

Castleton Sept 3-1858.

My dear Sister Mary

Shall I ever

receive another letter from you? It is a year  
and several months since I have had a line,  
and I have written several times; but do not  
know as you have received mine. I sometimes  
get half crazy about it; think it is all a dream  
that I ever had a sister Mary but then so many  
incidents come to my mind, with all the freshness of  
recent events, and your picture or rather many pictures  
are so indelibly engraven on my heart, that I must  
believe I once had a little loving girl for whom I had  
as Sisters and brothers love combined; yes and an  
innumerable multitude of endearing, as well as trying  
Scenes, pass before my mind's eye, in which she had  
a part and took a Sister's place; until many years  
ago the changeful scene of life separated us, as I  
then thought for a short time; but I was blind  
to the future, and little dreamed 12 years of time would

and here is no hope of meeting again. Well this  
is that strange mysterious human life!

I suppose you must be very much cramped with  
your little ones, and your other cares, so that you have  
not much time to write, but I wish you would write  
me once more. This Summer has been a very busy one  
to me. We have had a great deal of company and a  
hired girl, and you know there is a great deal to do  
where there is so large a family. Our daughters have all  
been at home most of the time, but they are now  
beginning to leave us. My dear Lucy has gone back  
to Mr. Vernon to teach in a Seminary. I need not tell  
you that it is trying to have her go so far away  
but I know it is better for her to go where she has  
friends who love her very much than; to go among  
strangers. The climate suits her in Ohio better than  
any place where she has lived, and she had a very  
good offer \$200. and board, ~~and~~ and room furnished  
but she is so dear to my heart that it is hard to see  
her away. Mary P. expects to <sup>go</sup> in about a week to  
about 15 miles from here. We shall have but 3 girls  
and one boy at home. not a small family it is true.

I presume you hear from our brothers and sisters  
as often as I do. I do not expect any of them here  
this fall. John Duncan came here with his wife  
nearly six weeks ago; he left her here in the care  
of my Husband as her health has been poor for  
some time I don't know how long she will stay.  
Mrs Reynolds came here 3 weeks ago with Mrs Porter  
(my friend Harriet) she was on her way to Union Falls  
her sisters from N. Hampshire were to join her at  
Burlington and go with her. I had not seen her ~~for~~  
since I went west she is now 70 years old and  
does not look or appear over 50. James and Mar-  
garet Duncan talk some of visiting us this fall.

Sister Patia made them a long visit this Summer

Our good Uncle Sherrill has passed to a better  
world he died at Chilton where he had lived about  
2 years with F. Timothy. He died rather suddenly  
from old age he was almost 90. Uncle Flipsey is  
very feeble in body but strong in mind and <sup>is</sup> good  
Emmat has been spending several weeks at home  
but expects to leave next Monday she is going to Oxford  
Ohio to teach in a Sem. So our children wander from us

John G. and his wife visited her friends in choir  
this Summer and spent several weeks she returned 2  
weeks ago bringing an invalid sister of hers who  
has a disease of the the heart she has had quite  
yick some of the time since she came but is now better  
but will not probably ever be well she is a worthy  
young lady has been teaching 2 or 3 years near Philadelphia

James Wyatt is still in Castleton I meet him  
sometimes I believe he is quite a favorite with  
some of the young ladies he is one of the choir:  
he told me early in the summer he had purchased  
him a little in Elgin Illinois but I have heard  
recently he was about buying a farm in the town I  
think Sarah Mason Rice caught him but I know nothing  
about it. Denison Dana and his wife and child  
visited here a few weeks ago: before they left Willy  
came and staid a few day He has lived with D.  
for about six years He is the youngest of the family  
is a fine little fellow - small in stature but with  
a larger mind than D. He was one of the concert  
last winter also Lizzie D.'s wife. Mary Francis you know  
has not lived with her husband for many years she  
has now gone west to reside with friends