

certainly meet me at the depot. - Dear me!  
I don't expect to go at all, so what is the use  
of asking so many questions.

Betty has just been here for ice for Howard's  
head; she makes large stores, so I don't  
know what to think about it, but fear that  
he is very sick. I will not close without  
letting you know his condition in the morning.

We none of us feel very cheerful, there is  
much to depress us; yet if we could but  
stop to think, there is much to be thankful  
for. - I would not like to leave just now  
on account of Howard's illness, even if I had  
the opportunity. - Father seems sad whenever  
we speak of going at any rate, and just  
now it would add to their trouble.

Oh! how I wish you could be at home  
quietly attending to business; I need you  
to-night dearest, and can hardly make up  
my mind that I must do without you.

Perhaps tomorrow's sunshine will chase  
away my sadness, I will hope so. Good night  
dearest & always of all. - Mary has just  
come; she says the Doctor was able to relieve  
Howard very much; he thinks the great heat  
of which the complaint is caused more by  
nervousness than fever, and wishes them to

do continue the use of ice. I feel better already for that use of the ice.  
I will also for Mary's  
complaint.  
Good night dearest  
more my dear  
this time.  
Augusta

Dayton O. Thursday July 25  
1861

Dear Luther,

We returned from taking  
Mrs. Brady and ourselves a drive, a short  
time since; the children are in bed, and  
I think, asleep. - I am afraid my  
last letter will trouble you somewhat.  
I desired you to allow us to live in the  
Casemates; and in the evening of the  
same day I sent that request. Your  
letter of Sunday came to hand. In that  
you speak of the probability of keeping  
house. I hope you will do just what  
you consider best. I know I should  
not like to board with the children.  
perhaps your plan is best.

Still my dear, I think any movement  
unwise at present, when so much un-  
certainty exists about your position.

I was trying hard to keep my movements  
secret, but Mart got the news from Bill  
and came round full of it; I don't



believe she will be able to keep it long.

I have not spoken to Ernestine yet. She will want to know how long she would have to stay, and we ought to make some agreement with her. Of course we would not be willing to pay her expenses back if she ~~does~~ not stay some time, but something might occur to prolong our absence much ~~longer~~ than we now think for, in which case I think it would be unjust to keep her if she wants to return and also unjust to make her bear her <sup>own</sup> expenses. Tell me what I must <sup>tell</sup> ~~offer~~ <sup>about this</sup> her.

Would it be too expensive to hire out the washing, and perhaps the ironing, and have her do all the house work and help me with the children? Is there a church for her? Must I bring table linen, knives and forks and spoons, &c. &c. — Bed clothes, towels and all the things of which you spoke? Tell me every thing.

Belle Banks writes home that she had had a very pleasant call from you, and that you were looking exceedingly well.

Have you found out any thing about

the Cooper Institute? and do you suppose that Mary could attend it conveniently, and without much expense (I refer particularly to the expense of getting to and from the city), in case we could stow her away in that little house? If you can find out any thing about the Institute, and terms of admission, do so; only do not inconvenience yourself to do it. Mother said nothing about it, it is my own concern. — Howard seemed better this morning, but has fever again tonight he suffers with this head. I don't know what ails him. — Aunt Lib is very crazy at times and the Doctor says will be so as long as she lives. Aunt Mary thinks she is weaker, but Aunt Ann says the contrary.

Eliza feels better. Robert is off at Cincinnati. Mrs. Brady thinks he will go to Washington soon. How would it do for us to take him for company as far as he goes, and have you meet us at New York?

You spoke of my keeping my checks, unless the Express man would send the baggage to the Port, I cannot understand what I would do with it if an Express man does not take charge of it, unless indeed, you will en-