

It was down to six one morning. It is intensely dry. The east wind has blown furiously part of the time. The mercury was -40° in the Salome County: -30° at Wells Wells. Good-by. God bless you and take care of you and of all of us. W.

Forest Grove, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 1883.

My Dear Father,

I have been so busy for two weeks past as to forbid me writing. We were rejoiced to receive your letter, but wish that they came more often. One in three weeks is a good deal less than your usual quota. You have more leisure, I presume, than ever before for many years, and it does really seem that about twice as much letter writing might be possible to you, and certainly it would rejoice us.

Mary has resigned her place and is going to spend two or three weeks with Horace.

She could not endure this damnable tired toil any longer, school, Sarah's whinings and weepings and complainings, and so by my advice, she is going to drop the cursed thing.

I will try to provide for Sarah while M. is gone. She has made Mary about as much trouble as she is going to for the present.

I don't know as there is any use of Mary's

life being utterly wreckt by such a body of death as  
S. is, and if she can't be freed in any other way  
I wil lock Sarah up or dispose of her in some  
effectual way.

And now, my dear father, you know  
I speak severely sometimes, but if you want to  
preserve the love of her whom we shall all love dearly  
and welcome to all the love in our hearts, you must  
tell her freely and fully what S. is. There is  
no possible good in slurning over the fact that S. is a grief  
and a trouble. I hope M. already knows it!

Mary can't take care of her any longer.

It wil kil her! Before I see that take place  
from that cause I wil ————— mel I gues  
I would as mel stop here. Please do not, dear father

suffer any undue anxiety over these matters, but be sure  
that I write so freely because I want you to know just  
how matters at home now. Mary has fought the battle  
bravely, but her strength has faild, and now those  
who hav rested on her can go to hel or heaven as  
the case may be, if they cant stand on their own  
feet.

It wil probably be mel for you to come  
home soon, tho I want you to feel perfectly easy and happy  
on your journey, and take time for a day or two at Fresno.  
We hav been having a queer winter. Three floods and three  
freeze-ups! No snow. The mercury has not been above 33° for a week.