

supper with her ear - very much oppressed too with her
cold - I went up to Port Eubank to see her - Anne has
gone with her to her home - The jackets fitted exactly &
are great treasures to the children as are the little books
which they admire much & want to have every night -
I hope you will put black on the children - it is some
trouble, but every means should be taken to make the
impression strong on their young hearts of the deep loss
of a mother - Oh my precious Mother we do not know
what we have to be thankful ^{for} that your dear life has
been spared so long to us - You were very kind to think
of the children's wants so exactly - But I wish to write
to John to night - he will know us for he thought
very much of dear Mary - how much of the pleasure we
anticipated is taken away by the loss of that warm &
happy greeting she always gave us - May God in mercy
stay his hand & may you all be in his holy care
My precious Mother, I know not how to leave off talking
with you - love to dear Emily if she is with you, but
indeed you cannot spare her - I hope her health is better
Ever your loving, devoted daughter
Fanny -

C. Mt. Feb. 28. 1849 -
Wednesday -

My precious Mother - I was on the point of writing to
you last night to express the joy & relief your second letter
had occasioned - though you spoke of our dear Mary's situation
as very critical I felt little further alarm for I thought
the turning point passed & that her fine constitution would do
the rest - Judge then of the alarm a letter directed in William's
hand & so soon following your occasioned me this morning to
open & find it in William's hand was enough, I knew that
she was gone, my own dear sister & the still dearer wife
mother & daughter - Oh what a void has it made in our
happy home - I fear to think of your loneliness & of the
chasm it has opened in your hearts - to my dear brother
& those bereaved children what an irreparable loss, a loss
which will never be known - She has been the life, the
ornament of our home, so universally beloved & admired
it is indeed hard to understand the mysterious Providence
we know that the God of all the earth does right &
while we dare not murmur or complain we may grieve
& mourn - not for her! we fear the loss, but to her what a
gain - happiness unchangeable, immortal is exchanged for this
world of sin, trouble, & sorrow - when I look around I think
how many there could have been spared so much less calamaty
& so much less mourned I am in wonder & astonishment
at the dealings of God - What we know not now, we
shall know hereafter - The blow has fallen so suddenly &
unexpectedly in the midst of health & so soon after the
possession of the spot we had all so longed for & which
might have given her so much happiness - but why enumerate
all these aggravated circumstances - they have been
more vividly alive to your hearts who have borne the keenest

of the blow - at such a time it is a bitter trial to be separated from you all - The distance between us & the length of time are your letters reach me seems interminable (they have all been about 10 days in coming) If I were only then I might relieve you of some care but Emily & Caroline will I know do all that is possible - poor girls - they have one & all looked up to Mary as a bright spirit in the midst of their troubles whose presence always shed joy & relief by its light their cares - To my dear brother I know not what to say or how to speak the words of consolation I can only grieve with him may the bright example of our dear Mary & her happy death lead him to his nearer to God - to think less of the cares & business of this world - Oh! how short does life seem at such an hour - sternly how long & strange creatures that we are so soon to forget the sad lessons we are so often taught - Death has come very near & taken the one dearest to his heart - 'tis a bitter cup indeed, but may he bow in submission & find mercy in the draught - In leaving my home & thinking of those whom I might never see again, I have never once thought that dear Mary would be taken - She seemed born to live & enjoy life & be an ornament to society when her children should have grown up so that she need not be confined so much at home - ^{a little more} She has been a joyous light by our fireside & long as we live, she will live in our memories - I have wondered why I so much less useful, so much less worthy of love, so unfit to train up my children should be spared while she is taken - God grant I may redouble my diligence & labor while the day lasts - I fear your exertions my dear Mother, may have quite exhausted your strength - going up & down stairs so often or you much to your sweet baby will be very injurious. I hope you will be able to find a wet nurse soon for bringing

up on the bottle is so very troublesome - Do not think of keeping house on my account - you are not strong enough for the exertion & it would be far better for you to board when Spring comes - I repeat you must never have any reference to me in your arrangements your health & strength is what all your children wish consulted before their interests - John is now in New Orleans where he has gone by way of change he was much troubled with his cold but would not promise to go further - as he is quite doubtful whether it would do him good. He felt so much better in the cold weather we had two weeks since that it seems as if a trip north ^{about the 15th} would be better for him. We had the most severely cold weather, I have ever experienced here - The flowers were all destroyed & shrubbery & foliage which was fast putting out ^{entirely} ~~much~~ ^{killed} ~~injured~~ - The snow lay on the ground nearly two days - I hope you will be able to write all the particulars of dear Mary's death - did she endure much suffering at the last? I suppose not as mortification often takes place in that complaint before death - did she take care of herself at first, or did she try to keep it off & do nothing? - with her usual uncomplaining spirit poor Louis is old enough to feel it most deeply & he is such a sensitive child. Willie feels very badly for them but never says much you know when he feels this much - he has gone to bed or he would send a message - Tell my dear Mother he must not forsake home because it is so painful, but for his children's sake, he must try to be more at home than ever - Ask dear Maimie to write again & thank her for writing so immediately - I hope William will write when he feels able - Mrs Perkins reached home on the 17th stopping two days in New Orleans. She took a very bad cold there & looks most miserably a mere shadow in form & in constant

about Lincoln & disunion I reckon. Ma says
 she is afraid they will eat her up when she
 gets back for being a Quaker. though not one in
 principles. I suppose you have had snow ere this.
 I was so sorry you would not let Ma leave that
 cloak gotten for you this winter it would have been
 so nice for you. I think before the winter is out you
 will wish you had taken it. Ma hoped to get herself
 some furs when she came up here, though it would
 be just the place to get them but she has found that
 it was not. You will have to come down south & see as now
 that Lincoln is elected as I expect it will put an end to
 our coming north every other summer. Now I must close
 Love to all especially the three little ones -
 I remain as ever.

Your attached granddaughter -
 Fanny's Aunt

Dear Mother - I did think John improving when I first came up -
 but the weather has been dreadful, raw & chilly, no sun
 shining for nearly two weeks - I do not know how to be
 reconciled to leave - it is a heavy burden, but God does not
 put upon us more than we can bear - Every body
 says the weather will be settled soon - & then the sun
 will shine all the time - I think John's change was necessary
 in some respects (coming to the Winslow house) it was so very
 bleak & cold crossing the prairie to come to town - then he
 had become weary of many things there - (at the Thomtons) -
 There was much sickness & discomfort - this you should not mention
 however - He hoped too to get a teacher for his own room here &
 to be able to attend church here - True, they had breakfast
 so late it was almost impossible to get to church -
 I hear he will soon weary of this table here. ^{Some coming daughter} only tolerate



C. W. McLEAN, (Proprietor)

WINSLOW HOUSE,

St. Anthony's Falls, Minnesota.
 Nov. 8th 1860.

J. F. DARROW, Supr.

Dear Grandma.

I was very anxious to write to you
 this afternoon & not being able to get any other paper
 I took this fancy piece. Don't you admire it? You seemed
 to think in your letter to Billy that Ma & I were
 going to spend the winter here. We expect to leave here
 next Tuesday (today is Thursday) it would be impossible
 for Ma to stay here all winter & Ma would not think
 of doing so. Besides southerners ought to be on their
 plantations now just about this time to keep old
 Lincoln off. We were real sorry to hear of his election
 to-day. I suppose though you are for him. I since
 Minnesota a dull place & long to get back to Miss J.
 You proposed in your letter to Miss Keller that Ma

should bring one on to N. Haven & leave one with Miss Grace.
I hope Ma never will do that as I don't like Miss Grace or her
school either. Ma has been thinking of sending one to
N. Orleans & Lillian to Port Gibson. But concluded that she would
be so lonely herself as she would be entirely alone except the
little ones & that would be dreadful. The telegrapher
Mrs. Rogers yesterday to send a teacher of whom she had
written to Aunt Anne. She said she would suit in all
respects except that she ~~was~~ is a Unitarian. Her religion
is objectionable but it would be rather difficult to turn
Old School Presbyterians into Unitarians. I hope we shall
be able to "turn her from the error of her ways." Ma Pa & Willie
have gone out to drive I remained to write you as it is
soon is quiet only when occupied. Pa is fixed very
comfortably for the winter here three nice large rooms two
bedrooms and a parlor, but I wish we would take the
home again with us Ma wants Pa to come she shreds the
cold so much as he stands this weather pretty poorly -
He will not hear of it though & says it would certainly
mean death to him. I think it very doubtful whether it ~~will~~
will improve him or not. We have heard of our loved
ones arrival at home safe & sound bag & baggage. We
long to get back & see them all. The two little ones &
Lally are in Port Gibson with the rest of the family & I
suppose are having a glorious time of it & will hardly care
about being as to take them away from the cousins -
Night before last quite a large fire occurred about 30 yds from
this house a ~~small~~ stable. 10 horses & 2 stags were burnt.
It is thought that it was set on fire as the fire began

inside it was some time before the fire was discovered
otherwise the horses might have been saved. The poor
horses must have suffered awfully in that. It was a
great wonder that this house did not catch so near it
might if the wind had not been in the opposite direction.
I hope we will hear from you soon we get but few letters up
here every way some one comes in saying there is no mail -
We have only had two letters from home since we left. I know
you want to hear about Pa who is very changeable.
Some days he is bright & cheerful others drowsy & dull
owing I think partly to the unpleasant weather we are
having cloudy cold and the weather is not settled yet -
We are all going down to Port Paul the first pleasant day that comes to
ship we have been waiting for one for a week & I am afraid we are
not going to get one. Pa would only be well enough to go a pleasant
day. It does not look much like clearing up tonight. So I expect we
will be disappointed again tomorrow. Ma got your letter sent to
Romey some time ago but she sent it as soon as it came -
It was rather old by the time we got it but better late than never.
(Friday morning) another cloudy day dear Grandma & while such
weather lasts Pa cannot improve. I can only write a little more as
Willie has come for the letters. Some of our girls write you
before we leave. Ma wants to stay all winter with Pa so
much she loves him very soon as we are to leave him so
soon. Aunt Anne wrote Willie that she would have come up
with Ma & I expect would have spent the winter with Pa.
But he would not have consented, he would allow her to stay so near
last night it snowed a little but did not make out
shape any one thing - of geyse (Jenny's mother)
to do much. I should like to look in upon our
Southern friends this morning. all the conversation is