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12-1847

## Letter from Elizabeth Ott to Alton Easton, December 1847 through January 1848

Elizabeth Ott

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Letter 13.<sup>th</sup>

Linden Wood – St. Charles Mo.

Alton . B . Easton.

Again, and for the last time this year I address thee, my dear Friend. What a blessed privilege is that of dispatching these light messengers to my Love, all unworthy as they are of his perusal, Yes, I have learned that his indulgence is of no common order, and can lay my head in his bosom, & let him read unreservedly a heart, all his own. — God bless thee, ever. —

My 12<sup>th</sup> I closed the 4<sup>th</sup> Inst. & mailed as I went in to spend the day & night at Mrs. Easton's. I found all very cheerful, & very kind to me indeed. I felt it was as much for thy sake, as my own, & more, How can I requite you & them for these pleasant hours.— Mrs. E gave me a neat [?] present today – Henry Clay spent the evening with us & Aunt Love acted well her part in all things. —

Dec 5<sup>th</sup> Sabbath. The world seemed out of sorts today. very few at church & S.S. & the sermon inferior, & unsatisfactory, even Major S. demurred at it – The afternoon & evening I spent in my dear room, where the world cometh not; I am not alone. –

6<sup>th</sup> Teaching as usual & experimenting as usual, this time in knitting sewing silk –

7<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Sibley returned today from the funeral of Mrs. Mary Turnstall, [see note below] whose death I gave you in my last – She was buried in the new Episcopal ground a few miles from St Louis beside her Mother Sister & Infant which died at the age of 10 days last July – She has been an invalid since that & lame, & it terminated on the brain.— Major S. was unwilling his wife should go, but after he learned Mary's death, he softened, & their meeting was most affectionate, I never saw them so amiable as this evening. & what is so beautiful as love in married life.— Mrs. Sibley brought word that Mr. Gamble had rec'd a letter from you, through whom, he knew not, & its chief intelligence she said was your rejection of the Offer of Gov [?] & destination. which all approved.

[Note regarding Mary Turnstall: all last names, except those confirmed by an outside source (such as "Sibley"), have a degree of uncertainty. This name appears quite clearly to read "Turnstall", although other letters reference a "Laura Turnstall" whose name could sometimes be conceivably interpreted as "Turnstalt" or "Turnstolt." I have rendered the word as "Turnstall," assuming that this Laura is related to the deceased Mary Turnstall; however, it is possible that this is not true and that they are two different families with different last names.]

8<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Sibley spent the day in Town & brought out the news of Miss Mary Baker's recall of Mr. Alderson, & their certain marriage. Success to them. I was more interested in an article Major S. read to us on Ireland as missionary ground. It is computed that ½ the population are yet in a starving state, & the Catholic portion almost exclusively, & this ~~fact~~ calamity is doing what perhaps what [sic] nothing less could do, that is overthrowing Papacy in her strongest hold, They find the Protestants taxed less, more inductions & provident, & during the famine The selfishness of the Priest, has been unbounded & very inhuman, while Protestant ministers & Elders have been "Angels of mercy" to all around them, The Priest has lost his power, the Bible is sought after, & read. "Gods ways, are not our ways."—— The movements of the new "Pope" are becoming very interesting, & prove that his liberality was only policy

– He has in fact annulled an act of the British Parliament, & roused the Lion in current [?] discussions are frequent & a [?] something is about to be enacted, to meet his aggressions.—

Africa is coming into notice also through the Lectures of a Rev. J. Leighton Willson a school mate of Major Sibleys – & “Liberia”. has declared herself a “People,” Made their Gov. Mr. Robert President, & the U.S. their model – God speed their efforts: —

Dec 9<sup>th</sup> A quiet rainy day. a busy cheerful day, & therefore not lost —

10<sup>th</sup> After school today Mrs. Sibley invited me to sit in her room, a rare circumstance, & a pleasant one to me – We live too reserved. & it is as much my fault as hers, & yet I think I try to be kind & social & obliging in all things The Mail brought a letter from Mr. Bartlett urging Mrs. Sibley to come & visit them. They are housekeeping & “Dora” [?] full of care, & seeing much company, his family Mrs. Simpson is there now. He is studying in his profession, & will visit Europe ere he returns. – & a letter from Mrs. Thompson, a most wifely production for she had been separated from her ‘dear Dr.’ three whole weeks – Mr. & Mrs. Smith & Mrs. Sam’l [?] Watson came to spend the evening, the latter the night – I enjoyed the conversation. Mr. & Mrs. Smith are very affectionate to me, indeed. —

[Regarding the previous entry: a) Mr. Bartlett’s name contains four tall letters, but as all are crossed it is impossible to tell which are “t”s and which are “l”s. In Eliza’s handwriting, it is also difficult to distinguish “a” from “o” and “r” from “n” without the aid of context. Therefore, it is possible that parts of this name may be incorrectly rendered. b) “Dora” is vague but is conjectured from references to the Bartletts which occur in later letters. C] Mrs. Watson’s first name is very unclear, but other references indicate that her husband’s name is Samuel.]

11<sup>th</sup>. Rode to Town with Mrs. Watson, & spent a few hours at Mrs. Eastons, which I employed in hemming some muslin collars for herself. She says “she saves her nice jobs for me,” She treats me with a Mothers freedom, & kindness & her first words are invariably “have you any news” meaning from you, She watches as anxiously as I do – Whose love, & tenderness exceeds a Mothers I will not except a wife. it is less selfish in many things.—

Dec 12<sup>th</sup> Sabbath. A warm, muddy day – Class in S.S. interesting & sermon good. & I enjoyed much. You hear no sermons, but God is not the less with you, & I am content, to abide his way & will. – I met Mary Lee for the first since her return, & glad was she to see St Charles again & why! Can you believe that your friend “Alec’ Chauvin, has a hold upon her heart It is even so, & her mother favors it against Major & Mrs. S. Alas; Alec is a Catholic, whether he is as deeply interested I know not. But she is fast – Mrs. Lee was very social, had late letters from Major. Lee, & related some anecdotes, such as his being quartered in a convent & wearing a gold cross suspended from his neck – & an Officer walking the street with a Signoretta [?] at the moment of the Earthquake & kneeling with her, The papers [poperys?] are severe, & justly too upon some of our Officers for their falling into the Catholic customs to gain popularity. – Your natural stability is precious to me, when I hear of the weakness of so many others.

Spent the most of the evening writing to brother Hylor. I feel much for him his want of proper society makes his condition perilous — I feel very inadequate to meet his wants, but will do what I can with my pen to restrain him.

13<sup>th</sup> Our boarder left “It was too lonesome”. & she returns when she has a companion to study with – I have been knitting for Washington, what of that? you say – nothing only that I endeavor to be useful even in little things, “Fishing for purls”. [?]

14<sup>th</sup> Today I have made a pair of over shoes for Mrs. Sibley to her entire satisfaction. My skill gratifies her, though my independence troubles her, – She learned in Town yesterday of Capt. Kerpenys [?] arrival & that you were to winter at “El. Passo,” [sic] & all well. See Proverbs 25<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

15<sup>th</sup> Teaching & work [?] as usual & Jemima in music, writing Mother.

16<sup>th</sup> After lessons I joined Mrs. S. & Jemima in papering Major Sibleys office & we finished it. & well does it look – & the Major is highly gratified. –

We had a delightful evening, made so by the Major reading to us chiefly an address of the Rev Mr. Leighton of Palmyra. On the Bible. & its array of heart cheering facts was brilliant indeed. He showed clearly that the superiority of England, Scotland, & U.S. over all other nations was owing to the general reading of, & acting upon the principles taught in that Book, of Books – Would that you could have enjoyed our feast – O Dearest let us not slight the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Creator, God help our unbelief & open our minds, & heart to his truth. that we may embrace the way of salvation — Much is said in the papers of the Rev Mr. McCarty the only Chaplain in the City of Mexico. & there is much feeling there on the subject of Religion, a strange place, & the very place. —

[The word in the previous paragraph that has been left blank is actually quite clear and appears to read “chant” “chart” or “chord.” Since none of these really makes sense in the context of the sentence, the space has been left blank. Note that in the original text this word is underlined once. This has been represented in the transcription by underlining the empty line that has been left for the missing word.]

Dec 17<sup>th</sup> My Mothers birthday 48 years are completed of her life of care & sorrow. – Finished, I presented to Mrs. Easton a purse I have been knitting for her, for which I rec’d a kiss, & a smile, rare pay, and the best to me. The mail brought a letter from Mother & Laura enclosing a book mark of Laura’s own work The representation was a Cross, an anchor leaning against it, & the Bible lying at the foot done on perforated paper with colored silks & the words “For Sister,”. It is very pretty, even elegant, How much I desire to see my little womanly sister, Her large black eyes, so expressive & often suffused, are now before me & hair whose dark rich abundant curls fall upon a neck fair as a lily –She is our fairy. God bless her.

Today I read your praises again, “& was glad.”

18<sup>th</sup> Spent this day making a “sack coat,” for Balt. – & the day was enlivened by the presence of Mrs. Easton & Mrs. Peck – They walked out to L. W. & back. The day was very fine indeed. – Mrs. E expected me to go home with her, but I must finish the work & she said “Well you know your duty, better than I, so come in early in the week” —

[In the previous paragraph, “Bolt” may also be the correct reading, but “Balt.” appears to be an abbreviation for “Baltimore,” who is referenced later in the letter as leaving and having his wedding postponed. “Sack” may also be “sock” but “sack” seems more likely in context.]

19<sup>th</sup> Sabbath – Not well, so only attended the Hill church & did not enjoy that much, Mrs. Smith came home with us & went to German School in my stead – I was excited about you all day, I could think of nothing else. Why was it so? —

20<sup>th</sup> Stuffed & covered Major Sibleys Office chair, & cushioned yours to match it – & his gratification was large pay. — His Office is quite a parlor – Nice carpet & chair, new bookshelves & curtains, chairs quite fancy – & your room is the work room – The ‘good man’ loves good things, & attentions very much. —

Today the Overalls [?] & Griffiths called & Mr. Alderson to arrange the Christmas party which Mrs. S gives & he is to honor with his bride – He is in fine humor they say – I did not go down to see him. – Dec 21.<sup>st</sup> Mr. & Mrs. Smith spent the day here, & I had the benefit of their company, being obliged to work with Mrs. Sibley. so I had the full benefit of “clique” gossip, & know exactly who fail in “Points of doctrine,” & “doily works,” Miss Easman out does herself in whimsics, & being at Mrs. Blair all is public, Alas! poor “female,” nature! The scene was changed by the arrival of Dr. Thompson & family to put up at L. W. until they settle. I took especial pains to welcome them, as a compensation for their “like kindness,” & like to have been paid unpleasantly for my naughtiness, I barely escaped a kiss from the Dr. at which Henry Clay who had called laughed out –

[While Elizabeth often makes short amendments and changes to a sentence by adding the new text in small letters above or below its insertion place and indicating where it should be placed, this next paragraph is unusually complicated and almost appears to tell two different versions of the same story. Therefore, to reduce bracketed explanations for this paragraph only, the parts that were added in small type have been put in superscript immediately following the phrase where they appear to belong in the letter.]

22<sup>d</sup> A dreary lonely day, which I spent by myself sewing & writing – gave one [our?] good Jemima a music lesson. & then sat with Major S. until the “Balance”, returned from prayermeeting [sic] – & when they did come, such a volly [sic] of gossip as the Dr. gave up, would have answered for a year Mr. A. was the subject. His inhumanity to his deceased wife & his negros, – Last week he lost a negro, & it is said he beat him <sup>the truth is he was sick</sup> in the cornfield. & (had him) <sup>was</sup> headed home, & the poor old man died <sup>the next day</sup> (that night), & was buried <sup>while ill: A was off courting</sup> (most indecently) ———— this is a trifle to some accusations, & my own observation tells me there is truth in them, but when he tried my stability he made large promises – which is another proof that there was need of reform

23<sup>d</sup>. Sewing in my room all the morning. Then rode to Town & supped with Mrs. Easton. & you once did. How I used to watch for you, those days” But I was sad today. I was off again very soon. solitude is my solace. Today is Mr. A’s wedding day, & so little respect is there for him that one of his groomsmen did not go, & Henry Clay getting his “bid” late, refused also – I am astonished at the excitement about him. –

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But forget gossip in the glorious fact that the “Telegraph” is really in St Louis & in full operation & congress news is printed, there [then?] the same day it transpires in Washington. It seems incredible. Here we sit in the Western frontier, even in St. Charles, reading of things which transpire on the Sea road [? This word is very uncertain] less than 24 hours previous, Blessed are our eyes, & ears in this age. – They are contemplating its extension to Boonsville, & even to ~~the~~ Fort Leavenworth – Yes even to the Pacific. –

Dec 24.<sup>th</sup> A day of preparation for the party. My share was the arrangement of the parlor. & lamps. [?]. Making a fancy cap for Mrs. Thompson & I shall wear one myself – Do not laugh “It is all the fashion,” & mine is a “Beauty.” – I lined a cap for Washington also – When evening came I took refuge in my own room. & prepared my tokens for the morrow. & then gave memory the hour & the “past was as the present,” “I lived oe’r [sic] again,” last Christmas eve === [these equals signs represent a solid double dash] The girls had company, The beaux from Town, you joined us, & after all left you asked me to wait, that you could learn what I knew of the Authorship of the “Belle of Linden Wood,” ere that was settled

the light went out, & the subdued light of the moon filled the room, Then came one of those hours, whose deep "Stillness, Leaves room for the full soul to open all itself without the power of calling wholly [sic] back its self-control." Such was that sweet hour to thee, & me, You wonder why that hour was to me, fraught with so much happiness! I cannot tell thee here, I only thank & bless thee! How swiftly its moments sped, & you cheated me of an hour, by the clock striking wrong – would that I had that now. Little did I then dream of our present separation, But it is not in heart, Space has no power over the soul, & this is bliss, compared to coldness between us

25<sup>th</sup> Christmas. Aunt Rachel, was my first visitor, & her I caught, & then made her my bearer to the rest. Until 12. o'clock all was bustle, then dressing to receive the guests, I could not enjoy the pleasure of thy approval, but endeavored so to dress, & comport myself, that the curious ones should admit I was not all unworthy of an "honorable man's," attentions — 35 set down to dinner. Henry Clay gave me his arm, his lady was detained by her sick Mother's bedside. Was he not kind, & thoughtful of my feelings. Mr. & Mrs. Alderson graced the intertainment [sic] by their presence, I thought of last Christmas who was then his companion, & who was mine, & had I one now, & though I was hither & thither, my heart was steadfast. Misses Easman & Brooks acted well their parts, to their own satisfaction & our amusement. The Bride was sad, & had lost all her haughtiness to me, & even seemed grateful for a kind word. & the Bridegroom indulging in a low triumph. "I wonder if the people think now I cannot get Mary Baker," said he to me – I replied you have a prize indeed, & permit me to add, cherish her, remember her gentle bringing up & that concession must not be all on one side, "O said he "I have conceded to her, & am yet," & then with a low sneer added, "I can't say how long it will last," I will weed out the weeds only," Be careful said I that you do not "pluck out the wheat also," & mar your own happiness — Mary has made her throw trusting to his generosity & manliness & where is it! poor Mary, I greatly fear you will find it an empty sounds, He feels that he has the "balance of power," & will use it. But death may cheat him again. & remove his gentle Mary, where he may not disturb her, with his selfishness, – Mr. J. Redman was a guest & I had a pleasant chat with him during which he modestly alluded to your course. & added "I am proud to claim him as of St. Charles & proud to have had the honor of his acquaintance," He wants a wife, & when's the lady? He is doing a fine business — Mr. Garriott's conversations were most interesting to me, He seems to stand alone in this community – "Adie Cayce" [Coyce?] was the subject chiefly – I gave him a letter to read I had rec'd from her this morning - Adie is not well, She has too much care for her age & mind, & I have written her to come up & visit us with the advice of Mr. & Mrs. Sibley – She clings to me as closely as ever.- Henry Clay & Mr. Garriott are now associated in business but how I know not. The latter is much pleased with Henry. & gave him a rare compliment, that "Henry C, never talked unnecessarily" Mr. Atchisson the Miller, has broken himself with his obstinacy in buying wheat, & Mr. Garriott has hired the "Big Mill." & taken the Miller, Mr. Lisher, as partner to run it – & as the wheat growers mostly owe him, he will turn his debts into flour, & money – "The hand of the diligent shall bear rule" You will wonder perhaps why I mention, nothing of the ladies, the truth is not one could converse, Mary Lee spent the day at Mrs. Chauvins, & was sent for twice & refused to come here. – 8 o clock PM saw all depart. I sought my room weary & happy that I had a room, & bed, so quiet & comfortable, that I had a friend to love, worthy of the highest earthly love – & that I was able to recognize God's hand in all, & to his care commit all

Dec 26<sup>th</sup> . Sabbath – Feel yesterday's excitement. A clear cold [cloudy?] day – S.S. interesting & sermon, appropriate to the occasion the [sic] last Sabbath of the year, & very solemn. – Accompanied Mrs. Sibley

to the German School where we found a good work before us. – The evening I spent alone. Yet not alone.! — [The word rendered as “cold” actually appears to read “clold.” I suspect that this may be a simple error on the part of Elizabeth; perhaps she started to write the word “cloud” or “clear” and did not realize her mistake.]

27<sup>th</sup> Woke very early this morning full of sad forboding [sic] & wept myself asleep again, & felt the effect of that weakness all day – After school rode to Town & found a letter from you, to Mrs. Sibley, I was in raptures. but they were shortlived – After Tea she followed me out, & told me it contained nothing new. & that she would read me a part of it in the morning, that I was not mentioned, in any way. & a portion related to Miss R. (that was [?]) — I gave a music lesson, & wrote a letter to occupy myself but all would not do. “Unbidden tears,” fell fast, but not long – “The hope that deceives not,” dried them. & peace was again mine! –

28<sup>th</sup> I awoke calm & reasonable, but was nearly overthrown when Mrs. Sibley after prayer offered me the public part of your letter to read, I could not command myself & put it from me, but she knew me better, & set down beside me & read the description of the funeral, your kind messages to Major S. Dora your Mother & family. & herself – & said you had evidently written it in answer to her first which she intended you should have re’cd at Ft Leavenworth – The effect upon my mind was beneficial, I felt that I understood & was not only satisfied, but grateful. & must sincerely beg pardon for being so slow of comprehension. Am I forgiven! O I hope so, thy esteem is to me, priceless, & thy love of untold value. Mrs. S told of writing late last night & I fancied from her manner it was writing you, I hope so, & hope it was in love. Your confidential troubled her much & she regards me, as the cause, & is unquestionably exercising great forbearance towards me, & I as earnestly desire to prove to her, that her forbearance is not lost. & that I desire her happiness as ardently as my own, or thine. The Dr. is full of curiosity but dares not allude to you in any way. Mrs. S. & Mrs. Thompson spent the day in Town, & when all gathered at tea They found me ready to join them happy as a bird, & were not a little puzzled, I do not question that my “case,” had been freely canvassed & this cheerfulness was all unlooked for. — The st [sic] Charles news today was Mr. John’s & lady’s return. & that Mr. Alderson’s lady [? either “sic” or “today”] had wept so much the first night at his house, that he had taken her the next day up to Mr. Pitman’s, [Putman’s? Patman’s?] The truth is he attended a “sale” here, & she visited home A good letter came from Brother Siberia, [This is one of the rare instances where “Siberia” actually looks more like “Liberia” which is another possible reading for the name. See note below.] telling of the amicable meeting of my parents, & adjustment of affairs. Father left the decision with Mother, & she decided that they remain as they were & live in different places. He was visiting her & the children at Uncle’s, as a friend. His mind is no better, full of schemes still, & one is to visit “The girls” in the West, in the Spring, Grandfather’s estate will employ him awhile – Brother S. says he knows nothing of that affair, I mean that property. & I am sure I do not wish to know, if they will only leave us in peace – The papers tell of the cholera having advances as far West as Paris France but is not virulent as yet – War in Switzerland rages between Catholics & Protestants & the adjoining power, are in danger of being involved. – Major S in his prayer this evening alluded to you, so kindly & feelingly that I was quite over come. — He is quite active now a days, & visits the men every day at their work – Baltimore leaves soon, & his wedding is put off to a time indefinite. Major S. fails I think. He seems to sick [sic] quiet & rest more than usual, & to withdraw himself more & more from the world. & to feel its emptiness deeper every day. – His manner

to me is uniformly affectionate & forbearing as ever. & I regard the hours spent in his society as special privileges. He is now my teacher:—

29<sup>th</sup> Wrote to Brother S. & the little ones, & finished a pair of socks for Balt. Then took a long walk at the back of the farm among the trees & in the fields – Such walks afford many pleasant thoughts “Henry Martyn” said “A straw, made him feel in good company” – Its exquisite workmanship & adaptation to its use, so infinitely superior to man’s efforts. ——

The ladies being in Town to Tea & prayermeeting I had the evening alone again with Mr. Sibley, & when I entered with my work he rose from the settee & took his reading, & read aloud some fine gossip, the Dr. is a walking news tiller —— –

Dec 30<sup>th</sup> After school, I longed to see Mrs. Easton, & I felt that it was mutual, from the many kind messages she had sent me, since Aunt Love has been in St Louis visiting, Miss Ann” has “Mounted guard” & I cannot see Mrs. E. when I do go, but I though [sic] I would try today but both were out, ~~but~~ I had a fine ride nevertheless Pony is a “darling” – & I now ride with ease & pleasure. & manage her like a kitten. —

Mrs. Sibley sent me \$30. today towards my salary – whereupon I wrote her a note asking if she had not impoverished herself & that living as I now do, I did not need so much & would be quite as well satisfied with it in her hands, she answered that she preferred to pay as she could, as all things were very uncertain, & when Mr. Richardson paid up she would give me the remainder – I replied in a note, that I would accept it & credit [sic] it as she desired, & hold it as much at her, service as my own & When we both felt like it we would talk over this matter face to face. Believe me Dearest, I will try, to do justly in this matter — —— ——

We spent the evening in the parlor & Mrs. Sibley gave us some old music Old tunes the Major Saved [Lived?] years gone by, & fine they were – At 9 o clock I took my post to serve, at a party of the Servants – so took supper. & I poured tea & coffee – & “Mima” passed it round – I was never in such a collection before, all were well dressed & even genteel and very quiet & respectful – O how funny & dark the “big airy [?] room,” looked in spite of white dresses & white kid gloves – it was a pleasant scene

Dec 31<sup>st</sup> spent this day preparing these sheets for your eye in my leisure [?] from teaching – Mrs. Smith has been here all day. I joined them at dinner, She was very attentive & conciliatory in her manner – At Tea we had quite a party The Dr. & Mrs. Smith had come. Mr. Alderson was still the subject. He & his lady had called this afternoon They came down Wednesday & Mrs. Pitman with them to keep Mary company Mary says she “could get along very well if it was not for the children” especially the youngest a child of 2½ – most too late to find that out, But if her husband is patient, & helpful she will succeed. very well no doubt – After Tea I retired to my pen, only stopping to give Mima a music lesson – That is her recreation I hope. & I feel equally anxious to help her in it. —— –

9, o'clock – & I am about laying down my pen, Too many memories in my mind to write at this closing of the year – A fit time to reckon with the past, & “ask, what record it bore to heaven”. Nothing in such an hour seems so precious as to know. “We have an High Priest, with the Father who was in things tempted as we are, & therefore can pity & sympathize, “Who remembers we are but dust,” “Who bore our sins on the tree”, that through Him, we might hope for mercy, & who is now pleading our case, at the throne of God’s Justice & He alone can prevail, & may he be our “Advocate”, our “hope” ‘our Righteousness”,  
1848. Jan. 1.<sup>st</sup> Happy New Year’s my Love, my Friend. O for one hour, one moment with you – It may not be now, & I will not be so selfish, as to wish you away from duty. No I will be cheerful, & regard you



as an actor on the stage of events, which is a wonder to the Earth, & whose results are known only to "Him who turns & overturns," to accomplish his own wise purposes, & nobly has thou borne thy part. & I glory in the praises that are thy just reward. God bless the [sic] Ever, my Alton!

When I went down this morning, I was greeted with Happy New Years by all: & Mrs. S. gave her hand, and asked a New Years kiss,- which I gave with interest. She asked why I ran away last evening was I sick? I ans'd No, only busy – At breakfast Miss Easman's doings were the subject - & the Dr. declared it was the "last time he would aid in bringing a teacher from "Yankee Land," no, he would never go beyond New York!" – Why said I, they, are troublesome too. "Talk too much," make mischief," (his own words) He saw he was caught, blushed, & shook his head in mock gravity & said "Yes they are bad enough, but I can tolerate them," I replied I am glad to hear it, for there is one, who deserves to stay a little while longer among you, – But a truce to that. I left after breakfast to close this, I want to go in to Mrs. Eastons, & spend the night but the wind blows roughly - Yet I am tempted to brave it, as it is not cold.

Almost 17 months have elapsed since we parted, & this opening brings the glad hope, that our meeting is not so far distant. The war is the great question in congress, & all are looking anxiously for an amicable adjustment of difficulties, ere the session closes – I find it difficult to sit idly. & submit cheerfully to events, though I feel, & know whose "\_\_\_\_\_ing hand" moves all – Pray for me Beloved, Think of me kindly Preserve your health with care & be happy. – Do not permit, my weak repinings to trouble you a moment. I thought of thy dear heart. – Thou art, & hast long been the "light of my eyes," & to thee I owe more happiness, that a long life of devotion to you could repay. - God bless you my dearest Friend, in all things, here & here after, Love me; & Believe me Ever,

Yours only — Eliza. O.

[A note has been added in the left and upper margins of this final page of the letter. It reads as follows:]

Written to your GrandFather Col. Alton Rufus Easton when he was stationed with his regiment in Chihuahua during War with Mexico, by Eliza Ott, your paternal GrandMother – who was then a teacher in "Lindenwood Seminary" St Charles Mo. Founded by Gen. + Mrs. Sibley who was Col. Easton's sister.

[Another note is written upside down at the bottom of Eliza's last page. As nearly as it can be read, it says:]

For family history sake  
Dad's Mother  
w Eliza Ott.

[Other notes on this document as a whole: a) I suspect that "Mima" is short for "Jemima." b) Eliza's brother's name must be either "Siberia" or "Liberia." Unfortunately, both seem very unlikely as given names, and the first letter sometimes looks more like an "L" and sometimes exactly like an "S." Because the nation of "Liberia" was of American origin, it seems to me more likely that he would be named Liberia; however, in the majority of instances, the first letter appears to be an unmistakable "S".]