

[fragment letter, no salutation or date, f. 32]  
[written upside down along the top of the letter]

A word or two more and then I will close and write again Sunday. I never saw a person grow so much better as Josie has in so short a time.

She has had an inflammatory fever and the Dr says they dont last over a week. Hers lasted just three days before it seemed to be a little better. But she has suffered a great deal of pain I tell you. E

[written normally]

When he got here I told him I beleived he was mistakened, I beleived she had got the diptheria. He asked me what made me think so I told him about her throat and ~~ears~~ gums and he said that might all be. So he got a spoon and looked, ~~at~~ her throat and said there was no diptheria there, and made me look and I could see that the tonsils were swollen and inflamed but could see no false membrane

How differently I looked upon her now she was mine a little longer. Why I went so far as to suppose I could smell the real putried smell. Indeed I was positive of it. And now after he has assured me over and over again that she has not got the diptheria anything that appears one might like it will make me tremble. I cant help it Oh if you were only here to talk with me about it and reason me out of it.

She has been so good evers since she was sick. I beleive this worries me as much as anything. She told me to night that I must tell you that she drank he sena right down when she was first taken sick

The poor little darling hasn't taken any sort of nourishment since she first said "Oh how my head aches".

Her flesh is very hot and she is in pain all over ~~her~~ especially her head and bowels and she is so sore she dont want to be touched. She didn't want to set in my lap to-day long enough to have her bed made and so we let her be.

I suppose you wonder how I have had time to write all this. well I will tell you I am sitting up with her and I get up and go and wash her in alcohol and bath her head in warm water and talk with her and quiet her a little and when she goes to sleep I write a little. I laid down to night and slept a couple of hours after the Dr. come and releived my mind a little and after I laid down I happened to think I hadnt eat any thing since breakfast. I didnt think anything about it before. I knew I told mother I could not swallow a mouthful one meal but could not remember when. Poor little Annie says she felt as though she had a nutmeg grater in her throat.

She hasnt played around the house since Josie was sick. She will sit and read a spell and then ask about Josie. She seemes almost lost

The Dr. says Josie is not a The Dr. says Josie is not a very sick child.

Her grandfather bought her some candy to-day and she likes to take it and hold in her hand she says it smells good. She broke one of the sticks and I heard her munching away as though she had a right to eat candy. I asked her what she was eating and she said - "why it is a little piece of my candy it was so small I didnt know what else to do with it." She asked for some water sweetened with molases tonight but I did not dare give it to her

You said in your letter awhile ago that you supposed Josie was as smart as common children. She isnt perhaps what you would call smart but she has an uncommon judgment. She has had a very bad pain in her bowels and I told her I had done all I could for her and could not think of anything else that I could do. She says if we had some balms of gilead it would help it wouldnt it mother? But I beleive we havnt got a might. I told her we had a little and it did help her. I asked her to night what the Dr said about her and she said he said I hadnt got the diptheria and he knows better than you do. Annie was out in the kitchen when the Dr said she hadn't got <sup>it</sup> and she laughed out loud, for joy partly, and partly to laugh at me. No more to night E.

Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> Josie is a great deal better to-day. She will laugh and play and is cross as a bear. So dont worry about her will you darling. E.