

Lindenwood University

Digital Commons@Lindenwood University

Related Papers from George and Mary Easton
Sibley Contemporaries

George and Mary Easton Sibley Papers

4-1848

Letter from Elizabeth Ott to Alton Easton, April 1848

Elizabeth Ott

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/sibley_contemporaries



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

To A. R. Easton –

My dearest Friend – I closed my 15th the 9th of March, with a happier heart than has been mine, since I re'd yours from Leavensworth — Again the 'lapse of time,' gives me the dear privilege [sic] of addressing you. &, though the contents will show, that I am nearly "Sunk beneath the waters of the Actual," still I can "praise God for Sabbaths, for books, and dreams, and pains, & for the recreative face of nature", which keep alive the heart & Soul — but most of all for the trust he has given me in you; that I can send "such as I have" confiding in your loving indulgence, to excuse all its unworthiness, & still think kindly of the writer. –

March 10.th A smiling day – Have you ever felt as if the very trees, & sun rejected you, & the whole world frowned,. I hope not – I have for a moment at times. & it is dreadful - But I was spared the desire to resist, & could at once submit, & say it is right, I deserved, — Today every thing has been bright & cheerful + manifold cares were no burden, I have written today to Mother brother S. [see note below] & Mrs. Sibley in addition to duties to others. Major S. attended a meeting at Mr. Alderson's, when he returned I forbore all question's, I have no spare sympathy & dislike trouble – I had sent for the mail for him & had plenty of reading ready which was very welcome – I feel that I have scribbled from habit, & to amuse myself rather than to communicate news, Goodnight dear Alton, may thy sleep be sweet, & wakings cheerful, ever —

["brother S" refers to a brother whose name is either Liberia or Siberia; the name looks different in different documents but most often appears as "Siberia" and has been rendered accordingly.]

11th At breakfast Major S. said most likely we should have company today sad news to me, - I was obliged to go to Town, & went to him for errands & he asked in consternation if I was going to Town, but I promised to return before dinner & he was content, – I found all well at Mrs. E's – closed my letter to Mrs. Sibley, & read a letter from Mrs. Watson in which I was remembered with much affection. I love her already. She like Henry C. has given me the hand, so cheerfully that I cannot help loving in return.– I had to "shop" some & it seemed strange enough to see Jas Gallaher, in place of Mr. Garriott The latter has made a grand move, Sold his old stock at 12 per cent on the east [cast?], the whole amount \$5.100, & 18.000 standing out owing the farmers with the "Mill," to consume their wheat, & he now stands head of the flow market at St Louis, & gets 50 cts extra on a bbl [?] of flour He still deals in Laborer & store, [stone?] — After dinner Dr. & Mrs. Thompson Mrs. Lee, & several children favored us, & in the evening a prayermeeting - But I rejoice in the solitude of my own room - They brought out plenty of gossip, & the Dr. was absolutely malicious with me I sometimes think the "Clique," would force me into some desperate act in order to prove themselves right in their course — I know that is un christian, & I should be ashamed to think so, much less to write it, & should regard them with pity — I have longed to see you so much today that I have nearly lost self-control — May God bless you as I do, dearest. –

March, 12th. Sabbath — Mr. Smith being absent, & our head men very inefficient we were compelled to leave our church, & went to hear Mr. Riggs – I was unwilling to go, & so excellent, & interesting to me, was the sermon, that I am ashamed of my obstinacy - Text "Salvation is of God,"— I do not know as I ever realized so clearly as to day the fullness of the gospel plan of Salvation in all its excellence &

perfection. – How intensely I prayed for thee!– Am I presumptuous, [sic] O! I do not mean to be dictatorial, or to assume any thing - Believe me I consider it my glory, to be subject, according to the immutable laws, of the God who created us, & to whom we owe all, After German School, & early supper – Major S. & I had a long talk, on the formalities of christians, their stereotype prayers, & forms – He is not satisfied with the way things are done here, I mean in the church - & is evidently feeling & enjoying the power of religion unusually, — & the life in his own heart makes the deadness around him very evident. — very few comprehend the sublime, simplicity of the gospel as he does, & fewer still can give as clear a reason for their belief.—

I am alone this evening, all being at meeting, there is no human about beside “Stilly John,” & myself - The cat is with me & she teases me so much to caress her, that I am getting afraid of her, & will put her out – The bird is asleep, & my heart is with my own mate nestled close to his side An hour has elapsed since I lay down my pen, & while I lay on the settee, I almost persuaded [sic] myself to solicit a favor – founding the necessity on the prospect that I may not hope to see you before sept. = I had quite persuaded [sic] myself it was needful. when came the timely thought & reproof - "What again anticipating trouble, & so ready to trouble another - Where is your trust in Him who cares for all: — You see I am womanish still Pray for me, “as you love me,” Good bye is a hard word, tonight. I cannot yet give thee up, though others claim my attention soon.—

March 13th I dreaded to enter upon the weeks duties, very much. I awoke long ere the sun rise but kept my room until prayers – Soon as I was among them I forgot the dread, & now after evening worship I look back upon a pleasant day - The mail afforded a letter from mother & brother.– All well, both remembered you affectionately, & watch the signs of the times closely – Helped Jemima put in [on?] a second quilt for Rachel – I mean all shall do something towards their support - & so far they have done very well, but they are expensive help's. – Do visions of “Yankee economy” startle you? I thought so, do not be alarmed – I spend no trifling sum every year – My Mother taught me to keep an account of my own expenses as soon as I could write, & I have continued it from habit, & the amount quite surprises me, year by year – plainly as I dress.—

14th I am writing with a patent quill pen, a French invention It is a bit of quill made into a point. & used as a steel pen, Major S. presented me with a card of 3. dag. holder &c, & a copy of Hirwans letters & a dag 8 ½ reading books for German School —

[Many of the things Major S. gave to Eliza are slightly uncertain. I think that “dag” is an abbreviation for “daguerreotype.” “&” and “8” look almost identical so the word rendered “&c” (which is sometimes used in documents of this period to mean something akin to “etcetera”) may in fact mean “8c” (as in “eight count”).]

Maj. S. attended a meeting at Mr. Johns today — 4 steamboats & 1 flat boat burned at the wharf in St Louis last night. “The John J. [I? L.?] Hardin” is one, & John Douglass a loser of a situation – Jane & Howard “cannot wed until fall, for want of means – This has been a quiet day The girls & myself took our walk before prayers this morning & this evening I have been unusually excited about you. Why is it mutual – I almost feel thy breath on my cheek — God bless thee,

March 15th The girls think 6 o'clock rather early, but their fresh faces are quite tempting – Mind I do not engage to be so active always, ‘one of these days,’ I will be too polite to rise before ___ [my? any?] – –

I explored my lost [last?] basket of quilt materials, & like to have lost my patience – I detest such business at heart most cordially — Miss Julia Bangs made us a visit today – She is now a young Lady - & rival to Mary Lee, & the latter is very jealous of her, & has begged her to tell her if “Alec” renders her too particular attention, There is another also who has roused her ire – “Such a pulling of caps,” — . All are at prayermeeting but Julia Ann – & I must close or I will weary you, instead of amusing. Goodnight here, but not in my heart. — ——

16th The warm south wind almost made me sick, but after school I mounted my precious pony & was soon at Mrs. Easton’s – The first to greet me were Henry & Eddy Geyer. & then I was ushered into the presence of Mrs. Easton, Mrs. Lee, Capt Geyer & Major Sibley “You are just the one,” all exclaimed, Alas! for my vanity, They only wanted me to open a letter from Mrs. S. [As noted previously, it is sometimes hard to distinguish between Eliza’s “L” and “S.” This letter looks more like an “L,” but context makes an “S” more likely.] directed to me, which I did & read aloud. We had a fine time over her notions of things Capt Geyer, is himself perfectly, & scrutinised me thoroughly, but my plump cheeks did not fear him – He is on his way to court at J. City. I had a New, Orleans paper also which I left for Mrs. E. & Major S. true to his passion, claimed to read it first. It and a letter from my friend Mrs. Moore – told me of the decease of her eldest child – But her christian spirit, & Earnestness in doing right rejoices me.— The papers are filled with eulogies on J. Q Adams who has I have told you died on the 22.d of Feb - Thus his name is linked with “Washingtons—” Gen Kearney is fast on his way to Mexico. — This evening I waited supper for Major S, though I knew he had supped at Mrs. E, but I begged him to sit down with us, & he did & enjoyed a cup of tea right well, & then read us one of the finest speeches perhaps ever delivered in congress It was against sending an Embassy to Rome - the Hobby of the Polk party – Mr. Leving’s the speaker is from N.Y. city, & a talented man, & stands for the truth My! says the Major “It deserves to be printed in letters of Gold –’ It must have made their ears tingle, it was so daring in its integrity – Peace is considered certain – a Minister empowered to act, is now on his way Vera Cruz – God speed the work. Would that I could see the first smile that light thy dear face when the news of Peace reaches you - & again when you have orders to return – I envy the bearer that privilege – How many long days ere that is accomplished, & how many a loved one is beyond the sound of the ‘glad tidings - May God spare us, & reunite us in his love – Let us trust his immutable promises

March 17th Mercury at 70° - I am weary tonight & so anxious to have the evening alone, that I cleared off the supper things & let all go to prayermeeting- No ice this winter in the ice house – “It is said,” that East they surrounded their ponds with Lapland & Alpine scenery to induce conglobation. [?] & [If?] the ice did evidently [?] thicken, though it was by some obstinate ness [?] laid to the weather – I have written a long letter, this evening to my friend Mrs. Moore I wrote with unusual interest from the evident change in her – character [the word ends in a “d,” but only makes sense as “character,” so I suspect that Eliza made a mistake] – When we parted she was a giddy vain girl, engrossed with beaux, now I see the noble wife & mother, her natural mind is good, & a good husband has done much to develop her excellencies — ——

March 18th Saturday – Expecting preaching today I arranged my work for it, & in good time, I found myself & girls in our seats in church – Mr. Watson from Dardenne, occupied the pulpit, & gave us a rare sermon from John 16th 7 & 8 [unclear] verses – He gave me a new view of the Office of the Holy Spirit “The third person of the Godhead.” I never comprehended until now that we were more blessed in the “Indwelling of the Spirit” than were the Apostles with their external companionship with the Lord Jesus

– In the heart where no known sin is cherished as a “sweet morsel,” & no known duty neglected, the Holy Spirit makes his “Temple,” & the fruits of the Spirit are Love, peace, patience &c See 13 chap 1st Corinthians All is easy & clear to such a heart, & calmness & self-possession is a necessary consequence. How few attain that high devotion [possibly ‘elevation’?] – I can scarce conceive it, much less enjoy such blessedness — We found Aunt Love & Mrs. Cummins here to spend the day, & Henry Geyer – I was almost disappointed. I had desired a rest & preparation for the Sabbath — But I have enjoyed the day, & sunset found me alone again, all being at church - The evening was peculiarly soft & balmy, & the front porch very inviting, but I missed you so much that . I went in & lay down on the settee, & built an “air castle,” only it was a modest quiet home so humble that its cares were few, & when evening came, we were to sit down unmolested. From our retreat we could look abroad [?] over the earth, & mark its turmoils, only to prize our home the more, And with humble desires to live usefully, & justly in all our relations, we might enjoy a peace, [?] the world regards as a vain dream. — & I thought too, of Mr. & Mrs. Aldersons unfortunate marriage –She has left him, & then offered insult, & can only be excused on plea of insanity — “a divorce,” is the cry — Alass! [sic] for female nature — twice recalled him, & now utterly refusing to take up her duties, & the only blame they can throw upon him, & showing her letters – Otherwise he has done his part, to my surprise – But I have no sympathy with either – Both have done wrong & both suffer most severely — & it is just —

March 19th Sabbath — A day of privileges [sic] being communion & in obedience to the request “As oft as ye do this, do it in remembrance of me” — Many regard this as something mysterious, & conferring special power & exclusiveness I do not, though I delight to render this obedience. Need I add that you were remembered also, & with hope.—O, thou, knowest my heart, I need not add. —

Mr. Watson selected the 14 & 15 verses of the 5, of 2^d Cor - & gave us a sermon in very deed, Just enough, & entirely suitable, but Mr. Smith added many words too much, All bustle, & extra exhortations should be avoided on such occasions – I should imagine I was prejudiced did not Major S complain very much of things today — He is delighted with Mr. Watson.— German School interesting Teachers plenty – New books welcome — Henry Clay was there, A great Shower this evening — Good night Dearest – Goodnight

20th A delightful day – The rain started the grass, so much that the lawn looks very green. The bulbous flowers are blooming, bird are singing very joyously. & I look back upon a pleasant day – The girls gained time to hear Mr. Watson’s last sermon today & could not leave until after 4. P.M. then I was soon beside Aunt Love, & she told me of a call they had had from a soldier just in from Santa Fe [possibly spelled “Fee”] who said you asked him to call & say you “had written lately, but had not received as many letters as you expected too, —” She gave me a severe questioning look, to see if I had been delinquent. — Tears [fears?] like to have surprised me, at hearing that message, – I could sympathise. with you there, & I had been so anxious that my letters should reach you that I was disappointed in their failure, as I now feared.— Met Henry Clay at the store & found him kind as a brother. Great tidings of France “Louis Phillipe” driven from the Country, The mass rose, & demanded a republican government, He abdicated in favor of his infant Grandson, & the child’s mother took him to them, but they rejected him in _____, [the word looks like “toto”] put down royalty, & all titles established a provisional government, which England has acknowledged, & the 1st of this month a convention made to form a constitution — Louis Philipe & wife escaped to the coast in disguise, with a man & woman servants & the the [sic] clothes they had on, & took a fishing boat, & was picked up by [Eliza originally wrote “but”; she crossed

out the “t” and changed the “u” to a “y.”] a Brittish [sic] steamer, & taken to England – It is confidently expected that this revolution will be permanent, as the noblest & best men are at its head — Austria, now demands, the same, What an age of events – God is “turning & overturning” to establish his own wise purposes, among the children of men. — In view of such a revolution, how insignificant appears our hopes, & fears – Yet the same hand “makes [? The word was altered after it was written, making it hard to read] our changes,” To Him “nothing is trivial,” The “hairs of our heads are numbered, & he has directed us to ask, of him, & promised we shall receive, God bless thee [The name “Phillipe” is spelled differently both times that Eliza uses it; the discrepancy is not a transcriber’s error.]

March 21st An irregular day – Major S. was sending his wheat in to Mr. Garriott, & that took my forces — Mary Dougherty called after school She is to me very like Old Lady Parks, – — Poor old “Slick,” knows how to look out for No.1. yet – Tonight I found him napping on my shawl, which he drawn [sic] down from a nail on the gallery, I had a notion to scold him, – Rack [possibly “Rock”?] visit [sic] us still, & shows me much attention, which I cannot return as Major S. says it is wrong for me to pet “Another mans dog.” — Good night –

22nd All at home this evening but Major S. so I missed my respite – A letter from Mrs. Sibley to her husband which he gave me to read, & It told me she was well but a little troubled, money which she had expected had not come, She cannot go about as she wishes too It is easier to have a carriage for a party, than church - & she has made herself sick walking – But she is seeing & learning much & will prize her home, with its many privileges more than ever for this trip I am sad tonight, dark shades flit across my mind, though quickly chased by some ray of light, & love, & then I can catch a glimpse of the clear sky always visible when I can look above, in trust – O for one look into thy dear Eyes, – I need your stable mind so much to hold my own in equilibrium – I, have a source of gratitude, you can never know Men can never know, the blessedness of protection, & guidance coming from an earthly being. & therefore is woman so often misunderstood, & regarded “foolishly f ___d,” &c – Goodbye dove. [dear? love?]

March 23^d Was up with the sun & enjoyed a walk much, Gardening is now the great business, Jemima takes Miss Rossetes [?] plan, [?] with the children to aid – Mr. Johns called early to see to preparing a grave for Mr. Aldersons youngest daughter He sent for me, & we had a pleasant chat.— After dinner he with Mrs. Dick & Mr. Woodruff returned with the “little coffin,” & they with Major S. laid the “little seedling,” in its “lowly bed” – See 15th Chap of 1st Corrinthians [sic] for my idea.—

They came to the house & ate apples, & got shrubbery, & Laura & myself went to Town with them to aid in getting a nurse for the other sick ones. – Mr. J was inclined to jest me about you, but I was too sober, & he concluded by saying the “War was over, & after all it was boys play” — I was vexed & told Major S. & he replied “Boys play indeed, I think some have found it hard mens play” — But I have the sad news of the death of Judge Mr. Dearmon. [Dearman? Deanman?] Amelias father sick only 8. days – Many will be impoverished in this dispensation – “So all of Earth.” —

[The word “dispensation” makes little sense in context, but the writing seems quite clear.]

24th Last school day, & I rejoice – Mr. Smith made us an early call to get shrubs, He vexed me, by – “Wondering if the Major was “up”– They are determined to find wrong here, & the Major feels it, & has remarked it to me. — I am reading D. Hubrignios’ [?] Cromwell, & like it very much, would that you could read it with me, —

The bed looks inviting, & has made me fear you, are not so well housed &c Dear Alton.
25th Saturday & general review day – I commenced early & at 10. o clock set down to write Mrs. Sibley – In my letter I noticed particularly her few words in money matters, & told her I had \$50, at her service if she pleased, also assured her would gladly aid her, & proposed, if she preferred to draw upon your funds & reiterated to her that our first & last desire was to do her good. — Was I right I acted from my heart towards her, & felt that you would have done the same & more had you been here — I went in to Mrs. E. to close it, & quilted a fine strip for Aunt Love – but I had to return in a shower, Behold me; enveloped in a plaid gown of Mrs. E's alone in buggy. Opening & the gate &c —
This evening we are having very heavy showers – & I walked the back porch alone, with the past [“post” is a possible but more unlikely reading] – Major reading but no news.— Good night dearest – May pleasant dreams make thy waking joyous – I have not dreamed of you in a long time. – I dream of Mother &c — —

March 26th Sabbath. & stormy – All at home which is to me a privilege I needed the rest so badly – I have spent most of the day in my room, & am still reading Cromwell – I have entirely changed my opinion of him — I used to fancy his family were far from happy with one so ambitious at its head – Now I could almost envy them the love of one so just, so affectionate, so entirely a model as a father & husband.— I will give you Miltons key to his superiority — “From his thorough exercise in the art of self-knowledge, he had either exterminated or subjugated his domestic foes, his idle hopes, his fears, & his desires, Having thus learned to engage, & subdue, & triumph over himself,— he took the field against his outward enemies, a soldier practised in all the discipline of war” — His state letters & papers are models of clear decisive language, & those to his wife, & children, tell all the husband & father – I now begin to see that the truly great are so in all things.—

The evening we spent together, & I listened to Major S, on the characters of Cromwell, J.Q. Adams, & Henry Clay. – He is displeased that the latter has suffered himself to be a “Show,” & tries to think Mr. A a Christian, but there is little proof A bible student does not make a “Believer,” though it is the means, with Gods blessing – & It tells us that some, have their honors in the present life. —

[Here the thickness of the ink changes, presumably suggesting that Eliza paused and began again with a different writing tool. Eliza originally spelled the word “exterminated” with an “s” (“esterminated”), but apparently caught herself and modified the “s” to an “x”.]

Cromwell was undoubtedly understood by the People, & he acted with them & his denouncers were the cavaliers who did so, to support their own cause, – I have thought of you very much today & pleasantly, & hoped it was mutual, & hope we may be one in heart ever – then no fears will disturb our peace. — –

27th Today Mr. Alderson – committed to the grave the remains of “little George” his only son – Major S. was grieved indeed, he admired the child very much – I wept but not in sorrow, that mother was safe from Sin & sorrow Now three rest beside the Mother's grave - & those, the youngest — Mrs. Smith & husband Mrs. Lee & Mr. Johns attended – & he came also today – And was composed though suffering — — —

I was surprised this morning by a note from Aunt Love accusing me of abducting her thimble, & Lo! I was that moment using it – It [sic] very like my own — I sent it back with most humble assurance, that I was no thief – & I prize my own far too highly for the donors sake to exchange it for any other – I have been sewing for Sarah all day – I now have her in my own charge to prevent contention – This close application poles my check – but makes a good conscience.— God keep my Beloved –

[“application poles my check” seems doubtful in context, but seems quite clear textually.]

March 28th A letter from brother Siberia – Mother is going to housekeeping in close seclusion, & asks if I will visit them this season – I have ans’d today, that I have no idea of doing so, & would rather not, When we parted had any one told me that in less than three years I could do this, I should have asked, “Is thy servant a dog, &c” I love her not the less, but I seek rest, & feel that there is now, but one place where I could enjoy “Content absolute,” — I need not tell thee, where: Thine only — E.

29th After a busy day I rode in to Town, & found Aunt Love alone. Mrs. E being in St Louis - She was so anxious to keep me that I was sad at leaving, her alone. We quilted & chatted to some purpose. The Express who left Santa Fe the 20th Feb passed yesterday & left your message & the news of the “Defeat of Col Rawls Regt is here, & that your Command was ordered to his relief — I need not attempt to tell you, my feelings, nor my anxiety until I hear of your safety – God be your defence & Shield Dearest. of friends—.

Uncle Washington still sick, & today I ventured to give him medicine, & after he was better confessed my doings to The Major & re’d his approval — This evening all are at prayer-meeting, & could I know of your safety & have one very little favor, I should be quite happy

30th A warm day. Mercury of 70° Gardening the order of Jemima & her forces – I am now again in the School Rooms, to have room, & fresh air – Behold me in a new sunbonnet, which I have made today – a real beauty for its business, — Just at sunset I needed you to give me a swing, [?] The girls were too full of fun to perform their parts well – but O. I want you now, that I am free of care & could enjoy your society unmolested.— I am “foolishly impatient,’ you say: & justly – forgive – love.

31st Very rainy until after dinner, then clear & cold – Peach trees in blossom & in danger from frost — Mending all day instead of writing, as I wished – But the well being of my charge compensates for weariness.— Goodbye.

April 1st Saturday. I finished my work early, & took the buggy in to Mr. & Mrs. Smith, & took the liberty of spending the day with Aunt Love, We were very happy together as we always are, but at noon Mrs. Easton came, & added to our joy - She was well but fatigued, & I will give you a little of her news — Your family friend Mr. Russell has had a stroke of palsy on the right side but is slowly recovering – He leaves soon for Arkansas & wants a clerk, – Henry C. would like to go but Mrs. E fears he is too young & wished Joseph could go & added “His wife, poor thing is so helpless that he could not leave her – Langdon expects Orders for Mexico daily, & intends bringing his wife here to stay, Mrs. E. said “I think he had better take her with him as the other Officers do,” – John Simpson, is at Leavenworth. Has he given you a scolding about the “poor Schoolmistress, yet –

[Here Eliza inserted a lengthy note which reads as follows:]

I do not know as that is his name for me though one who assumes, to know his mind, says he is very displeased. & much else. – – [Now resume the main text of the letter:] I wish he was worthy of one Mrs. Baker. & poor Mary are at Hamilton Gambles, & will leave for Virginia in May Mary is almost become a “Non entity.”— Dr. Powell has purchased a new Piano for Ann – “Such an ado,” as there has been I cannot tell — —.

Mrs. Blair recovering slowly – Mr. Andrews in the Hotel – Henry Clay spent some time with us, he looks discouraged – business dull in the store. —

Letters today from brother Oran [? Very uncertain, 3-5 letters, the last "n" and the second possibly "r."] & Adie Cayce, — Very good news – Where art thou dear One this bright day – Goodbye is a sad word – very sad. –

2nd. Sabbath - passed it in the usual way – Mr. Smith scolded too much in his sermon – No pupils at G.S. it being "Confirmation," a remnant of Popery – Our ride was delightful, & I remembered some others very dear in review.–

Shower prevented any going out this evening, I read a letter from Mrs. Sibley to Mrs. Lee – She is well, & enjoys herself tolerably Only N. Y. is so very large she can not see it, nor move about with any ease – The circle in which she is is a gay one – Wine parties, & even Whiskey punch. & she has no sympathy with it, & as we might expect mistakes it for the first society — Were she one step higher, she would be in her true place & see very different things then she would meet the families of divines. M.D.s Professors, &c, & find that they needed not the stimulus of alcohol, to render them companionable. — She is in the Merchants circle, & is invited to the "Browne [?] St parties "& not to the Band St, by a long distance —

She wrote asking if Gen Kearney was ordered to Santa Fe, as she wished to write you by him, — He is in Mexico as I have stated.— 'Tis after prayers, & I am in my dear room, happy that I am free until "fresh morning streak the East," —. and I must say goodbye to be prepared for its duties.—

April 3^d Very rainy today, & dull, but not to me for I have enjoyed unusual leisure, & spent it thus – We had a fine joke on Major. S. at dinner – Aunt Rachel had provided a fine Turtle soup, & we supposed he knew it of course – Soup being his favorite dish, & this very fine he took two plates, & sent for the third, when Jemima said "turtle," & he exclaimed – "Turtle; O show! I wont have a bit of it I did not know what it was —" — We were convulsed with laughter, but dared not indulge much, & I led him to conversation until he forgot the soup, but I cannot contain myself even now, the scene was so ridiculous.— This evening he read to us from Carlyle's Cromwell, & conversed with me of Carlyle as a writer.—

I have been reading D. A. Cromwell, since I came to my room, & now feel like sleep, though a little flattered that I can comprehend such writers, so far as to enjoy their 'great thoughts,—' & enter into their "great views" of the past, hopes for the future & in some degree forget my "little self" – & petty affairs, which are in danger of engrossing the better portion of my being —. Goodnight. —

4th. Cold rainy morning, but I had too much to do to feel gloomy, even after Mr. Aldersons man came to prepare a grave for "Martha" his eldest. remains — Now but two of six fine children are living. four, & those the most likely to suffer are beyond sorrow, & sin Martha was quite delicate, but a fine womanly child — Aunt Love says "O! I do feel sorry for his children they have been so long without a Mother to comfort them with kind words & caresses." — Blessed are the lambs, that are gathered early to the fold of the "Good Shepherd" —

My dear friend — I send this tremblingly – Our last intelligence was such as causes many fears in my bosom for your safety – I feel that it will find you – I cannot yield that hope – But how? Well & happy? I hope so. But should it find you otherwise, let it, be a token that I am waiting & loving still – that to share your sorrows, & endeavor to assuage them would by [sic] my highest earthly joy – that my heart knows no change but an ever growing attachment — That I am thine, dear Alton –

Thy devoted Eliza. O –

[a)Although Maj. S.'s ejaculation "O show!" seems unusual in context, it is very clearly written. b) Most of the pages (there are 14 of them) were later numbered, perhaps by the same person who wrote the following label sideways in pencil on this, the last page of the document:]

Letters from Roberts
Grand Mother Eliza Ott Easton
to
his Grand Father

[A few lines down is another note, but this one is written in ink:]
More family history