

West Pelham, July 23, 1882

Dear Sisters:

I have tried every day for a week to write you a letter, but could find no time. Am real busy, and when my days work is done, I am very tired. Will give you a plan of my week's work in general and you will agree with me that I have something to do besides play.

Sunday: play the organ for service and S.S. teach three seats full of young ladies generally, and then play for Praise service in the evening. Monday: washing & of course you know what comes after washing. Tuesday: go 2 South Amherst and give seven (7) lessons which takes a good part of the day. Wednesday: go 2 Pelham Valley and Amherst and give six lessons; Thursday, ironing if I haven't the time 2 do it before and every other week, Lening Lackely [?] When I don't have 2 go, I chat – I generally have a lot of callers or go somewhere! Friday: In South Amherst again for seven lessons and Saturday: get ready for Sunday and give four (4) lessons! This is my average weeks work saying nothing about meals and baking &c! Something happens so that some of the schollars do not take their lessons [page 3]for week, and that makes it a little easier. I have fourteen (14) schollars on my book all the way from 9 years old up to 18 years; and a young man in Amherst wants 2 begin with me in about a week, but don't know as I shall take him. Two of the pupils are having a vacation now so I have only twelve. Shall not have so many after the 2 schools begin about Sept. 1st so I want to give them as many lessons as I can before then. I hardly think you will see me home before Sept.

Are you in a hurry for mother? She seems 2 be contented and I want her to stay as long as she can! She helps me a good deal. I tried putting my washing out, but I sent less than 3 dozens pieces – did up the fine [?] clothes – and had 2 pay 70 cents and thought I could do it cheaper. She washed the fine clothes and I ironed them them. How is that for washing?

Joseph and myself took dinner the other day at Mr. Thurston in South Amherst. Mrs. T. was Nellie Smith that used 2 go 2 school 2 Eunice[?] on Cold Street. Said she would like very much 2 see her. Joseph was not carried out of Church that Sunday but had some pain in his side and one of the men brought us home with his horse. Our garden is doing nicely. We have had peas and string beans two week – our first peas are about gone, and we have more about ready. Our beats are (that word is beets_ nice and large & corn has been tasseled out for a week. Last Thursday, I did a lot of fine drousing [?], and picked 23 quarts of currents. We took 25 quarts to Amherst and got 8 cts per qt. Mother is going 2 have a few cans 2 take home with her! Our tomatoes are doing well. We shall have enough for a whole neighborhood! I wish some of them would turn 2 cucumbers here for we haven't any. Joseph planted them several times but the bugs ate them every time.

You didn't send me a piece of ? [name's] dress, nor Joseph's paper have not yet arrived, but I will say "thank you" for them for they may come sometime. I have a new dress. It has not come from the dressmakers yet. You see I can't make it myself. My traveling dress I have 2 put on about every day and don't want 2 wear my black silk everywhere, you know! This is not a very expensive dress, only 12 cts per yd and it will only cost \$2.00 to get it cut and made "seeing it is nice [?]. So you see the whole thing will only cost \$5.00. It is cut Polonaise, part made one side out and part the other. It is real pretty. The skirt is trimmed with pleating!

We were glad to hear from Lou last week. Had been looking for a letter for some time. I wish Joe would write mother, seeing she sent him a stamp! Well Ellen, my pants are doing pretty well but I took a little more care of them but the chickens not quite as much, they could do better! I have nasturtiums, two nice double variegated petunias, a bed of single petunias, geraniums, and morning glories in blossom. The double petunias are beautiful and you shall have a clip of one of the plants. They are just alike. I have nice geraniums budded that were slips only about two months ago. I've something else in bloom, but don't know what it is. I sowed my single petunias and what should come up with them but some poppies. And they are all budded. Mother laughs about them a good deal. I did not know what they were till she told me.

Mother says if you want her 2 go home, let her know. I am sorry I can't go with her, but if she doesn't go until about Sept. 1st I can go, but I must not leave the scholars now. If I do, I cannot get through with the term before schools commence. Joseph and I would both like 2 have her stay till Sept., but if you really need her we will take her to Williamsburg any time and some of you can meet her. What have you done with butter. We are still paying 25 cts and expect to all summer.

What have Mr. Humphrey decided 2 do? How did Geo Noble come out about his beef? How are things at Henetts [?] now? Mother says Helen is all right/ Who preaches now. Does the minister still board with Mrs. Porter? His text that Sunday was very appropriate!

We have a Post-Office box now, 484. You can put it on the letters or not. We shall get them I hope you are writing us tonight, but perchance you are waiting 2 hear from us?

Write soon and all the news.

Must close now, have written a long letter without much in it. This is the last rose. Make the most of it. And write soon, Love 2 all, Olive