

East Plainfield Jan 12<sup>th</sup>

Dear Brother

As I have an opportunity to write I thought I would improve it. I wish I had the money that I could write to my brothers every week. I havn't and so I have to be dependant on other's to send them a few lines. I feel as though I was doing all that I can when I write, for the hopes that I have of ever seeing any of you again is very faint. I feel as though I could spare my other two brothers better than you (Not that I think any the less of them) but they have no one else depening on them as you have. And for Emily's sake if not for mine I would have you come back alive and well. I pity her and would like to be able to write to her often, but that is entirely out of the question as I have no money or any way to get any. And Edward is the same and I dont know when he will ever have work again to earn any thing it is almost a year since he was thrown out of work so you can judge that we are not very flush. I cant think of his enlisting for I think that I am going to lose enough in this cruel war. And if England steps in against us (as I am afraid she will) I think we hav'nt seen the hardest times yet. If we had always been kind to each other I shouldn't feel so bad at the idea of loseing my brothers. But it wasn't because I didn't love them as well as other sisters love their brother's. I hope that I may become <sup>^</sup>better and that my brother's may live to get back so that I can make some atonement for my past unkindness. I think of you all a great many times in the course of the day that you are off so far away from us all and the hardships that you have to pass through and the poor fare that you get, and beside all that you may be sick and dying and we not know anything about <sup>^</sup>it and what is still worse we couldn't be with you if we did. Perhap's you will think my letter rather melancholly but I feel sadder and not as hopeful today as usual Mother had a paper from Albany to day with Addison Fellow's death in it he died in Virginia of the Typhoid fever and was carried back to Albany and buried. It made me feel bad (although I never saw him) it seemed almost as though it was one of my brother's and perhaps their turn will come next. I don't like to think of it so I had rather think of you all as being alive and well, and I try to as much as I can I was very much pleased with your letter it was very interesting as such a long one I wish I could send you as good a one in return. Mother had a letter from Aunt Susan last week she said that Warren was at home and out of work he cant get enough to do to pay his board and he and Harris Boynton talk of enlisting she wrote that Charles wanted them to come out there and join his regimen[t] (he is in the fort with Elmer) and they thought they should go. Uncle Phillip has had shop burned and there wasn't much insurance on it. Grandmother is quite feeble this winter Aunt Susan writes I suppose you will get all this from Mother's letter. I had a letter from Susan Bickum sometime ago she wrote about business being so very dull in Haverhill she didn't expect work much of the time this winter. She thought she should go to California in the spring Jerry Saul has sent for her. You say you mean to be a farmer there is a farm up here to be let and Mother would like to have you and E take it together I think you might do well on it. It is rather too large for one to carry on alone without having to hire. So you take good care of yourself and when you get back we will settle down to farming you would like up this way very much I think Edward thinks he shall feel bad to go back he likes so well. I want you to answer this letter as soon as you can without neglecting Emmie Edward sends his love and says he shall write soon.

From your sister Mag