

Bellefont Feb 11<sup>th</sup> 1860

My Own Dear Callie

As you requested an immediate answer to your dear kind letter, which I received yesterday; I will now attempt to reply. I did not keep it an hour before I read it; but I do not think that you did not appreciate my scroll: even though you kept it as long before you opened it, to read its contents. There has been a dark shadow over my spirit for sometime, and were I to obey the promptings of my lonely heart; I would write you a sad dull letter. but it is not meet that I should yield to melancholy's dark control; and wander through its lone, and dreary paths for I am sure ~~the more~~ I feed the flame, the more difficult will be the task to turn the gloom of grief. I sometimes fear that my feelings are ominous of some sad event, that is soon to happen; though I trust that no calamity, or misfortune may befall any one. I received a letter from Brother last week, and he wrote me that the small pox was very near him; and I have been rather uneasy about his taking it though I hope it will not occur in Salem. When I wrote to him I urged him to be vaccinated by all means, as the dis-



case is so dangerous, and I dread it so much.  
Mans Smith called here awhile last Sunday on  
his way to Lhy, to get him a buggy to bring his bride  
home. He seemed very much elated at the thought  
of marrying; and talked very freely about it. I joked  
him a little about myself, notwithstanding he was  
so near being married: it seemed so natural that  
I could not help doing it; though I knew it would  
never avail me anything, alas! poor me! My last  
year is about to leave the state of single blessedness;  
and leave me an old maid to sigh over the past  
and mourn my inseparable loss. He sent a message  
to you he requested me to tell you when I wrote  
that he was about to "ceasded" from among us;  
which is certainly a lamentable fact and one that  
will cause you and me some trouble. The girls did  
not stop as they promised; but went straight on. I un-  
derstand they will not have any party at their houses  
and I suppose that is the reason they did not call. I  
suppose they thought we would expect an invitation, and  
they would hate to disappoint us. Cornelia will reach  
home this eve. she has been absent some time, though  
I reckon it seemed quite short to her. I can not give  
you any information with reference to Cas Williams  
affairs; though I heard he left his Darline's house  
in a fine humor: so I presume he must have  
been pleased, and of course met with some encour-



agement. Our neighbors are not as communicative  
as they formerly were, therefore news is scarce  
of that kind.  
Miss Kabler is expected home this week I believe.  
I suppose she has made some conquests, as that was  
the object of her visit. Aunt Polly wrote to Ma the  
other day that she had been told we were to have  
three weddings in our region soon; and that B. H.'s  
was to be one, of course Dr. G. is the highly favored  
gentleman who will claim her for his bride. Callie  
don't show this to any one. Mark was not pleased with  
his trip to old Mr. Board's. he stayed only two days, and  
he became tired; and left Brown, and came home from  
his description of everything up that way, I guess it is  
rather "hard times"; and the people are rough enough.  
He met with one of Bettie's old flames up there; and  
heard him speak of <sup>having</sup> being at her Pa's to see her. his name  
is ~~W. H.~~ mention this to B. and tease her a little about  
him. Since Mark's return I received a  
letter purporting from a lady; who pretends to be very  
much enamoured of him; and writes as if she had pro-  
posed - and left the important matter with her to  
deliberate on; and she insists that he shall come up the  
14<sup>th</sup> to attend a large party; and she will then decide  
what his fate will be. Brown is the author of it I am cer-  
tain, but it is useless for any one to attempt to quiz Mr.  
he treats their productions with contempt; and never con-  
descends to read them. The one he got yesterday was directed  
to Mr. Askad alias Haden, that was a name given him by

Bettie's bear. He is a laughing stock for people just like  
the General. he has an old fiddle now on which he plays  
constantly, and we are annoyed dreadfully by it.

Callie dear if you are beginning to dread the appellation of  
old maid what should be my feelings? when I am more than  
a year your senior, and besides have not the half of your ad-  
vantages in any respect. but I hope it will not be your fate  
to be one of that sisterhood, even if it is more. I anticipate  
spending many happy hours at your new home, no matter  
where it will be, provided you will allow me to do so. Though  
my youth is fleeting fast, and I have been so unfortunate here-  
tofore in my love affairs. I have not quite despaired yet. I have  
read somewhere that a woman is never old, so long as she can inspire  
a feeling of love; so there is some hope and consolation. I hope  
you may. You tell me that I am loved by a noble and gallant  
youth; but you may be deceived after all. Men are not so certain  
these days, and are so skilled in the arts, and wiles of the world:  
that I am disposed to doubt nearly all of them. I scarcely know what  
is or not here is such a thing as love. I sometimes think it is only  
a bright phantasm which glides away from our grasp; but I  
may in the course of human events, meet with some true  
hearted person, who will give me pure disinterested love; and  
who will be capable of appreciating my many good qualities.

What will you think when you read all this nonsense? I looked  
something to fill out this sheet, and could not find anything  
else. I please don't think me crazy on this all important subject.

I'll pass well at your Pa's I believe. I understand Mr Matthews  
will be back at Chilok tomorrow eve; but I am thinking he  
I shall be a bad day from the way it looks out now.

By when I'm delighted to welcome you "home again". I feel as though  
was happy you are gone; but I am so sorry you are going back. I  
Unless you are willing to stop school after this session.  
making arrangements will be dull. my sage adviser B. H. was here  
a few days ago, advising me to take a trip to the springs this  
summer to catch health, but I would never go to such places to  
get a partner for life. I have no doubt that he & the Do would  
be very much pleased to get an invitation from you to spend  
your vacation with you at home; and either of them would gladly  
spend the remainder of their lives with you I guess. now don't  
let this excite your vanity too much. You will get tired read-  
ing this scratch I know, so I will conclude. All send  
much love to you. Write soon and write longer letters.

Adieu dear C until I hear from you again.

I expect you will get some val this year  
I am very anxious to hear what that is that will yours devotedly  
make me laugh so much. What has become of  
Penn. there blays? But this where as one will see it.

Emilia