

Socorro N. M Aug. 8th/59

L41

My dear sister

I have just finished a letter to Mother & now sit down to answer yours which I received with one from Mother by last weeks mail. You say you had not heard from me for 3 months but I dont know why as I have written some of you often, & have written you five or six times since March & quite often to Mother & Stillman, but as yet he does not write me. I hope this weeks mail will bring me a letter from Him. I have written him 2 or 3 times since I received one from him. before I knew where you were I directed your letters to Hannibal as the surest place. I was glad to get your letter as I always am & always feel disappointed when the mail arrives & brings none from the States though I have no reason to expect letters every week when I write so ~~x~~ little. I feel sorry to hear Mother is so poorly but can hardly expect anything else. I wish I could visit her once more it would do me so much good as well as her, & I do feel very anxious to see our old home in Vt. once more. I sometimes think my heart is so ~~xxxxxx~~ hardened that nothing has power to rouse me but when a letter reaches me & reference is made to the dear home of childhood & early friends are spoken of a fountain of feeling gushes forth & finds vent in tears, I never wanted to see Vt. so much in my life as I do now. The very names of "Aunt Nancy" "Aunt Mary" "Uncle Hart" "Uncle Harvey" &c. bring to mind instantly all the ~~xxxx~~ scenes of early life & I seem to living in another state

of existence. I am sorry Mother worries about me, for there is no cause I am well off as regards comforts for this life, am enjoying excellent health the children are all well & Miltons health is better, have Monroes folks for neighbors, & our cause is slowly but surely ~~gaining~~ gaining ground, ~~reckon now among~~ our friendly neighbors some of those who were a short time ago most inveterate enemies to our religion Milton has acted some in the capacity of Physician lately with good success & thus gained a footing in some obstinate catholic families. He is on a trip now to Albuquerque & since his absence I have had the honor of giving a dose of salts to the Alcalde (Justice of peace) with good effect which brought forth profuse expressions of gratitude from himself & wife. Also have taken a ~~kind~~ kind of Motherly care of some of his patients. Thus little by little we advance in their good graces. Have been received with seeming pleasure in families where 6 months ago I would hardly have dared enter, & I feel fully confident that God is working the hearts of this people I have earnestly longed & prayed that He would pour out His Spirit here as in our own loved land, & gather in this poor deluded people into the fold of Christ. remember us dear sister, in your prayers. this life is not long & what matter where we pass our lives if useful. O I long very much to see you all, but if ordered otherwise may we all meet in the glorious world above I have felt of late a great anxiety for Georgies early conversion. Do remember him and all of us at the throne of grace Frequently when I think he is deeply absorbed in his plans he he will ask me questions about

Jesus his crucifixion & his second coming which shows his little mind is thinking. He loves aunt Cornelia dearly & so do all of my little ones. Hattie says she is going to write you a letter. Milton remembers Mrs Collins very well. Do you remember the white stockings marked I. M. S. in red letters, which I colored with tea & wore over my shoes in Elbridge? those were the ones. I cut them over for Georgie. Br ^{Samuel} Gorman is in ^{Missionary} Santa Fe. Has a large congregation. He writes that Clinton Buel has failed & the Academy is to pass into other hands in the fall & Mary dont know what she is going to do. ^{Gorman attending school in Hamilton}

Teacher
at Hamilton
NY

I am sorry your head is troubling you. Tis the worst feeling I ever had when my head feels bad a change & a gloom overspreads every thing. My health is good now but I cant bear sharp noises near my head If you want M. to write you, you must write him especially as when I read him what you say he always says you have never written him so just write to him, but he does not write his own mother & sister, never has written Veeder since we come back, he is harrassed & vexed, & perplexed constantly

I wrote to Mrs Whitman & the Brown girls of Elbridge but have never heard a word from them

Monroes folks are well
^{Shaw were in Socorro NM.}

Your Merino(?) dress is very pretty

Write often

Frankie is so heavy I can scarcely lift him, his flesh is hard & solid as a parker. Georgie is rather thin he runs so much, but Hattie is plump & solid her face is round & full, & She is very hearty to eat has been well all summer. We have no fruit & scarcely any vegetables // this year, have had plenty of milk & butter, & good fine flour & shall have plenty of pork next winter ~~th~~ though we have no meat now & have had very little since last spring. should have had nearly a hundred bushels of potatoes but the season has been so wet, & now a little animal has been destroying them a kind of mole however we shall have some. I would write more particulars but I am so hurried with my sewing as it is growing cold weather & I must get the children clothes ready. Will write ~~more~~ soon as I can. will write in two weeks again

I ~~will~~ want to hear from C & S. ^{undine} ^{Phillman} was glad to hear from Theophilus. C how shall I make my Merino dress? & send me if you can some good rubber tape (a ~~yd~~) for the childrens garters. How much have the things cost which you have sent. Send me the price always. Milton is not at home, but I think he disposed of his land warrants in Santa Fe for howmuch I do not know he is hardly at home long enough for me to say, "How do you do" & good bye, & I am so overwhelmed with work & care that I can hardly get time to write a letter, but I will write you as long as you live & I am away, & one letter must answer for all.

Lpve to all good bye Write after all(?) of you.

As ever your daughter

Harriett

a few days ago a very ~~in~~ intelligent man from
Old Mexico was here for books had got hold of some of
our books & ~~some~~ now took home several dozen also a
bible

I will sent you some more blackeyed peas soon

is S ~~inclosed~~ in a Nett yet & gone to the land of fish?

M baptized one last week

will write Cornelia soon

I got the white mustard seed

have never received any papers from Darwin

I want to hear all about Vt & our people there

Socorro Oct 13th./59

(243)

My dear Sr

Your welcome letter of Sept 12th came by last weeks mail & I think it made a quick trip, & I also received one from Stillman at the same & the week before one from Mother This is as it should be--for it cheers my lonely life to get letters often

You speak of revisiting our childhoods home & it recalls so vividly all the sweet recollections of that dear place that I almost wish I was a child again. O What would I not give to be there with you Every brisk-tree & flower is brought to remembrance. The lilacs, the Syringer, the roses the currants & ~~especially~~ ***** the dear little robin that used to sing so sweetly on the old sweet apple tree--every spring. There are the woods with their beautiful flowers, there our little garden flowers also dearer than any flowers I have ever seen since There the ~~h~~ berries which Mother used to make in such good cakes that the taste is left yet. There the locust, The sonellage, The black currants, every little nook & corner is explored by memory, not even the puddle of water under the butterfly window escapes-wonder how every thing looks now, Wonder if Jerusha wears bloomers yet, wonder if Mrs Browns old house is fallen down yet, wonder if my sweet flag grown plentifully, & Wonder how Uncle Harts sugar tastes now. Well I must take it out in wondering I suppose for it would indeed be a wonder If I ever saw the dear loved spot again, but when I think of it I can hardly reconcile myself to the idea of never beholding

vt. again,- but I have said enough. There my lot is cast & for how long I cant tell. I see no prospect of leaving very soon & I get the blues about the children. how I wish they could be with you & under your instruction for I have so many many cares that I cant attend to them as they ought & they are growing up like Ape Apaches, but if God wills that I should spend my life here I hope He will give me grace to acquire in his will, & strength to do what is required of me We are all as well as usual though I feel somewhat worn down with hard labor & harder care & anxiety. Do not give way to lonely feeling my dear sister if you can possibly avoid it. Tis the worst of all things I know from experience I know your lot is hard & wish it was different & would make it so if I could. My own rebellious heart often rises at my lot, cast alone so far from all I love but we are constantly wanting something different, as though this world were always to be our home. "In Heaven there rest" Our heart are sometimes cheered, then saddened at things here. Some have come over to our side, while one has given way to vice again. Wheat & tares(?) together grow. have had calls from Old Mexico for bibles & books some little books found their way there last year & now they want more, thus truth is advancing & Satan roaring, but I must close so good bye. Children send love

afftly your sister

This silk is a piece one of Sr Reeds old dresses which I remodeled for my own wear

Mr. H. W. Reed (Anna Abigail Ingham) in missionaries in NM

How shall I make my Merino dress

can you send me some straw buttons to trim a head dress
my head is so cold I have to wear something

I got the sweet flag safe

M intends to pay D before the first of ~~April~~ April

Here is some pieces of the children aprons

(L44)
Socorro Nov 9th/59

Dear Mother

I sit down to drop you a line to let you know we are all well. The last letter I received from you was when you were thinking of going to Vt. I got one from C & one from S. all written the same time C was at W & said she would write me again the next week but I have got no letters since, perhaps they have been lost. The Indians are very bad now on the plains. A few weeks ago they attacked the mail killed two brothers & the other man shot the Indian who had hold of the head of the mules seized the mail bag & a mule & got away. (they always have loose mules along.) The Carriage & Mules went scampering over the plains & the Indians after them till they got tangled in the harness when the Indians killed all the mules. One lady from this county started with the mail with a babe two weeks old to return to the states. got as far as the Arkansas, where they met the other mail & dared not proceed farther but turned back to Santa Fe. She has now gone the southern route through Texas to get to her friends in Missouri. The other mail advised them to turn back & both mails came on to Santa Fe. They found a white man & woman scalped. (I think near the Ark), a carriage & wagon partly burned & six feather beds ripped open & the feathers scattered over the plains. Whether they had children along or whether there were others with them is not yet known. They were returning from Pikes Peak several returning parties from that place have

been attacked & some or all killed. there are troops on the Ark, & I hope the Gov. will make these hostile Comanches and all other Indians feel its power to crush them "Lo! the poor Indian" does very well for song but let one fall into their power & they would sing differently. For my part I have seen enough of them, & I shall never cross those plains again unless with good protection I got so frightened at the Cimmaron where we were rescued when coming out the last time that my love of the plains is somewhat abated I want you to write as often as you can I will write the first of every month to you & the middle of every month to one of the others. if you fail to get them let me know. letters may be irregular, but the Gov. will not allow communication to be stopped

You need not worry about us in Socorro because the Indians are hostile on the plains

Cornelia, are basques worn now. do tell me I want to make my Merino dress

I am weaning Sissy but have so much milk that I have had }
the other children draw my breasts once a day }

(L45)

Socorro Dec. 14th/59.

Dear Mother

I told you I would write you the first of every month but here it is the middle & I am just writing but I have been quite unwell & so much work to do that the time slipped away but I will endeavor to be more punctual in future. This I shall give orders to send by the Southern route but we have such a post office here that I never know whether my letters will go where I send them. The Indians are so hostile on the plains that the northern route will probably be stopped for the winter. The Government cant send troops to protect the mail & they will not cross without & I have not had any letters since yours & C & Ss dated the middle of Sept. & if this ever reaches you be sure to direct all your letters Via Texas till difficulties with the Indians are settled. The Indians say nobody shall cross the plains any more on the northern route & they will probably prevent it this winter but there will be fighting as soon as the troops can live on the plains when the winter is over. perhaps you are worrying about us but you need not no Indians are near us & no danger of their coming here & I hope you have got my letters for I believe no mails have been lost.

We are all getting along very well here. I weaned Lillie about 4 weeks ago but have been almost sorry I did for I had to have my breasts drawn for a week after I took her off, & I have been very poorly ever since but I thought it would be better to wean her before very cold weather than to wait till Spring but I almost wish I had nursed her still & not took her off till a year from now She made no great fuss but looked so sad that I was almost tempted to give it to her again. I rubbed my breast with coal & she said it was "dirty" then she wanted the other & behold that was dirty too. now she is as happy as a kitten & all the children are well & hearty to eat. Georgie weighs 40 lbs Hattie 32 & Frankie the fat boy 55, fat, black, & solid. Lillie is the pet of all, a sweet little prattler. how I wish you could see them we have a large house large rooms all convenient. we have 9 rooms (including two store rooms) & have things fixed nice & convenient have very few vegetables this year but have plenty of good superfine(?) flour for mutton & plenty of corn meal & middlings for me , & I never ate better bread than we now have also have plenty of butter till a few weeks ago, but I have citron peach & grape preserves & dried peaches & if you will take Christmas dinner with me I will give you a good dinner

without butter. We have meetings in one of our rooms
every sunday. Our congregations are not large but are
some increased & I think many more would come if the
church was finished but the lying mexicans have so
bothered about getting out the lumber in the mountains.
husband has been twice with ox teams 18 or 20 miles
off in these awful rocky mountains & found they had
deceived him. so it stands still. the bell is on
& sends it cheering sounds over Socorro every sunday
morning much to the indignation of the Romanists.
the leaven is working slowly but surely & nothing but
the grace of God can change the hearts of the ignorant
superstitious people, but I must close. do write
every month(Via Texas) aff ly your daughter Harriett

Monroes folks are well

Sarah very well indeed

improved much in health

Let me know when you get this

I am very anxious

to hear from you

Wher is Cornelia

The children want Ann

Cornelia to send them some primers .

Hattie says send one for Lillie too

be sure to send Southern route

(L46)

Jan 22d 60

I found the mail went down the day that I wrote so another chance is mined & I will keep writing. I suppose you are hovering around big fires nearly freezing your noses if you put them outside the door while I have had my outside door open a good share of the day & the children playing out without any thin on their heads. Perhaps you would like to see the little folks. well they would like to see you too. are as full of mischief as ever, & Frankie is not a whit behind. The other day I scolded Hattie & sent her into another room when she began to cry. In a moment Frankie came running to me, "bawl again" he says, "bawl again" he will climb into a chair & sit backwards & call "Look Mama fall", he will fall down on purpose & call Hattie to help him up, then down he goes again & calls out "fall again" & so he will do as long as long as she will pick him up. to day, Georgie commenced crying about something, so off Frankie went to a little stool & says "Me bawl" & at it he went to see how near he could mimic him. he is fat as a pig, & every thing I have which he does readily recognize as mine he says is "Aunt Neely" G & H. almost

always ask if Aunt Cornelia has something like it, which I suppose leads him to say it too. he kisses as he did there by putting out his tongue. sometimes we put our tongues out & touch his as he does, then he says we tongue him. "Tongue ah me" he says, but I guess this is enough about Frankie

I expected husband at home to day but he has not come think he will certainly come to morrow. I wish you could step in this evening & see now nicely I have fixed my room. Walls nicely whitewashed, white spread on the bed, white curtains at the window trimmed with some of the fringe that Mrs Proctor gave me when a little girl, also one of those famed "Brown & Lee" shades. pictures around the room & am. carpet on the floor altogether ^{it} is a nice little room. I believe I told you carmine would not do for the roses on my Oriental piece but I have put white with it & find it will. do not fail to write me Cornelia all about Oriental painting. When you put on the colors do you put on enough at once of the color or a little at a time & let it dry before putting on more. tell all how to do but I must close for to night & go to bed.

Frankie spends a good deal of his time in barking at Georgie & Hattie

Jan 23 I will send this over to the office & see if the mail has gone again

(247)

Socorro Jan. 25th/60

Dear Mother

I will just drop you a few lines to let you know your letter of Nov. 23^d has reached me & also to let you know of our welfare, but can write but little as my darling Lillie is sick & Milton in Santa Fe. She is cutting her eye teeth & those opposite & a double tooth all at once. enough to make my little creature sick all just through & she clings to "mama" constantly. can hardly leave her to eat my meals. She says "Lillie ick"(sick) "Porrvre Lillie"(poor Lilly) I am so sorry I weaned her. she seems to want the breast now very much & neither of us have been as well as before She has been puny for several weeks & for about a week she has had a high fever cold sweat on her forehead at night & near morning look more like a corps than a living child awakes often & starts as if frightened I think it must be caused by her teeth. I have used warm bath, castor oil, rhubarb & magnesia She has less fever now but is, so pale & weak can hardly walk without staggering.(I have sometimes put her down to see if she could walk) Night before last when she saw the others saying their prayers she says, "Dy" & down she 'nelt by the chair & said her little prayer "Dezy desc Lillie"(Jesus bless Lillie) & then

"dess papa" "dess mama" & so through all the members of the family, & a few nights ago she called out in her sleep "dess Lillie"

She says she is "Papa Pet" & truly she is & if she should be taken from us it would make a sad breach in our family. I am drawing[?]/the carriage with one hand & trying to write with the other I am not very well lifting her so much & my stomach & lungs are weak. The children are all well & all run with their bills open to receive the kiss Grandma sent them.

Georgie says he knows what makes Grandma better. because he prayed to God to make her well. I hope his confidence & faith in God may ever be as strong. Truth is gaining ground but slowly as the predichies (/prejudices?) ~~are~~ strong & all who profess Christ do it against great opposition but the spirit of inquiry is abroad even to old Mexico God speed it

The Indians are comitting depredations when they can killed 4 men in the mountains the other day & 7 down the country & drive off all the stock they can Our cattles are all put in the corral near the house every night & dare not trust them out during the day without some one with them. I have made butter this winter from a ct of

milk a day, enough to get a taste perhaps a pd a week,
& now we have a young calf so we shall fare better but
we have no vegetables Monroes folks are well. how
well they are doing I cant say. dont think they have
made(or will make)themselves over rich by coming but
M. would have them come perhaps it will be for the best
but I opposed it & so I would any one, except to preach
the gospel for tis no place for children of their childrens
age

I think Sarah ^{show - Monroe's wife} is some lonesome & what else can she be.

I feel sorry for her

I am writing with Lillie in my arms

I was so glad to hear of Vt but you did not write about
our old homestead

how much do I owe you

these seeds & pills(?) came safe

here is one of Lillie's little curls

Does D want that money this spring

I think he does but M think he is not very anxious about it.

M. is perhaps more embarrassed than ever but if D must have
it let him write soon as you get this

aff_ly your daghr

Harriet

M & Monroe have contracted a debt which I am afraid ill
be hard to meet

Love to C D S. & all

(L 48)

Socorro N. M. Feb 14th 1860

Dear Sister Cornelia

Your welcome letter came to hand some time since, but my absence from home, has prevented my writing. I have just returned from a trip of nearly three weeks up the Country: and am now laid up with a lame ankle: My horse slipped and fell with me yesterday, falling on my right leg and spraining my ankle very badly; but it is a wonder I was hurt no worse, other wise we are all well, and jogging on as usual. Our Mission is as prosperous as we could expect. I preached to large crowds, on my trip up in the public Plazas, without molestations I expect to Baptize some ten or twelve soon, if the Lord will

We need a school here very much but have no teacher and cannot spend my time in a school.

I have no gift for school teaching

I should like very much as you very well know to have you come and teach a school with us; I could make it pay you well- but if you think you could do better to teach a school with fewer scholars I have nothing to say against it you must make your own choice as you know I have never deceive(?) you maybe intended: perhaps you would enjoy

yourself better in Vermont it is quite sure you would have a comfortable and pleasant home and you must judge whether you would be happy or not; you can be assured of one thing: that if you make him a pleasant and happy home; He in all probability would make you one: but you can not expect to change his tastes(crossed out) and habits, to conform to yours, if you do you will be disappointed, it will be much easier for you to conform to his, than He to yours: at least let him think so and you no doubt would get along first rate, Past experience has no doubt learned you some useful lessons I do not think it is good for man to be alone: much less a woman, I have not your letter by me to night in my study but will hunt it up and if there is any thing that demands special attention I will add a P S in the morning:
from your Brother

Milton

Kindest regards to all my old friends
Especially Br Evingham and wife
and the Wood family. I often remember them

Dear Sister I find husband has left one side of his letter so I will put in a few words just to say that my health is very good indeed & the little folks are all well. Hattie & Frankie fat & hearty. Georgie grows so fast & runs so much that he is rather thin Lillie was quite unwell about 2 weeks cutting her eye teeth but is now well again you never speak of her. Perhaps you dont know she is the prettiest one in the lot. She says she is "Papa pet" "Mama pet too" Hattie & Lillie have just had presents of new dresses. The print(?) merine for Lilly & the delaine for Hattie but I dont fancy Hatties it is more suitable for mother I wish both had been pink but they are valuable presents. We have had a beautiful winter, only twice a little snow has fallen, birds are singing, farmers ploughing & the children out playing nearly all day. Indians, especially the Navajoes have been & still are very troublesome several battles have been fought & quite a number of Indians killed & some Mexicans. Br Romaldo Chaves & sons lost nearly all their cattle over \$2000, dollars worth, driven off by Indians about 15 miles south of us. they have driven off immense droves of sheep but several thousand have been retaken also some cattle- They seldom enter the towns Monroes folks are all well. he freights across the plains this summer

Native Asst. Missionary

I make butter from a qt to 3 pints of milk a day
& we have some of the most delicious ham I ever
tasted but we are minus potatoes.

kind regards to all

Harriett

Socorro Apr. 4 60

My dear Mother

I will try to write you a few lines, but as I do not feel very ^{WELL} this morning you will perhaps not get a very interesting letter. I received your letter of Jan 16th & presume there are more on the road which will reach me soon. I also received one from C. of Feb 11th We are all enjoying good health & our little ones hearty & dirty. playing in dirt & mud constantly for there is nothing else in this country I feel lonely to see them growing up so but I cant help it. We have no means of living any where else I try to teach them some but I am so overloaded with care & work that it is a task but I hope the time will soon come when we can raise means to take our children where they will learn something better than this land affords, but husband is in debt so much that I feel discouraged. It may prove for the best that he got Monroe out here but time will decide It has involved him a good deal but if they are prospered this season they will get out of debt. Monroe freights across the plains this summer which is very profitable when one is prospered but there are so many risks & the Indians so hostile that I feel much anxiety. he left here 2 weeks ago & we shall probably hear from him before

long. he will have 7 wagons & 40 or more yoke of cattle & 10 men. all the small trains will unite probably at Las Vegas the Navajoes are very troublesome here. are continually driving off stock & I fear for our cows. If we should be deprived of them it would be a great loss. we have about 12 in all. 4 or 5 new milk cows which supply us with plenty of milk & butter for our family. I get about 8 qts of milk a day from the whole. It is the custom here on the first of april for all to join and hire a herder to take care of the cattle through the day & bring them up at night, but this year, we do not put in our cattle for husband says the Indians will be very likely to pounce upon the big herd, & he prefers to keep his at his ranch or farm, (for I must tell you if you do not know that husband owns a farm which is worth 2 or 3 thousand dollars about a mile & a half from here) but I shall never consent to go there to live to be a prey for Indians I suppose he & Monroe own it together or would if their debts were paid, but it troubles me very much to have him & Monroe linked together in every thing they have lost a thousand dollars or more the last year to say nothing of what they will lose this year if not prospered. but that we cant know at present. Monroes family are all well part of the troops have been ordered to Old Mexico to settle troubles there & part to fight the Navajoes but they do not go out to fight them till the first of May. Must(R) needs let the Indians get all

the stock in the country before they start. several companies of Mexicans have been out. one company returned a short time ago. killed several & brought in 22 captives which will probably enrage the Indians still more as they have been lurking about ever since & took off about 25 head of cattle from a town 12 or 15 miles north of us, & I am afraid they will take those of Socorro next, as they are drove to the hills to graze, but I will not anticipate, every thing here goes on about as usual. bread stuffs(?) very scarce & truth & honesty more so, but good bye Harriett

Love to all——

The children all send love & a kiss.

we got your letter containing a line from D. about the money I think M has written him has he received the money yet. we have had no acknowledgment of it.

Socorro, June 26th/60

Dear Mother

Your package of braid mailed May 24th also your letter of May 27 & Stillmans letter of May 30th reached me June 20th & I hasten to answer by this mail. They came in so short a time it seemed almost like talking. The children Hattie & Frankie were delighted with their books, & Marys dress I thought very pretty. Milton is now up country at Peralta where he expects to baptize, went last week & expect him home tomorrow. I am nearly tired out with so much care as devolves on me when he is gone & I have a continual nervous headache it is by the hardest way that we can have any thing here. The man who works for us is a lazy, lying, good for nothing fellow, sucks the cows & wont do any thing as he is told. M has had his patience severely tried & as for me I dont pretend to have any. You have to tell a Mex every thing to do, & then if you get it done stand over them, & keep your eye on every thing you dont want stole, & tis a hard life I assure you. The man wont work. the boy wont take care of the hogs. The girl wont do her work unless I stand over her. then here are a lot of boys stealing green plums there are a lot of goats in the garden, also our neighbors

hens, cows etc. Now dont laugh at my troubles. you
have never lived in N. Mexico but I guess if I take an
ayers pill to night & relieve my head I shall be able
to tug it through By the way can you send me some more
pills In Aug & Sept twill no doubt be sickly again. Tis
quite sickly now with colds & influenza but we are all well,
thanks to the blessing of God & Ayers Pectoral Frankie
& Lillie coughed very hard but they have got over it. I
do wish you would tell me how we stand & how much you have
paid out for me I have written several times but get no
answer from you or C about it. Keep acct. of all you pay
out for me & send me the bill Now dont forget. How is
C. I get no letter from her perhaps she is not able to write.
M.thinks D must have got the money before now. The draft
was sent to M before they got his letter but another was
due the 12th of May, hope he has got it. but I must close
with love to all. your aff ly Harriett

little Lillie prays for Grandma every night as also the
rest

I send a dollar in this if you get it safely let me know
soon as possible.

I can hardly control my feelings at times I want to see you
so much Dont fail to write me every month if you are able.
? /I sometimes start on wings to see you & if I could have my
way I would soon be with you but duty bids me stay.

(L51)

Socorro N. M. Aug 1st/60

My dear Sister

Your very welcome letter of June 18th. was received two weeks ago & ought to have been answered last week but somehow the days slipped away before I realized that mail day had again arrived I was glad once more to see your handwriting for I had imagined a thousand things. The news of your sickness was so unexpected that for a long time it seemed like a dream & when I tried to realize that the tie, which bound us together as a family not broken by death since our dear Father was taken from us, might soon be broken, it seemed that I could not have it so & I so far away, & now it often casts a shade of sadness over my brightest hours when the thought that the link will soon be broken & one of us be laid in the silent grave. I have often tried to reconcile my mind to the thought that perhaps the next letter I received might bring the news of Mothers death as she is so feeble, but it had not occurred to me that you or any other member of our family would be brought so near the gates of death. I long to see you once more & open all my heart to you for it is consoling to think we have a friend in whom we can confide & who will sympathize with us when real or imaginary troubles occur. I feel

very anxious to see Mother again & sometimes tis very hard to be reconciled to remain here when it would be such a comfort to her in her last days to see us all & have us near & were it not for the great expense & long tedious & dangerous journey across the plains I would soon be there, but with 4 little ones how would it be possible for me to come alone & it is impossible for husband to leave although I know well that his health as well as mine & the good of the children require it. No one who has not passed through what we have in such a land as this can know what undermining effects it has upon the mind & constitution to remain a number of years without change. Full well the eastern missionaries understand it & that is the reason why so many of them are passing & repassing, but far easier is it for them to step into a ship & land upon the shores of America than for us to traverse this vast distance by land, but I did not intend to preach a sermon or give a lecture & perhaps by this time you begin to think I ought to tell you something about our family. Well, as usual, husband is on a travelling tour & expects to be gone 3 or 4 weeks I stay alone with my little ones & a Mex. boy & girl, of 10 & 13 years of age, quite as much care on me as my own children therefore I might better say I am alone with 6

children How I wish you were here with me. I am so lonely without one friend near with whom I can converse. I try to teach the children what I can every day. Georgie reads very well & Hattie some though I do not urge her along as I should if she had not been sick so much but if she remains well till cooler weather I shall try to advance her more Frankie is reading in two letters & Lillie thinks she can do as much as any of them. You would love her so much if you could see her. She is our pet & her innocent love & prattle cheers many a lonely hour. her little soft golden hair hangs in ringlets about the length of my finger all around her neck & her complexion as fair as the flower whose name she bears. How I wish mother could see her & those little arms twine around her neck & yours as they do around mine Georgie & Hattie always run to hear what Aunt Cornelia writes to them & if you have any small primer with reading about like Sanders First reader I wish you would send it to Georgie. They were delighted with those Mother sent them. they are all well but they get tired of this monotonous life. their(?) is no place for them to go & no pleasant walks & no flowers I cannot take them around among Mexicans much for their ears would hear quite too much in common conversation & you may well fancy that I have my hands & heart full. I have 8 to cook for, milk 2 & 3 cows in the morning besides ten thousand cares of every thing in a family & only one to depend upon I have no one to relieve me of a

single care. The help I have is miserable, perhaps you have read of that fresh importation from Ireland into a Boston palace who explored all the parlors, drawing room, music~~k~~ room library etc. with a pail of slops in her hand till she found the mistress, "And plaze/[?]ma'am wheres the pig." if so you have about a fair sample of the help we have though we are minus the palace If I tell her two things at a time to do, she is sure to forget one of them & washing days they never think that more hot water is necessary than that they commence with. cannot keep the fire going & wash at the same time, this is impossible, it must go out 3 or 4 times while washing & when more water is indispensable go the neighbors & get fire-kindle it, & wait till cold water is hot. O patience where dwellest thou? - You may smile at my picture but the half is not told & you cannot imagine what a wear it is upon a person not with iron constitution but enough of this We have no veg. scarcely this season for want of seed, but our peach trees are loaded with fruit & shall have some grapes. We milk 6 cows & have plenty of butter to eat I have sold 15 doll worth(75 cts a pd) & am now making cheese We milk the cows only in the morning & from the 6 get from 10 to 14 qts a day. Monroes folks milk 3 & we put the milk together to make cheese, on a rather small

scale but better than none Ellen Veeder does not give a very good acct of Theophilis, says he spend his money in rings & trinkets for the girls, & is to be married to Cynthia Taft of Auburn. poor foolish girl, her dream of love will be over when she reaches his home, but she asks no advice & we cannot interfere but I am almost at the bottom of the last page & have not written one word of what I intended when I began. remember me to Mr Center(?) & family, tell Mrs C I thank her for her kindness in sending the beet seed though it has not reached us. Have not received Hatties letter yet, though I am looking for it. hope you will write me as often as you can. I intended to have written Mother this week but must wait till next I wrote her 4 weeks ago & sent a gold dollar in the letter hope she got it safe wrote Stillman 3 weeks ago,
your aff sister Harriett

do send me a bill of the things you have sent me
keep me informed of your post office address
do any thing for your health

Part of another letter not yet determined

July 31st-- a report has just arrived in town that the Texans have come into the Southern part of the Territory, had a battle at Ft Fillmore but had been driven out with a loss of 40 killed Federal loss, 2 officers killed & one Lt. wounded & 8 or 9 soldiers killed. also that after driving out the Texans They burnt Ft Fillmore & marched to Ft Stanton where there were only a few troops & wher the next attack was expected. how true it is we have yet to learn. I did hope N M. would have been left in peace but Indians wont let us alone no more than Texans. a short time ago they killed 8 men that belonged to a little town about 3 miles from here, & we have constant alarms in/fear[?] they will take off all our cattle, but hope for the best. no one leaves sight of town without being armed. Men watching cattle are all armed. what a miserable country the mountains are full of Indians continually pouncing upon herds M has just directed \$100, to be sent to D. & \$25 to you. the letter goes this mail

Socorro
Aug 1st
1861

Mrs Suf(s)anna Bidwell

Penn Yan

Yates Co N Y.

Socorro Aug. 15th/60

Dear Mother

I wrote you the first of Aug and said I would write you in two weeks & I will now perform my promise. Your letter of June 30th I received the 2d of Aug was glad to see your writing again for I am always looking with anxiety for fear you may not be able to write. was sorry to hear you were sick on your bed again but it is my daily prayer to God that He would sustain & strengthen all your remaining days of pilgrimage by his presence I wish you could have christian Society but as you are now situated my wish is in vain. O that God would answer prayers daily offerd for the conversion of Darwin & his family I cannot give him up & I teach my little ones to pray for him too & Georgie & Hattie never think of going to bed without remembering Uncle Darwin & family in their prayers also Grandma Bidwell & Grandma Shaw Uncle Stillman Uncle Cary Aunt Cornelia & all their cousins, & Hattie always adds Lizzie & Ida Slater, & her cousin Juliette. I am glad Cornelia is able to ride to see you I wrote her 2 or 3 weeks ago & directed to South Butler. hope she will get it. I do hope she will be careful & not overdo, so that she may regain her strength I also wrote to Stillman at

the same time I am afraid Cornelias head is **not** strong to teach painting in her weak state she will have to look too steadily. I wish I could see you all as easily as I can write wish you were here this afternoon to eat grapes, & see my cheese, grapes & peaches are beginning to ripen & I stew peaches for sauce & to make pies. I have made some beautiful plum jam & jell. How I wish I could send you some We now milk 7 cows & have all the butter we want & I have made 7 cheeses wish I could send you one My health & the childrens is very good & such appetites. I can hardly keep enough cooked. You would hardly think we could have such good appetites in Aug. the children are learning to read quite fast Georgie can read any where in Sanders First Reader & Hattie reads small words of 3 letters also Frankie is commencing in 3 letters. I do not wish to hurry Hattie before cold weather for she will give her whole mind to it & wants to read so much & Lillie will bring her book & she must read too. they have no companions in learning or playing for I have to keep them at home most of the time I can keep them from Mexicans, but it is much more difficult to keep them from their cousins & Monroes George learns them no good. I wish he was away, but I try to do the best I can. Milton has been gone nearly 3 weeks up country. I shall expect him home the last of this week.

He sent D two hundred dollars in the spring, did he not
get it, & a letter from Milton. M is so deeply involved
trying to build up Monroe that I dont know what he is
going to do. I will find out how he stands with D as soon
as he gets home & try to have it paid. Dr "Veders" folks
also are writing for help. Monroe owes them 50 doll or
more & they are pleading with Milton to pay it, as they owe
nearly 50 doll, but I guess if they owed 5000. they would
feel still worse, but I must close, save me lots of
tomato seeds. I have none this year love to all
enquiring friends aff your -d

daughter H B Shaw

Indians are still prowling around to steal horses &
cattle & tis dangerous travelling, but they do not
come very near Socorro had a battle above Santa Fe,
fifteen Indians killed , & 4 or 5 Mexicans & Am.
ran off a large government herd a short time ago which
I think will start up uncle Sam for as long as citizens
only suffer nothing will be done. I hope they will let
our cows alone

I sent some Blackeyes peas, castor oil beans/[?] sugar
cane & Broom corn, send cotton seeds in this.

D write immediately did you get 200. doll in May

(L53)

Socorro Aug 30th (60)

Dear Mother brothers & Sisters

I have a severe headache & cannot write much but I know a little will be welcome so I will write a few lines but as my head aches so hard to day you must be content with little & I will write more next week. Our family are all well except Lillie she is about all the tim(e) but has a bloody diarrhoea and is uneasy & fretful & so am I, for my head & stomach are not right & when they are out of tune I am always cross, but I guess I shall get over it. there is a good deal of sickness about here especially among children the dysentey/[?] but our little ones thus far are not much sick Miltons health is better & so is mine this summer but the hot weather affects me some now We had a tremendous shower last night & our kitchen was one bed of mud could hardly get our breakfast & tis raining now. all the folks that is Munroe folks are well. he set up a store 2 weeks ago & has so far sold from 50 to 200 dollars worth a day

Every thing is quiet now but truth is steadily but slowly advancing. The people are mostly at work now & of course read less. The Apaches are in Socorro every day now to get whiskey & I keep my front door locked for I dont want their company when drunk I wish every one

who sells them whiskey was prosecuted. The children
all send love & want to see you & so do I. good bye

for Lillie is worrying for me

your

Harriett

Why dont Stillman write I have written him a good
many times but get nothing perhaps he is going to
surprise me with a visit. How are you all. do write
often some of you for I am lonely now I am tired
out with hot weather & care.

week before last we got a letter from Mother Shaw

(L 54)

tuesday eve
Socorro Sept. 17th/60

Dear Mother

Your letters of June 30th
& July 30th I received in good season & answered
the June letter & should have answered the other but
M had not returned & as I was expecting him every day
I kept waiting, & I did not want you to share the
anxiety I felt about him. He returned in safety last
friday just at dark, having been absent 7 weeks. I
did not expect he would be gone over three & I got 3
letters from him in 3 weeks & after that could hear
nothing from him. the last one I got he was just going
out from Taos to meet Monroe in the Mountains, & then
all tidings of him ceased for 4 weeks till 2 days before
he got home another letter reached me. he had written
me other letters but they did not reach me & we could
hear nothing from him or Monroe & you can imagine my
feelings in these times of Indian depredations. The
thought that he had been cut off by Indians or the blood
thirsty Catholics sometimes almost overpowered me but
I strove against it & daily committed him to the care of
our covenant-keeping God in whom I endeavored to place all
my trust, & the result proved that He is better to us than
all our fears. Why should we ever doubt. He passed the

the trail of the Indians in half an hour after they had passed with their booty & while the dust was still visible. Br Smith thinks he had better get the army physician to take off his scalp without hurting & send it to the Navajoes at once. What say you? Well the Indians are as bad we care to have them, & often pounce upon the unwary traveller, killing or carrying off captives & running off all the stock they can, but we have little fear of their entering the towns they do not venture much where their lives are in danger & if they undertake to molest us we would give them a warm reception for we have 6 guns & a six shooter besides 2 big dogs in the house They have entered no towns but have run off a great deal of stock & I have some fear for ours but hope they may escape. They run off a large Government herd a short time ago for which I was heartily glad. As long as citizens only suffer Uncle Sam sits easy, but when his ire is raised he will send forth his soldiers with fife & drum & they will drum off all the Indians, & come back with shouts of a glorious victory. This is the way they do things here. I dont know exactly where they hang up their laurels but they are conspicuous (~~X~~) over all New Mexico. Uncle Sams chicks fare well here. this I know from experience as well as observation having been brooded by his fatherly wing some three years. About 2 weeks ago the mail going south was cut off about 40 miles below here by the Indians & two men (the drivers) killed. there were no passengers, the coach

was smashed mules taken off & the next persons travelling the road found their dead bodies & buried them, but such things do not frighten us here. Great preparations are now making for a campaign against the Navajoes & perhaps something will be done. a battle was fought about 10 miles from Santa Fe & about 15 Indians killed & 4 or 5 Mexicans, but I guess I have written enough about Indians. We are all well & children fat & healthy, & full of life & activity, driving at something all the time Lillie says, "Gentle Jesus," every night alone. I have enjoyed good health & worked very hard, have sold about 25 doll. worth of butter, & made 16 cheeses weighing from 5 to 8 pds. rather small but a good deal better than none. New cheese is a rarity, & they are excellent. How I wish I could send you one, & I have more than a bushel of dried peaches & still the trees are full. We gathered the first ripe ones the 28 of Aug & they will ripen all the time till Nov. It keeps me very busy. M has bought some dried apples also, very nice sour ones 25 cts a pd in Santa Fe. We are feasting on peaches & cream. I do so wish you could share them with us. Monroe has gone back another trip to the States & will not get here till about the 1st of Dec. He went back from Taos. His freight the 1st trip came to over 2000 dollars of which I believe they saved about 15 hundred to apply on a debt. the rest for expenses if prospered his second trip will amount to

4000. doll. & I do hope he will be, that some of these nasty debts may be paid so that I can breathe freely once more It was bad business setting Monroe up in a store with Miltons security for every thing (I do not think Monroe is calculated to drive business, but this you need not repeat, & his family never seem to know or care how any thing comes if they only get it. this is so different from me. They feel very important, for any one dependent for every thing, & have treated me with a good deal of insolence, got very angry because I spoke of Georges (their boy) nasty conduct) We got D's letter also & I am begging M to raise the money & pay him for he has waited so long & let some others go. I guess if M gets out of this scrape he will never get in another & if he had heard to me he would never been in this. I am always calculating the ifs & ands before I plunge headlong. He cant write this mail but will next week & I think will raise the money this winter if possible. he has 400. due him the first of Jan. but tis very doubtful if he ever gets it. is bound with Monroe for a debt of fifteen hundred this fall & Miss Doty(?) is calling for hers (about seven hundred) the first of Apr. besides some 2000. for goods in that store concern. this I write confidentially. Our place is morgaged & you will see that I feel much anxiety. shall

she was appointed
a teacher to
N.M. by Gov.
Slade of VT.

never rest till we are free & Milton also has grown old
over it. I/will not do for a person to start heavy business
without a capital, & M has to see to providing every thing
for two families now. I do hope Monroe will prosper this
trip & they will swing clear & have property besides, but
just now is the pinching time you see. but I must stop.
this letter is for all, & am looking for one from C this
mail. Write often as-ever your
Harriett

I will write what seeds I want another time .
send me plenty of tomatoe seed we have none this year
When you send seeds send them in a letter if that
package comes I suppose I shall have to take it out
We got some cucumber seeds in Santa Fe 25 cts a paper

(L 55)

Oct 17th, /1860

Dear Sister

I wrote you & Mother 2 weeks ago & if you got that letter you will know that I am not very strong. I feel well but weka. am about some but tires me very much to walk or be on my feet. I walk about the house and out doors some but am so weak have no strength to ~~do~~ any thing I have knit Georgie a pr of coarse cotton stockings, but cannot sew my eyes are so weak. I live in hopes of being stronger for my children need fixing for winter you can imagine how we live when I am down. My girl about like that Sarah I had in Elbridge & husband always cross when I cant be about. a wife & mother in this land ought to be made of iron. Milton says he is going in to the States in the spring & I tell him if he goes I will go along to, but he says no I must stay & take care of things here. Well we ll see about that. I think he feels anxious to see his mother once more as they write she has had two strokes of palsy. I feel almost indifferent sometimes whether I ever go back or not the best part of life is gone & what could we be there & were it not for my desire to see my mother brothers & sister I shouldnt care where I lived if they are taken away I shall have few

attractions there I should expect nothing but sickness there & here I dont think of being sick. but how are you? I feel much worried about you. how I wish you & Mother could be here one year at least. I know the journey & climate would restore you & if Mother could endure it would recruit her. There are few attractions here except climate but we have enough to eat drink & wear & house room for plenty have some peaches yet. I laid in bed & feasted on peaches. M bought a sack of the best dried apples I ever saw, in Santa Fe 25 cts a pd private (gave half to Monroe (of course as he has every thing to provide for them) I think he has supported them about long enough) Monroe folks are well & he is on a second trip to the states to make something to pay their debts he did very well the other trip paid fifteen hundred on that debt of 3 or 4000. for the store which didnt prosper. I tried my best to prevent these misfortunes but a womans advice is seldom taken, but Milton says now, "Thats what a man gets by not hearing to his wife" In trying to get Monroe out of the mire he has got in deeply himself & now is putting Monroe in the harness to help draw out, & I guess it wont hurt him any, but we are not at the bottom of the hill yet & if prospered will get up in a good place, Monroe writes he met Theophilus on the plains. I have not heard wheter he is home or not. wheat

is now \$2,50 a bushel & very scarce. what poor people are going to do I know not there must be much suffering for provisions are going to fail more than last year we shall not suffer but hundreds will no doubt. I send you a dollar in this, if you get it just say you received my letter of Oct 17th safe. how are your affairs. are you in want of any thing. when able write me every thing.

your aff sister Harriett

children all well

Monroe takes in 22,000 pds wool at 4 cts a pd & freight back at 8 cts

(L 56)

Socorro, Nov. 7th/60

Dear Mother & Sister

I am waiting to hear from you with all the patience I possess /& that is not much) but I think this days mail will bring me a letter. I have had none since you wrote C. was sick at Darwins & I feel much anxiety to hear how you are all getting along wish you could be here a short time if not longer for I know a year or two in this climate would restore you in a great measure if not wholly cure, but oh the long long road which prevents you from coming & me from going. I want to see you & have the children see you very much. They talk a great deal about you & I hope may see you if we all live a few years longer When M gets clear of debt (which if prospered be will be another year) I shall begin to think it time to remove the children from this wicked land Though from long residence & the health I enjoy here I must say I am attached to N. Mexico, & no doubt should feel sad at leaving & probably should not were it not for the children but they must be educated & I dont know as I have the fortitude to send them among strangers alone. perhaps I could if duty required it, but I should want Cornelia to have charge of them if I couldnt. I am still quite feeble though able to walk about my room some. I sew & knit considerable but cannot be on my feet much yesterday I sat up all day & worked too hard, so that

I feel rather poorly to day I try to control myself & not work to much till I have more strength but it is hard work when I see so much to do. The family are all well. Georgie I believe is making a little cart & ladder & Frankie is out seeing the men work on the church & Hattie & Lillie are busy as bees inside. Georgie reads well & I need very much a little Geograph for him Hattie reads small words & Frankie in 3 letters Frankie will learn though I have taken but little pains with him. They all learn easy, & I wish could have better opportunities & better influence Monroes family are well, but it is getting cold weather & we feel some anxiety for him on the plains. we have not yet heard of him since he crossed the Ark. going in. He left Ft Union the 10th of sept to go in & I fear will have a cold time before he gets back. we feel some uneasy as we hear nothing of him on his return but think he must be somewhere near the Ark. I hope he will be prospered for the profits of this trip are so much needed to meet payments already due. The church is being finished all it can be. have waited till now for boards for the covering & may be disappointed now about getting them. The cause of truth is onward but tis a slow work to leaven the whole lump. prejudices against us are continually wearing away & better feeling prevails. a few days ago I had a call from a mexican woman(one of the first families in the place & heretofore a most bigoted catholic I hardly dared think she would ever

set foot in the house of a protestant minister, as the priest has so often forbidden the people to have any intercourse with us, but the ice there is broken & this morning she sent me a large piece of fresh beef, parts of the heart & liver & three or four good sized pieces of tripe. these things I have so much wanted since I was sick for my appetite is not over good & I felt like shedding tears of joy to think they should come & from such a source perhaps we are doing some good here though we so often doubt. Tis something to remove prejudices of so many years standing & Socorro may yet be redeemed. Provisions this year are very high & scarce poor people will probably suffer. Our flour is very poor indeed & we have no vegetables except perhaps a dozen beets, & we would like a good meal of your potatoes M. says why dont Darwin send us a few. We make some butter yet. We have just had a good dinner of beefs liver & baked Indian pudding. M says he nearly starved when I was down but now I can see to things a little. Our cheese is excellent. We have sold about \$36, worth of butter & used all we wanted ourselves have calls still for butter which we cannot supply. but I must close for I am very tired, tis a good days work for me to write this letter but I know you want to hear from me. have you got my letter of Oct 17th. I suppose not yet, but good bye & write as often as you can
yours aff ly Harriett

What can I do to regain strength

I feel weak & faint now on a little exertion

I will send C what I can to help her I now

send stamps she can sell them

My letter of Oct 17t contained a gold dollar

Georgie says dont forget to tell aunt C to send

me some spruce gum

(L57)

Socorro Jan 2d./61

Dear Friends

As this is the beginning of a new year I must drop you a few lines to "Wish you all a Happy New Year," although I have a hard nervous headache the effects of going out to spend the day yesterday, not from overeating of the good things of this life, for we are not troubled with an overabundance, but from taking cold & exciting my nerves too much playing on a Melodeon. I took cold & my teeth & head suffer. My gums are being eaten away by the scurvy & I cant cure them my two front under teeth are near falling out, also two upper teeth on the left side where I have already lost one sound tooth What can I do for them? I have tried tincture of peruvian bark & myrrh, & am now trying "burnt alum & charcoal," if _____ (that) German Dr. still attends you will you ask him if there is any remedy & if my teeth can ever be fastened again. the Drs here dont seem to know any remedy. My front under teeth trouble me very much. I can scarcely keep them in my mouth. Do write if there is any thing will cure them if there is not I will take them all out at once. I shall try to have this sent by the southern route as there has been no mails from the States on the Northern route for several weeks. Your letter of Nov 2 with tomatoe seeds is the last I have as yet received but hope this mail will bring

another. I wrote you Oct 10th, Oct 17th, Nov 7th
& Dec 12th, Have you got them all. I have not dared ^{gold dollar postage stamps 1,00}
to send more till I heard if they went safe. I have 3
more gold dollars to send you. they may help you a
little & I am going to keep sending till I send you
ten. if you get them, they will help pay your doctors
bill or get something you want I wish I could help
you more. I think Milton will as soon as he gets
out of these horrible debts, & there is a fair prospect
of it before long if prosperity continues. We heard
from Monroe at Council Grove on his way back but have
not heard since as no mails have come from the north,
but we expect a letter to night. Milton leaves in a
few days for another tour up country to Santa Fe &
no knowing where as he is bound to hear from or see
Monroe There is a chance for Monroe to take a \$3000.
job of freighting in this county if he was only here
& M feels very anxious for him to come as it would
nearly pay all debts. how long he will be gone I dont
know. I feel lonely to think of his going away but I
trust the same God that has ever guarded him will watch
over him still. The Indians are still bad but a party
^ of 300 of them went to Santa Fe a short time to ask for
peace, which I dont think will be given them for preparation
for a great campaign against them in the spring are being
made. they have taken immense herds of cattle sheep &
mules & made themselves rich & now want peace to enjoy it,

but I dont think they will get it. We are all well & the children are enjoying themselves finely out of doors bareheaded half the time The weather has been very warm this winter. No ice in the river till within a few days, & only one shower of rain this fall pleasant delightful weather all the time Husband & Lillie have just returned from a ride, went about 3 miles & back, he has just got a buggy on an old debt & this I think is the second time I have rode out in 3 years. I visited yesterday at a neighbors where I have not been since last July. they live no farther than Mr Maxwells from Darwins I think not so far, so you can judge how much I go out but now I have got able to walk & ride I intend to go out more. Georgie is studying colburns arithmetic & Hattie & Frankie read well in three letters Hattie better than Frankie of course G is learning to write so he can write you a letter Frankie learns very easy, but he is a regular fister stout as a little giant & always fat, turns up his eyes now just as he did when little & his mouth always ready for a kiss. from 11 to 12 I keep them in school which they like very much & Lillie thinks she can read as well as the rest.

Our prospects here for doing about the same as usual. work goes on slowly but surely & though it takes a long time to enlighten these ignorant minds yet Gods promises are sure. I feel anxious to hear from you again Did I leave with you that piece of _____ "Good Bye" or

what became of it. tell D to remember my almanack
& give my love to all

I think of you constantly

your

Harriett

(L 58)

Socorro (Jan 13th, /61)

Dear Mother & Sister

I should have written you last mail but I confidently expected a letter but none arrived. Sarah received one last mail from her Aunt Anderson in Hannibal dated Dec 13th in which she writes, "Mr Bidwells sister is very low, has had watchers for some time. was more comfortable yesterday." This is sad news to me. I had hoped to hear that she was still gaining, & tis very hard to think I cant be with her or rather she with me that I might help t ke care of her & provide for her comfort If she was with me how gladly would I do every thing in my power for her, but this is denied me. My lot is far, far from those I love & those who love me "Friend after friend departs" & I fear lest the next letter will bring me sad news of my dear & only sister. Tis hard to be reconciled to these things & why so God only knows. I know I deserve punishment for my ingratitude for all the blessings I enjoy. Though in a distant heathen land, I still have my husband & all my darling little ones. enough to be comfortable & why should I repine If God has need of us here, why should I not trust him to take care of my children. I feel lonely yet still I try to commit you all to Gods care & pray daily that if consistent with his Holy will he may restore you again & sustain you & bless you with his presence in your sickness & give us all submission to his will. O if I could how soon would I be with you. Georgie says, "Mamma was not Grandpa better when we prayed for her &

wont God make Aunt Cornelia well again if we pray for her?" Childlike faith--They love Aunt Cornelia & Grandma dearly, & their brightest future consists in going to the states & seeing them. Dear little ones, a heavy blow would it be for them as well as their mother if it could not be realized. They never go to bed without praying for you, neither do they ever forget Uncle Darwin & Uncle Stillman. even little Lillie if she thinks I am going to put her to bed will say, "Why, I dint pay." I sometimes think childrens prayers are soonest answered, coming from such trusting hearts. What beautiful verses were those in the Examiner, "Christ & the little ones." Milton is not here but we have had our little prayer meetin & remembered you. When we have no preaching we meet for prayer & claim the Saviours promise though our members are small. Milton has gone to Santa Fe & how much farther I dont know. Monroe wrote from the Ark. the 15 of Dec. had lost 10 oxen & wanted M to send on more to meet him. He started with too few for so late a trip & Milton feels lonely & discouraged. He seems as though bad news came in from every quarter if Monroe could have got in even by the first of Jan. could have a job of freighting of \$3000, right here at home now, & that of a man to whom they owe \$1500, & who is waiting for his pay. I never say ^w husband feel so bad as he did before he left home, & bad news seems to be our lot at present & I sometimes fear I shall hear bad news from him before he returns, but I try to hope for the best, & look forward to brighter days & I hope ere this reaches you that you may be regaining your strength & health. This is Frankies birth day. he is as fat healthy & full

of mischief as ever Georgie & Hattie & Frankie are all learning very fast, are all well, also Lillie. I have had Frankie & Lillie sit three times for their Ambrotype but Lillie cant keep still long enough. Shall try again to morrow. There is a man here for a short time. he also takes them on leather & if he did not ask so much I would like to send you some, but he asks three dollars for one & four where two sit together. If it did not cost so much I would have them all taken together on one piece of leather & send them to you If you wish to see Georgie & Hattie get the Daguerreotype we left at Mother Shaws. I intend it shall be kept for the children We did not give it to them only left it We have had no snow this winter & only 2 or 3 days of a little rain since Sept. last Wednesday was a warm as May. now tis a little lowry.(?) We had quite a shock of an earth quake the 2d of Jan for about a minute our doors & windows rattled pretty lively twas between 11 & 12 at night. We had just gone to bed had been waiting to get our letters from the mail I thought first some one was trying to break into the windows but soon concluded it was an earthouake & went to sleep, as the sound died away I wrote you my teeth were loose from scurry of the gums. One of my front under teeth came out yesterday & another will follow soon the teeth are sound teeth and I am sorry to lose them but cant help it. I am washing them with alum & charcoal sometimes with peruvian bark & myrrh but I must close.

good bye

your aff ly

Harriett

Jan 14th this morning the ground whitened a very little

with snow 'the first of the season.

have you got my letters of Oct 10, Oct 17, Nov. 7, Dec. 12
What letters have you got since the 1st of Oct have you
got since then 2 gold dollars & one dollars worth of
postage stamps I want to hear before I send more

Jan 16 yesterday I had Frankie & Lillie taken but do not
like it

all well

Socorro Jan 22d/61

(L59)

Dear Mother & sister

I wrote you last week (Jan 16th) but the same mail brought me a letter from you of Dec 20th which reached me the 16th of Jan. I was very glad indeed to get it for I had heard (Mrs Anderson, Sarahs aunt) who wrote her) that C was very low & I was feeling very uneasy about you. I am sorry indeed to hear such news I had hoped she was getting well fast. I do hope she can get well enough to come to New Mexico for I am sure it will work wonders for her Tis true there is some danger but where is there not The same God who can take care of her their is also able to protect here & there is no more danger than in the cars & it is such a healthy climate. We have had delightful weather till a week ago it snowed some & has been quite cold since. I would like to come to the States but cannot till Milton is relieved from his embarrassments he is now gone to Santa Fe & Ft Union to see what he can do to get in the train which is all their dependence. Monroe wrote the 15th of Dec was about helf way & his oxen so poor & dying off that he wanted M to send more to meet him. What they can do I know not. Tis a hard place but we hope & pray for the best. I feel bad to hear such bad news from every quarter, husband in trouble, suster sick & Mother so poorly & I cant help if you were only with me but this cannot be but I pray daily for your restoration if God will & for your continual peace & joy in Him in your sickness that your faith & hope be strong & your peace like a river. Our little ones all pray for you & Lillie has prayed for you several times to night. She wanted

"to pay more" so she prayed for every body she could think of. She & Frankie often have a prayer meeting together & pray 3 or 4 times apiece I have had their likeness taken but it is not good & if possible I shall have it taken over again He take likenesses on leather & if it did not cost so much I would have all our children taken & send to you but he asks six dollars for the four on one piece of leather about the size of our Daguerreotype easels I has been gone two weeks & he may perhaps go out & meet Monroe on the plains though I hope not he wrote me from Santa Fe last week, was well & said he would write again this week. We have lost two cows & one large calf & if this cold weather continues they will all die for there is very little to eat in the county for man or beast though we have plenty yet but every thing is very dear. I hope this will find you in better health. do write me as often as you can if only a little, & do tell me if you have got 2 gold dollars & one dollars worth of postage stamps. I dare not send more till you tell me. I sent the gold dollars Oct 17th, & the postage stamps Nov 7th. ^{yes} do tell me if you got them all, & to Darwin I would say cant you afford me an almanack but I must close & go to bed for my fire is out.

good bye
Yours

Harriett

(260)

Socorro N. M. Feb. 13th/61

Dear Mother & Sister ^{no?}

I wrote you Feb. 5th & sent a dollar in the letter, but you are in my thoughts so much that it seems longer ago than one week & I feel an inclination to sit down and talk a little with you this evening, as I have put all the little folks in bed, & I sit here all alone. Lillie is jabbering herself to sleep in Spanish & the wind is howling dismally though it is not cold, & the dogs are springing up & barking at something every ten minutes, & withal it is not very pleasant being alone though I do not feel afraid any more than I should in the States. I do not like to be alone ~~to~~ ~~do not feel afraid any more than I should in the States.~~ ~~at~~ any where & so I will imagine you here & myself talking with you, & last night my dream about Cornelia seems so like reality that nothing seems a reality to day. I thought I went to the States & came across Stillman going to a prayer meeting & as I knew Cornelia was very low & fearing the effects of my sudden arrival I sent word by him that I was coming & would soon be with her. I soon followed & found her somewhat prepared to see me, (also Mother & Stillman were in the room) but a good deal affected & so emaciated as to be about the size of a girl 10 or 11 yrs old, & I took her in my arms & we mingled our tears together, & then I awoke, but it seems as though I had been with you I wish I could be with you, but as I am now situated can only pray for you, but any prayers & the childrens you have continually that you may be restored if consistent with the will of God, that He be very precious & near to you in your sickness &

to Darwin & his family that they may all be brought into the kingdom of God. How gladly would I come & see you if it were possible. I sometimes feel as though I could not stay away, but I must wait & see what is in the future for us. I would like to return now to the states on many accounts & yet I should fear we should all be sick there & especially the children. In our last paper I read of the death of Prof. Spears three youngest children in Nov. What a blow for the parents when we were there they had just buried their daughter fifteen yrs old & Mrs S. seemed almost broken hearted. Have they any children left? - When I read of so much sickness prevailing in the States I feel afraid to return, for here we have no such prevailing diseases & are not fearing sickness, & yet I do not feel reconciled to have the children spend their days here. Their minds are active & I cannot keep them confined at home all the time though they go but very little. They all love to read & their books are a great amusement but we have so few of them. I must send another summer for a Geography for Georgie & I wish I had that little Phyliscology which I gave to Cornelia for him to study. He has Colburns Arithmetic & Mary A Swifts Natural Philosophy for children, & he reads the children stories in the Examiner & also a good deal in the Testament, & Hattie & Frankie are fast coming on, for more books. They all learn fast. I dont know but we can get books in Santa Fe. I think perhaps we can. The children are all well & as busy as ever Georgie has been making a ship of cornstalks to day with a little boat hitched on behind he said like the one on the steamboat in which we came up the Missouri and it was the same shape, he remembers a good deal about the States, & the place where he went to

school with Aunt Cornelia. I have all their ambrotypes & would send them to you if I had a chance but fear to send them by mail there is so much risk. The Indians are very bad every where. The Camanches & Kioways on the Northern route & the Navajoes & Apaches south, but you need have no fears for us as they do not risk entering a town but drive off all the stock they can & kill or take captive the herders. Most of their depredations are committed a hundred or two miles south of us where most of the stock are, but they took a short time ago a herd of 2000, sheep within ten miles of us & I fear some for our cows as we are obliged to keep them about a mile & a half from the town & ther they get but little but we dare not trust them in the mountains where ther is good
A grazing. we had two weeks of little snow in Jan. now the ground is bare again & sun quite warm. M has gone to see where Monroe is & to assist him if necessary with more oxen have not heard from him since Jan 24th, but expect to soon. One man that came the Cimmaron route lost near one hundred oxen so I think Monroe was not so bad off after all & may prove for the best that he was delayed Milton left here Jan 8th, & may not get back before March. I get along very well, I call myself well but since last fall I tire so easily & dont seem to have strength to endure as I did last summer. I feel broken down, but perhaps I may get over it by summer. I think I have something of scurvy as my teeth & gums are badly affected & my teeth falling out. I rub them with burnt alum, but shall

lose five if not more. Sarah had a letter from Cary
last week dated Jan 13th he said Mother Shaw was able
to be about the house & Cornelia was some better but
he was afraid would not be able to come to N. Mexico
I wish she was here, but I must bid you good night.
Harriett

I have 2 more gold dollars for you
I will write you once in two weeks & perhaps oftener
while C is sick for I know the days seem long to her
& a letter may cheer a little

Georgie says he will write her a letter too
how are your funds are you in want let me know
I want to help you all I can