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## Letter from Elizabeth Ott to Alton Easton, March 1848

Elizabeth Ott

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Letter 15.<sup>th</sup>

Linden Wood. St Charles Mo –

March – 1848 –

Col. A. R. Easton -

My dear, Friend. ——— Again I address you, and too, sure of a welcome, The wise ones would call me presumptuous [sic] but they “know you not,” as I do, & I excuse their “prophecies,” & with confidence “cast” my “mite, into” your “Treasury,” Those dear eyes, will they not kindle with pleasure, & kindness, as this is presented for their scanning, I think so, & the thought is a world, to me. —

I closed my 14<sup>th</sup> to you, the 5<sup>th</sup> Ult. and drove into Town to mail it, & see Aunt Love, I found her, the same good Aunt and well. Evening finds me in my room content, & on “good terms” with myself as far as housekeeping is concerned.

Feb 6<sup>th</sup> Sabbath – It was hard work to start to church without Mrs. Sibley, but necessity is a good teacher, & I have accomplished all my public duties, with tolerable ease.— After service many were inclined to question me, & comment on my situation but I quietly made my way out with my company. – At the German S. we had 40 pupils. The evening I spent with the family. Major S. being in a talking mood it passed pleasantly. —

7<sup>th</sup> Entered upon my duties with much interest, and found ample scope for all my skill & patience. — Anna Mc. Donald reentered again today, & Eliza J. Wheeler, Mrs. Redman’s granddaughter as a day scholar. so my care increases, but Major S. is cheerful and disposed to advise, which is a great help. Evening found me very weary but I set me down by the firelight & gave hope & fancy the hour & now I am penning this happy hearted – God keep thee.

8<sup>th</sup> Another busy cheerful day – House affairs, school, music lessons, & sewing all had their place. & all was finished by listening to Maj. S. reading Dr. Aubignia [?] Life of Cromwell — He presents him in a new light. The world is now in a degree prepared to appreciate him, You know his contemporaries denounced him as a hypocrite & he took no pains to clear himself, & in his noblest acts took no credit to himself – After a great battle, he refused to name any one as worthy of honor simply saying, “God fought for us.”— His fearlessness. Was an astonishment, But “What should he fear who stood his whole life at the throne of a Great Spirit,” God was his friend, & confidant, & in return for faith, he received aid & strength

Mr. Notson, Abbys husband, passed through yesterday on his way to New Orleans — Goodnight dearest, Goodnight. –

Feb 9<sup>th</sup> Occupied as usual, except writing 3 letters & a ride to Town I found Aunt Love alone, Mrs. E being with a sick friend. Had a heart talk with her, & returned comforted — Mrs. Smith & Tomphson called to get the buggy, but I did not leave my school, though I sent apples. & Major S – done the honors of the mansion, –

10<sup>th</sup> Took an early walk with the girls to the “Clearing” below the grave yard, then business, & all were busy & cheerful. In the evening Major S. talked. & I gleaned that there is a Treaty of Peace in Washington – that Mrs. Simpson is quite a Lion, in New York as an artist – & John Simpson’s great aim is to be the “Glass wherein the beaux of St Louis do dress [“address” is a possible though less likely rendering] themselves,” — Rises at 11. AM. breakfast “in his \_\_\_\_\_” [hobille?] dress is for morning calls; for dinner, for the evening & not unfrequently [sic] twice in the Evening – He is quite chagrined [sic] by

some ones remarking that he would make a "Good Tailor," – I cannot think him so lost to manhood yet - & will hope better things Aunt Love has been giving me the life & circumstances of Simons Simpson, It is most melancholy! – I do not wonder thinking men shrink from wedlock – She sets all his care, & hopeless trouble, as well as that of another related to you, to a bad wife – May God save thee, from a like misery – dear Alton –

Feb 11<sup>th</sup> Visited Mr. Smiths house this morning & returned fresh to duty and have accomplished a good days work – Music lessons was rather extra, but it makes the bed a pleasant sight - Good night, may equal comforts be yours ever—

12<sup>th</sup> This last day of the week, has been prolific of work without a name, [? The letters seem clear, but the sentence is odd] and now I feel on "good terms with myself," as a housekeeper — ~~Among~~ Beside other duties, I have found time to make myself a "Sack [sock?] cloak," peculiarly adapted to, driving Charley, and in beauty, a rival, to your deerskin I am become so expert, that I contemplate adding a "dressing gown, to a certain pair of slippers that are in a fair way of being worn, —I ought never to bet for I invariably lose, please remember that you must not tempt me again, under penalty of betting to win. ——— Wrote to Mrs. Sibley & after dinner had pony saddled to go in & close it at Mrs. Eastons. & just then I saw as I supposed Misses Easman Mary Lee & a gent at the front door, I could not lose my recreation, & away I went ere they had time to call me, I found Mrs. E & Aunt alone & set until the Powells entered & then took leave, returning I met the company & found it was M. Lee. "Bell Parks & Jas Gallaher, ——— This evening Major S, read to us extracts from the life of Mr. Tenant of New Jersey, a most extraordinary man, a christian indeed. who lived up to his profession.—

Recd a letter from Father, which shows him still no better. —

My watch warns me to desist – I have written this at long intervals, & now a dash of rain upon the window roused me, & suggests many sad thoughts a sure proof of a faithless heart.— "Help thou mine unbelief" should ever be my prayer – How seldom I can say "I have waited patiently the Lords time," – 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath, and a day of days. – Sabbath Schools interesting. Sermon very excellent, on 'Christian duties' – "And when evening was come", we gathered round Major S, & listened as for our lives - & he closed with a resolution that hereafter he would have morning & evening worship at a regular hour, & have the servants present also – A decision full of promise, for it will regulate all else & order will be a state of our family and not a chance — He commenced tonight & read the 2384 Psalms, & followed with a real prayer, How few Pray! How differently we ask of God, & our fellows, How weak our faith — I have missed the sabbath evening rest, & feel a loss, while at home both Saturday & Sabbath evenings were spent very quietly. Then we gathered round dear Mother, who was the friend, & confidant of her children – Death severed our bond, & most kindly; Our sensitive fragile baby brother could not have borne, the sorrows preparing for us God is merciful ever, Him let us trust, to Him commit all, From Him expect all, with childlike faith. — God bless thee.

Feb 14.<sup>th</sup> St Valentines day – Where is "my bird of love, my" noble "Mate "Is it well with him," Early I sped my Valentine to catch him sleeping The new order of things brought the Master, & Servants together in a new relation, & most interesting, evening found us again learners & suppliants at the Throne of Grace. & now I review the day with pleasure & could I have a look into those eyes, to me so dear, I should be too happy How much I have to say to thee, to ask of thee, This seeking [searching?] of the heart & lips is like a long vigil weary,— weary,— God grant us to meet in joy, & me patience to wait his own good time. —

15<sup>th</sup> A warm day Mercury at 62.° and a soft moonlight evening – A letter from brother Hylor which gives me hope that he is sobered again, & returning to his duty & proper feelings. He wrote very affectionately to his “Eliza Ma,” as he used to call me when a “wee thing” & set in my lap proud as a king.– made Rachel, a fine cape, today, The servants are becoming very dressy of late - even “Stilly John,” – pouted [?] at a new round about & wears the remnant of his “cappo” [?] over it to furnish tails, & the Sack [?] Major S cast off is his “dress coat—”—— Speed thee home or you will [evidently the word “be” or “fall” is intended to go here, but either it was cut off in the photocopy (which does not seem likely) or Eliza accidentally omitted it.] entirely behind the present order of things – A letter from Mrs. S. mailed at “Cincinatii, [sic] gladdened her husband & us all, & told of much pleasure so far, & many wonders seen already. —

[a]The words relating to John’s clothing seem pretty clear, but because I don’t fully understand what they mean I cannot check them against context. b) Eliza clearly misspelled “Cincinnati,” and there is definitely an additional letter after the final “i,” but the letter is intended to be is not clear.]

Feb 16<sup>th</sup> Not very well, but have performed all my duties & wrote two letters. & rode out after school, but now Goodnight dear Friend; I will hasten to rest, hoping much from “sleep, balmy sleep,” God keep thee! –

17<sup>th</sup> Free of pain, & cheerful again - I have attempted nothing severe - This evening I have thought much of you, All were very quiet reading & I with my knitting in my lap, I could not knit – I long so to “press thy hand”– I felt that I could tell you that I was content, & hopeful — A letter from brother S. [see note below] tells me “all’s well” with them, That I may not hear from you, makes even his letters a source of pain. Do not infer, my dear Alton, that I am harboring a complaining heart, far from it, – I recognize a higher hand – moving, and that hand as moving in the tenderest mercy for my real good “though for the present it is grievous,” & if I find my portion a cross, what must be thine! That is the arrow that rankles deepest, shrouds me in sadness. —

[a]“brother S” refers to a brother whose name is either Liberia or Siberia; the name looks different in different documents. “Liberia” seems more American but Siberia is more prevalent. If, by chance, the name should be Liberia, then the text should read “brother L.” b) the exclamation point after “thine” might be a question mark; both look very much alike as Eliza draws them.]

18<sup>th</sup> After our morning walk Washington presented himself with a rueful countenance, & informed me that “the apples were in a bad way.” & must be attended too, [sic] & he was too busy – so I marshalled [sic] Julia Ann & Rachel & put all in order ere I left – Major S, looked in upon us & seeing who was there left smiling – After I was in school awhile Aunt Love came, Had I been of the lachrymose order I should have cried for joy, but I was too tired to tell her how glad I was. – Now while I write she is in my bed asleep, and a pleasant thought is in my heart regarding her, & ourselves – I fancy you, will understand me, - but let time & circumstance decide that matter, – As it was evening for music lessons, I had five in parlor & Laura sang for us – She sings with much feeling & taste & among her songs I have a favorite called, “We parted in silence,”—— alluding to partings by death, —— very chaste, & beautiful, – Good night Dearest

19<sup>th</sup> Saturday night finds me even with my duties, which is a recompense for the fatigue it costs to see that “All things are done decently and in order,” —— Aunt Love remained until after dinner when I

took her in & while there purchased a Bible with large print to exchange with her for a small one which had been given her in St Louis – for a birthday present, which is the same as my own I gave her “Joy’s Morning Exercises” – which seemed to gratify her – She is much interested on the subject of religion, but keeps very silent I have perceived the change since September – God speed the good work.– Mrs. Easton was with Mrs. Emmon’s whose grand daughter was very ill, so I called there to see her, & on Mrs. Blair who is very low, & saw Henry at Mr. G’s, cheerful as a bird, & kind as a brother. — Yesterday & today we have had thunder Showers & very warm temp but now the wind is rising – God shield my beloved, in infinite Love.-

Feb 20<sup>th</sup> Sabbath and a pleasant one – Mr. Smith gave us a fine Sermon Text 1<sup>st</sup> Epistle John 2d. - 6<sup>th</sup> I enjoyed it much, for I needed to be corrected very much. I fail in recognizing Christ as “All, & in all.” – & his entire fitness to our wants & necessity.- Our German School gave us great labor 60, pupils & 4 Teachers - & I leading – It was a severe task through [sic. obviously the word “though” is intended] they were entirely docile & quiet. But to act [?] in such a public place is so very painful, it seems to force me out of myself – I leave a hard track & then I look forward to a release from such responsibility with joyful anticipation and many sweet visions of quiet retirement. Are they not worth the price – I have spent the evening resting on the settee, round which clusters many pleasant associations that I could not now well spare, when “relics” are so few, & the more valuable for being so, unquestionably  
21<sup>st</sup> Awoke early and dreaded to rise to the strife of the week, soon I shook off selfish indolence. and aright [might?] me [?] cheerful in the consciousness of having neglected no known duty.– Wrote a letter of condolence to my friend Miss A.N. Platt on the death of her excellent Mother, went in to Town to mail it & called a moment at Mrs. E’s. all well & kind as angels.— Red a letter from Harriet Clark, Iowa You remember her, She is the same good girl, has been teaching, & is happy in making others so, — [“Red” is not a misspelling, but an abbreviation for “received.”]

22<sup>d</sup> Washington’s Birthday – It was celebrated in St Charles by the Sons of Temperance With a little extra effort we gained time to attend the church Exercises Major S accompanied us. The Division was presented by a crimson velvet stand cushion by a daughter of a reformed drunkard, rescued by this society a Mr. Arnold – and a Bible by the Ladies of Mrs. Fieldings school - & Dr. Bevitt delivered an address setting forth the object & benefits of the Society – all very good — This day is remembered with gratitude, by every intelligent American, wherever his foot rests on the Earth – How few of these millions trace the secret of his exaltation, How few know, or appreciate that fact that he was eminently “A man of prayer,” He lived as it were in a constant reciprocation with his God, – before Him he daily laid all his wants, & weakness, & from him implored strength, & aid – and that he received, [sic] who can doubt.- Mark his great calmness. at all times He lived above Earth, and all its mutations. ——— My dearest Friend hast thou listened all this day to my hearts whisperings? Did but a breath of love reach thee? – The question is idle, - but there is One, who hears me for thee! who loves infinitely. & to whom all things are possible, To whom “nothing is Trivial” — Dear Alton, “Fear not to trust a Maker’s love, nor a Savior’s ransom, he drank for all, — for thee & me, — the poison of our deeds: we shall not die, but live. — and of his grace we Love!” [Here the appearance of the letters seems to change; I think that Eliza stopped writing and then resumed again.] You wonder how I dare address you thus – I am no less astonished, & all I can plead in answer is I love you. O I love you! & if I know my own heart, this love is not limited to your present, or earthly happiness, dear as that is to me – Forgive me dear Alton, if I have

troubled you, I believe that sincerity alone, could dare so much, with one of your standing & dignity -  
Please read the 91<sup>st</sup> Psalm.—

[The appearance of the words “Please read the 91<sup>st</sup> Psalm,” leads me to believe that they were added later.]

Feb 23<sup>d</sup> Quite cold — After our walk, I helped Jemima put a quilt in to the frame before school – work has not stopped yet — wrote to Brother S. & enclosed a pretty collar to Mother of my own making – Nobody went to prayer meeting but the Major and, I finished another pair of hose, to have leisure in future. a whimsical notion perchance, but it affords occupation & therefore beneficial now. — Major S. brought no Mail, but heard of a great storm that is detaining them — I cannot cheat myself, \_\_\_ [but? I hope?] that detain[detains?] promised letters from the “far west,”— of mine. —

Feb 24<sup>th</sup> Evening finds me at home alone the balance being at prayermeeting - The day has passed pleasantly, for all have been cheerful workers in their respective places. After school friends of the girls called, and enlivened an hour, & now I am writing in the “little dining room” – So warm, neat, & full of comforts, O that you could enjoy them but one hour this evening with me. – And partake of those fine apples – How blest I should be, & indeed am in possessing this little respite from care – that I may “Gather up the ravelled [sic] skeins of feeling” & “Rest awhile for duties” — \_\_\_ [Now? May?] I fill up the picture. In the large green cage is the “old canary” – fast asleep – “a poor widow & next my eye falls upon a profile of a gent & his dog, & next on H. Clays engraved portrait – The settee with its cushion & pillows looks very inviting and the reflection of the lamp I must turn or be blinded by the brilliant light — – beside my portfolio so well worn lies my knitting, & a favorite book. & the “weighty key basket” too is before me ever, I have on the “wood color & blue” you used to fancy, & my hair dressed precisely as when I became an inmate at L.W – “Cheeks so pale” – no longer, & a cheerful heart in my bosom “beating for thee alone” – After a few more months I hope to have these hours enlivened by thy presence. – To read with thee, listen to thee, learn of thee. O I dare not give fancy the reins! My heart trembles with anxious fears. faith in God alone, sustain me now.— He gave you the ability, & the object, & thus enabled me to acquire the most fearful of human knowledge – Who would unlearn that lesson? Is not the compensation, commensurate with the sacrifice? — Thus in all the arrangements of heaven do we find perfection — Goodnight. God bless thee, my best Beloved. now & evermore.

25<sup>th</sup> Evening found all gathered round the lamp – Major S. ill of cold. & could not read I wrote to Mrs. Sibley, & rejoiced that I had not difficulties or troubles to relate – Now after prayers. I am in my own room, Thinking of Mother & you – A letter from her tells me her situation is far from enviable, & the contrast to my own hopes, renders you more precious to me than I can tell, – God keep me from her sufferings. – I have been trying to read, but I cannot follow the author – Goodnight dear One.-

26<sup>th</sup> Saturday, and such a busy day – Among other work I have dyed two cravats for Major. S. He could not suppress surprise that they were done so quickly & so well. – “Why they are as good as new, I thought it would take two weeks to set the color at least, & they do not run off in the least” — I went to his office to consult him, on a house matter, & found him very ready to listen, & pleased, than otherwise with the my recognizing him as Head — I found him examining a drawer of Mrs. S. letters to find, one on business - he was in fine humor, for he had found some of his love letters written in 1815 – & many curious documents of the past – I sat down & admired his large Edition of Websters Dictionary. – A real prize.—

Mr. Smith called today, his lady is quite ill — Fanny Garvin spent the day with the girls, which increased my work & care, but after dinner I mounted pony & sped to Town, to close my letter to Mrs. S. at Mrs. Eastons I found all well, all kind & loving — While there Mrs. E. read me the notice of Langdons nuptials in the “Era” — with a pleasant meaning smile, on her face which said “you next” — She unlike Mrs. S. was willing he should wed, & only feared he had not chosen wisely — In our case she objects, but her objections are the promptings of the tenderest love — No thought of self mingles with them, & I love, & reverence, her for her integrity with us —

Another great Man is gone — John Quincy Adams - is no more — The world is impoverished — but though dead, he will speak to ages unborn through his works & writings — I am alone again — I love the prayermeeting very much, but home better now, dear quiet home, where order & kindness are the laws that govern all - & each member is happy, only as he contributes to the good of all — May our home be such an one, then however humble it cannot be miserable. —

Feb 27<sup>th</sup> Sabbath.— A cheerful day employed as usual — Mr. Smith either surpassed himself, or I was so joyful that all the world smiled.— Major S. had assured me that Peace with Mexico was certain - the Telegraph talks of a Treaty before the Senate, & by it 12.000 troops are to be stationed there, until order is established — I rejoice that your command are not Regulars — Is it selfish - is my haste for your return unmaidenly I — might fear so, had your going been act of your own choice — but as I understand you. I know the desire is prompted as much by love for you, as of myself — The day has been fine, & I enjoyed going to the German School very much — This evening Anna Mc.D — was sent for to attend the dying bed of a darling brother. only sick since morning — A warning to me, not to hope in the morrow, while life is so uncertain.—

Feb 28<sup>th</sup> A very warm day — I improved it by a ride after school. Heard Anna’s brother died an hour after her arrival, & is buried — how hurried. — Major S. has been to a meeting at Mr. S. Watsons, he returned very cheerful - I think his unusual activity, & attention to business makes him happier I have not see a burst of passion since Mrs. S. left, nor any fretting about anything — I stopped in to Mrs. E. & took two kisses, but could not stay a moment — I am sad today, wherefore I know not for all my affairs prosper — Is it ill with thee dear Alton? that I am so troubled. but thou suffering & none to comfort — God avert all evil, & be thy sure support.—

29<sup>th</sup> My first work this morning was to make lamplighters — It is the first thing Major S. has suggested to be done, & the first I ever saw here, though at home we thought them indispensable — At noon he commended my skill. After school, & music lessons Laura Turnstall [there is a remote possibility that this name could be “Turnstolt” or “Turnstalt.” It is guessed that Laura is related to Mary Turnstall, whose funeral is mentioned in Letter 13<sup>th</sup> (12.1847-1.1848)] & I took a long walk — I find her a pleasant, & companionable pupil — during our walk she says “I wish you & sister Maria were acquainted, you two would do so well together, she is so industrious, & likes housekeeping” — I was surprised for I confess I had formed quite a different opinion of her, which I am glad to relinquish so you see I am on good terms, with myself — Sad thought [sic] still trouble me I forget the true source of all good — Pray for me Dearest - pray for me -

March 1<sup>st</sup> Weather quite in character — no news of Mrs. S. the Maj. quite impatient, sends early for the mail every day — I have the privilege [sic] of an evening alone again. & shall spend it with thee in spirit —

2<sup>nd</sup> I was roused last eve from my self congratuations [sic] by the sudden return of Major S. & the girls. & felt not a little disappointed — selfish yet! Snow and cold this morning to our content.— I find Major

S's examination of his affairs, shows him some necessity for economy – He even talks of selling a portion of this farm – It is pitiful to see a man of his age involved in debt – just when they need repose – “As we sow” - &c” – He read to us this evening of the civil policy of the Jews, The only known Theocracy and its adaptation to their wants challenges the worlds wisdom

March 3<sup>d</sup> With my first waking long before sunrise, came the thought that 9 months, had now elapsed, since our parting & it has not left me since - How slowly they have passed I cannot tell thee! how profitably is yet to be seen. Retrospection shows anxieties to have been their dominant character — How precious the privilege, of entertaining those anxieties, of waiting & praying in hope, is to me I have not power to express — I value it as my chief earthly good. & hope the effect of this trial may be such, that we, shall ever regard it as a blessing – Today many ‘sweet memories,” have come unbidden to cheer me & I bless thee for them, with a brimming heart. — The coldest day yet – Mercury 6°, below zero — Major S. read to us tonight some good things –

Col Fremont's trial is finished, He is found guilty in full – but recommended to mercy – pardoned & ordered to join his Regt. Resigned in a huff – Gen Kearney stands fair as the sun, like refined gold - Major S – thinks Fremont & Benton both ruined - & the former a victim to the ambition of the latter – Bentons course in this trial was imbecile,–

4<sup>th</sup> Saturday – My general review, was light today, so much for order – You have heard of “New lamps for old ones,”- I have not such a prize, but a new dress out of one well worn, prettier than at first, being made up in better taste,— Mrs. E. & Aunt L – gave it large praise, Do not laugh Emigrants find such metamorphosis very comfortable & necessary — While in Town I called on Mrs. Blair, who is still entirely helpless, & the worst [sic or ?] kind of calomel sore mouth – – Mrs. King is also an invalid, since Dr. Powell's party last week where she danced, till one o'clock. & walked home in thin shoes in the snow – She looked very interesting & useless — I forgot she can gossip I plead guilty of listening to what I knew already – Viz – Mr. & Mrs. Alderson have separated – She left him, & too affirming that he was kind as a man could be, but declaring that she “despises the children”, & will not live in the Prairie”. & to cover all plays aberation [sic] of mind – Her Mother passed up on Tuesday - There is misery - She left him the 22<sup>d</sup> Ult – Mr. Johns is also a Lion. Dr. J has a mortgage on his farm & Mr. G. on his negros so he has his wife & children only to call his own — Who's the man now ———

A letter from Mrs. Sibley gave joy to all. She arrived in New York the 17<sup>th</sup> Ult. well & safe, found all well. & Mrs. B. living in a style she had not appreciated – I was so well acquainted with that class, that I could have told her that a cook, housemaid & nurse, would have been indispensable, & “put out all the sewing [?] of course,” She says Dora has “easy times,” but Mr. B is very laborious, never dines at home – I have seen so much of that style of living, that I have no desire to partake of ease, at the expense of my husband – Let me be a helpmeet – Then only can I feel that I deserve confidence & Love.– What sayest thou, & shall it be so – I know you cannot deny me, & like thy excellent Mother I bless thy unimpeachable integrity - & thank God, for it and thee.–

March. 5<sup>th</sup> Sabbath – A Missionary was with us today in behalf of the A.B F M. He had spent 8 years in Northern India, & told us many interesting facts of that miserable people – The afternoon we went to the G.S. & enjoyed the work – The evening I have alone “the Balance,” being to hear the 3<sup>d</sup> sermon of the Missionary - I re'd a reproving look for not contributing today – I had forgotten my purse, was one reason, but the cheif [sic] was that my means have ever been so limited. that long ago I selected my



objects, & this is not one – I am weary & must say goodbye to my pen, but not yet goodnight to my dear Friend – I have much to arrange regarding him ere sleep may visit me with forgetfulness.–

6<sup>th</sup> A bright morning and such an one as I love to commence the 6 days labor with. There is no better help than a fair start & that I have had in my housekeeping. & in a set of rules for the government of all in my Department & charge – I had experienced the need of some restrictions, & desired the Majors sanction, so drew up some & quietly submitted them to him with my reasons He approved, & this morning handed them to me copied, as if emanating [sic] from himself with some additional ones for the domestic & servants — and at my request he also promised to “pull me back”– if he found me going too far — Evening finds a quiet, cheerful & industrious family I am fatigued but content & grateful, for my abilities & privileges Good bye dear Friend — —

March 7<sup>th</sup> An early walk gave us a relish for school – Mr. Smith spent the morning with Major S. dined with us & he & the Major proceeded to Mrs. Durfer’s to a meeting His lady is still quite unwell, & he also – I had a long conversation with him at noon, on the state of India civil, moral & religious, — Woman should never forget her obligations to the gospel of Christ; only where it is respected & obeyed does she receive [sic] even common kindness, much less be permitted as I am this moment, not only to companionship, but am shielded, & respected as “the glory of man”— We should indeed be found “Last at the Cross & first at the Sepulchre.” — & wear our high honors, with the humility. of our Blessed Master.

While at tea, Mr. Smith said he must tell me the latest news - Mr. Garriott has sold out his store to Jas Gallaher Jun – who has been for the first year with Mr. Barron. but sold out to Mr. \_ Mr. Gallaher retains the same store clerks, ‘Billy’ & all – Mr. Garriott has purchased the half of the “Big mill,” & will devote himself to flouring wheat — Mr. Jenkins of Troy has the contract of building the Court House, which is located on the site of the old one — A letter from Mrs. Sibley today gladdened us all, he gave it me to read, & I found I was – specially remembered by Mrs. Bartlett – in answer I suppose to my message by Mrs. S that she would think kindly of me — Mrs. S says “Dora is the same old thing.” —

I was glad to hear the hour of prayer ringing from the old clock – then I am released. Good night dear Alton. God keep thee – –

8<sup>th</sup> A quiet day, passed in the ordinary course except the children felt that they were doing something extra in setting their quilt together – I am alone, and writing getting this sheet (of many lines, [?]) ready to mail May it afford you amusement & I shall be satisfied – Goodnight — —

March 9<sup>th</sup>. When Major S. met us at morning worship, he said “I had a letter yesterday from New Mexico — from Col. Easton – he sent love to all, & was well. &c.” He turned & met my eyes with a close fearful glance. such as I have seldom seen, or felt from him — But I was prepared, & preserved my calmness & even asked, when it was dated – & found it to be the day Mrs. Sibley left here for her journey Tears were, & are not far distant. & glad was I for a walk with the girls in the free air & bright sunshine, – Do not infer that I am grieved. No; joy opens the fount of my, tears sooner than grief. To hear you was [sic] well, was almost unhopd joy now – Letters I do not now, expect, & should one come, It will be an ‘angel’s visit.’ & be regarded as such, and cherished, with a womans heart.— I enjoy excellent health, never better to my recollection. — I need not here repeat that which marks every thought, & has marked every day’s notes [?] for you since you left — Let this assure you that I am still thine only, chance or circumstances have no power to weaken my affections, & separation has enhanced my love,

The spirits [spiraling?] gyrations are fast nearing their centre there to be \_\_\_\_\_ [the word looks like "absoft"] forever –

Forgive me dear Alton if I trouble you, & think kindly of  
Your own devoted, Eliza. O.

P.S. I closed this and mounted pony after school & took it in to mail, but fortunately went to Mrs. E. & found Aunt Love alone & almost sick – “You saw Altons letter I suppose?” No. “What not seen it?” No, but Mr. S. said he had re’d one, that it was written in haste, & he sent love to all &c— Did he not show it to you? No. “Well he ought” she replied His mother & I, both read it.”— Do tell me, I asked tremblingly was I mentioned. — “Mentioned” she repeated almost in a scream, “Why you were the only one mentioned.” even Mrs. Easton remarked it — Need I tell you, I am happy – she repeated to me as nearly as possible the contents of the letter – Bless thee dear Alton for my share, Mrs. E & Aunt L. were not troubled, that they were not mentioned but rejoiced that I was, for I may now tell you they were grieved that I seemed neglected though I understood, I thought, why nothing came for me. — I hope orders for your return will reach you, with this or soon after – All here think peace just at hand

All but “Julia Ann,” are at prayermeeting again and I can enjoy my happiness undisturbed – Last evening when Major S. came I asked him if he had a letter for me, he ans’d “No but I have one for Jemima” took 3 from his pocket gave her one examined the others carefully & returned them to his pocket - I saw one was from Mrs. S & was struck with the other, but repressed my curiosity — I have a letter from Sister Mary M – She is doing finely – has an assistant & just the one I would have chosen So “all’s well” there Goodbye again my dear Alton, only love me & Believe me yours Eliza –

[A note was written sideways in the right margin of this, the final page of Eliza’s letter. The photocopy cuts off the top part of the first line of text, making the small letters especially challenging, but as nearly as I can make it out, it reads as follows:]

Mrs. E [?] is looking [?] for Langdon & lady down \_\_\_ arranged her rooms for them – so a mother loves but I know which she loves best & I approve her choice “intirely” [sic] Am I not right. Do not laugh at me – I am almost too happy — — E

[A general note on proper names: There is always a degree of uncertainty with last names such as “Kearney” which have not appeared before, though Eliza’s are generally very neat and require little guesswork.]