

Canton Mo Jan 1st 1866

Dear Nephew

I received your letter in Agst; & intended replying in good time, but about the time I was thinking of writing I was taken sick; just in my busiest time too when I was crowded with work, but when disease comes & lays it its heavy hand on us we have to fall. I was taken with fever, & had two relapses; consequently it was about two months before I began to mend. After getting better, I was compelled to go to work & have been so very busy that it seemed impossible to write, although we have been so anxious to hear from you to know how you are getting along; & whether you can hold out to work; whether your wound gets any better, or not. Do you board at cousin Will's? & did he board you free before you got to work?

Let us know for you know we feel inter-
est for you although it is not in our
power to ~~hear from~~ to help you.

During the time I was sick Mother was
sick in bed with a dreadful cold most of
the time; she was very weak indeed for
a long time; but is now getting some
strength slowly. Mary's Sparrows too were
worse & more frequent during that time.
It seemed that trouble kept me from
recovering sooner. I am now rejoiced to
find myself nearly as strong as ever.
While some have sickened & died while I
was sick. Dr Tompkins' wife died. what
I lay sick. sorry for the Dr, he takes it hard.
Amanda came to see me too. she always
asks about you she is doing very well. Harrie
grows fine & is a Weller in his ways. smart
boy too. Whenever you hear from Otway you
must let us know. I think she might write
to us if living; or his folks might write.
I hope you will be able to make something
so that you can come to see us, for we

want to see you so much. Mother
says you must come as soon as you can.
She looked worse than I ever saw her, but
is now picking up some. I often wonder
what I would do without mother. It is
my earnest desire to live to take care of
my children & to see them become good
Christians. I do hope if we are ever blessed
with the privilege of seeing you & Otway, that
we may meet in our Father's house above
where sickness & sorrow never comes.

Things are about as usual. Young folks
still dance, had a ball, & some are giving
parties. I do not know why ^{that} religious
matters are no better. I long to see a great
revival. I must wind up as I have no news.
Write pretty soon give my love to all the
kin. I wish you would go to see cousin Betty
& Camilla. & tell me all about them.
Dear David, come to see us soon as you can
& write often as convenient. Accept my
sincere love, while I remain your affectionate
sister Lizzie M. Luper.