

Selins Grove. Jan^y 9th 1852.

My Very Dear Child,

I intended writing you again after reaching this place (having written you from Phil^a. a few days before leaving there) but have been prevented owing to something similar to a felon on the fore finger of my right hand - it has now been 4 weeks that I have been unable to write, sew, or do any kind of work, until within a day or two. I am thankful indeed that I can now scribble a little and make out to mend the clothing, which has been laid aside so long. I really seem to have been a very useless person, doing nothing for myself or others - an incumber of the ground an idle labourer in the Lord's vineyard. Oh! what a cold dead, stupid place this appears to be. There is no life, no vital godliness - people go to church it is true, and they surround the altar and partake of the emblems of a crucified Saviour's love, but there seems to be no spiritual warmth of heart - there are three churches here - a Lutheran - a German Reformed & a Methodist - the Lutheran & Methodist have been trying for a week or 10 days past to get up a revival - the former being unsuccessful, has I understand closed - the latter is continued as they have some mourners who by their cries, shouting and clapping of hands &c. of course have got religion or are in a fair way for it - Addie told me last night, she heard their carryings on were most scandalous. However, Cornelia will tell you all about it I suppose, as she attends every night, contrary to my wishes as you may well imagine. but I can do little with her as regards advice, ~~or~~ ~~any~~ ~~more~~. We have had a good deal of snow this winter, and plenty of sleighing - I went day before yesterday with the Dr. a short distance. Emma, Cornelia & Addie have been several times - the latter is just getting

ready to go - the snow is very deep and tis now snowing hard again with
appearance of its continuing - I have not heard from any of Dr. Wylie's family
since I left Phil. but I presume Theodore is married and brought his wife home
I wrote your brother Theophilus and enclosed the Deed from me to Mr. Formica
about 28th Nov. last - and as I have heard nothing about it, am fearful it did
not reach him - Will you enquire and let me know about it, as I am
quite uneasy, lest some one else has got it - I rec^d. a letter from your sister Caroline
last week - the children all had colds - Harry had been so much indisposed as to keep from
going to school for two days - they all regretted my leaving them and wish me back -
indeed I feel sorry myself, for I would rather be there, ^{as it not for being separated from the girls -} I miss many things, but
most of all, the privilege of hearing my favorite preachers - I had my daguerotype
taken by one of the best hands, and left it with Caroline for you, so that you can
get it, whenever an opportunity offers - tis thought to be an excellent likeness -
I gave one to Cornelia (a Christmas present) it was my 2^d. sitting - though a good
likeness yet not as true as yours - they are seldom as exact the second time -
Adelaide and family are well - her children grow fast and are rather pretty -
Julia Egbert sent me one of her compositions the other day - her father required
one from her in Latin and her mother one in English - Her father has had
the house heated by Furnace in the cellar & has the Gas introduced into the
house likewise - so Julia selected Hot Furnaces for her English specimens
and Gas for the Latin one - the former she sent me - it is an original
and would cause you to laugh - she is a nice child - so is Virginia -
Harry will make a smart man I think - I had a letter from Mr. Dyott
last week - Mr. Crosby had recovered so far as to have been out shopping
once - the rest all well - I also had a letter this morning from cousin
Harriet Foulke - she has been suffering from a felon on her left hand,
had it laid open on New year, when she was relieved from pain, &
it is now healing - they desire much love to you and all - Emma
& Cornelia are kept employed at school - the former in the morning

the latter in the afternoon - Emma says give my love to all and tell Lizzie
the first spare time I get I mean to sit down and write her a long letter -
that I don't want to write until I have time to write all I want to tell her -
Say to Rebecca that I think she is indebted to me one letter at least & I
wish she would exercise her pen a little oftener - Remember me affection-
ately to all - though the children I suppose have little or no recollection of
either of their Grandmothers - the only and best way is to talk to them about us,
& then they will think they do, whether they remember us or not - If an opportunity
should offer in April or May, and none of you come on, you must not be
surprised to see me in Bloomington - I think seriously of it at times, but
the expence is a great drawback to my inclinations - I am called to
supper and must close - God, our Heavenly Father, bless you and all
with you my dear Lizzie, and grant us all a happy meeting again
on earth - so prays your affectionate Mother

Susan P. Dennis.

10th. I was disappointed in getting this carried to the Post Office last evening -
The Dr, Emma and little Annie have just started in the sleigh for McKees Falls,
distant about 12 miles - At 10th o'clk. Cornelia leaves with a party for about
15 miles from here, I expect they will have a merry time of it, unless it should happen
to rain it is very cloudy and the weather has moderated very much - it ceased snow-
ing about dark last night, but the sleighing is excellent - Did you receive the
collar I sent you? And how did you like it? I do long to get a letter from
David - how strange not to get one of the number he has written - but I am
not the only one who have not received any - Tell Maggie, Aunt Emma
will write her as soon as she gets time, in the mean while will often think
of her and always with love - Cornelia sends much love to you and all, and
Miss E. P. Dennis, says she rec^d. your letter & Rebecca's yesterday -
Bloomington.
Indiana