

Middlebury Jan 28th 1861

My dear Aunt Mary

It is so long since I received your letter - asking me to write you that perhaps you have forgotten it before this - but I have been waiting to send my dearest type when I wrote, and many things have hindered my having it taken till this winter. I presume that Auntie Polly has written you of our sad loss here - our darling and pet, Sammie's death.

It is the first time our family circle has been broken by death - it seems as if we could not have had it so - he must come back to us - but we know that we can only go to him - if God will accept us - that should be sufficient for us.

Sammie died the 14th of December of

of that awful disease, Diphtheria.
He was sick but five days -

Mother's health is quite poor this winter she has bronchial troubles - and poor health in general, yet she keeps up, & as you are acquainted with her it is needless to say that she won't own to being sick more will she ever complain. She has not been out of our yard this winter yet - and I fear she won't be able to, till warmer weather comes on. Last winter did not even go to church ~~from Nov.~~ till March. Father is as well as usual - though Sammie's death has affected him very much. We have all been troubled considerably with sore throats - this winter - and our "kind girl" - had a severe attack of Diphtheria.

We have a very pleasant situation here in Midd. though things are new ^{on our farm} as in a new country - but we miss the trees, that perhaps we should find next on a new place. Father and Willie have

set out a great many trees - both for fruit and shade trees - though it will be long before we have much shade I fear.

Willie (your boy) is quite a tall chap now - though he hasn't overtaken his mother. I am five ft. six & 3/4 inches, is not that tall enough?

'Everyone' says the Ambrotype isn't very like me - but it was the best I could get - I never have success in pictures.

Lucey & I made many vain exertions to have ours taken together last winter - but finally were had to have them separate.

Father has had letters from Uncle Wm., and Francis lately. Neither wrote any particular news - Uncle L. is still in Decatur ^{Mich.} on a farm - Cousin Sammie has lost his oldest child. Uncle F. wrote that his husband John Taylor was out of employment now. Lucey and I have made a league with James Duncan to go to Oregon sometime - so Aunt Mary perhaps we shall surprise you

sometimes, though I don't know as we
are actually in earnest. Still Lucy
and could teach there perhaps. I am
always talking of teaching but find to much
business at home - to leave. We manage
to have a large family of boarders all
the time. This winter we have five college
students. Some have boarded here so long
that seem like 'our folks' almost.
Grandma Robinson lives with us still - you
heard I presume of Grandpa's death last
March. Aunt Mary aren't you ever coming
east? If you could, only bring your
family by telegraph here, how nice it would
be - I think you must long to see ^{us} ^{sometimes}
It seems to me that I could hardly live
away from our old Green Mountains -
they seem quite near us here, - then we
can see the Adirondacs West of us.

How are all those little cousins in
Oregon? I hope cousin Sarah will not
feel insulted at my saying little cousins
- I know that the ambition of some of your
persons is to be old - Please give much
to all - I should dearly love to receive
a letter from Sarah - Father and Mother
send love -
ever your affectionate niece
Ann