

[raised imprint reads: "C.S."]

[written upside down at the top of the letter]

I had my likeness taken last week and through some mistake the bow was colored - do not laugh about it for it is not my taste.

Hampstead Feb. 26th /65

My own Dear Brother,

I have been thinking for some time, that I should like to write to you, if I could get a chance; to-day is a rainy day, so I believe I will improve it in writing to you, I am no letter writer, but judging you by myself I think that whatever I write to you, will be very acceptable, and give you pleasure. I suppose Emily keeps you well posted as to family matters, so if I should write that Father has gone to Albany on a visit and that sister Margaret had another boy, that Mother was taking care of her, and wishes the baby called George Harris, and that Joseph is to work for William this Summer, and that Elmer has got to be Capt. Harris, that Henry is learning to stitch shoes of Sister Emily, &c. &c. &c. you will say that is no news, so I will not say any thing about it. I suppose too Emily has told you about Joseph's Clara, that she was here and made us a visit. I feel very much pleased with her, I think she will make Joseph a most excellent wife, she is not handsome, and at first sight would be called plain, but on further acquaintance first impressions vanish, and she looks quite pretty, I think she is a persona that a man can put perfect confidence in, she is modest intelligent and agreeable, and that is of more worth than [Seventy]; I hope she will seem as much like a sister to me as your dear Emily does, and I think she will I do so long to have you come home and go to housekeeping again, so that I can visit you ~~at~~ at your own house and by yourselves, I like to go and see Emily now, but it would be much pleasanter if I could see you together, I hope before many months have passed we shall have the happy privilege of meeting together I suppose Emily told you long ago of the pleasant ~~me~~ gathering we had at sister Emily's house, I cannot tell you how much I regretted your absence, I pitied Emily (your Emily, I mean) for I know she felt bad although she did not say much. I think to Mother felt rather sad thinking of George, it does seem hard to think he should go away as he did, and die, without doubt it is all for the best, but it is hard to be submissive and reconciled always, if he had lived, of course he must have endured much suffering, perhaps he was taken from the evil that was to come, it is useless to regret now, but still I often find myself wishing he had taken your advice and remained at home I hope it will be the means of keeping Henry at home, he has almost made up his mind several times to enlist, but something has restrained him, he says if he could know he should escape uninjured he should certainly enlist for a year. I can hardly seem to realise, now Joseph is here with us that he has been gone three years, and been exposed to so much danger, as he has, he has not recovered from the effects of his prison life yet, his diarrhea has not left him, but still he looks pretty well, it is a great wonder he is alive, and I think we have great reason to be grateful that he and Elmer have reached home safe and sound. I wish I could say the same of you, I felt very sorry when Emily told me you had left your pleasant situation and been sent to your regiment, I hope soon to hear you have been detailed to some position equally as agreeable. We have had some fine sleighing this winter, and W^m and I have had one long seighride, we went to Lowell to visit Mrs Page formerly Rebecca Plummer

we spent the night with them, and had a very pleasant time, her brothers Samuel and Charles are both in Lowell Charles is in a dining saloon, he receives nine dollars a week and boarded, he is a fine looking man Samuel is the same nonsencical fellow he used to be. William wishes me to say that he has not written to you this winter for the reason that he has been expecting you home on a furlough, he says you may reckon on a letter from him after town meeting. If you deem this worthy of an answer I shall be very happy to hear from you, sister Julia