to go. I should like to tell you my summer's experience if I had time. Best, if we all live, you shall hear it yet.

Very affectionately,
Adelia