

I do this a good chance for teachers in your vicinity &

Perhaps I may get some future hints, visit C. if there is

I have written in such haste, I fear you can not decipher this

Mother expects to write soon as she gets well enough to do so. Do allow

news from you very soon. Mother sends love to yourself & family in which she is joined by your affs & love
Margaret B. D.

Union Falls, N. P., Jan. 30.

My Dear Aunt Mary,

Your very welcome

letter to Mother mailed Dec. 10th came about 2 weeks since. When it arrived Mother was quite ill - unable to sit up long at a time. She has had a slow fever; has also been very lame. She had Erysipelas in her lame limb. But I am glad to say she is now much better; so that she sits up most of the time; and sews and knits some.

But she does not feel quite strong enough to write a letter yet, and wishes very much to have one sent to you - so James and I have set about writing something.

I have after thought of writing

to you, but have never seemed
to find a convenient time before.
I have always remembered with
much pleasure the visit you made
us, just before taking your long
journey. We hear from Charlie
often. When he last wrote, he
was taking some comfort with a
box that we sent him last Septem-
ber. We had given up all hopes of
his ever receiving it; so long a time
had elapsed after we sent it, without
our hearing any thing from it. But, strange
to say, the cake and other eatables
we put up, tasted very well to him
when he got them. The dear boy
has been through much hardship,
but still does not complain and
seems to feel happy in thinking he
is doing his duty. He was merci-
fully preserved through the dreadful
battle of Fredericksburgh, and escaped
unharm'd, while some of his intimate
friends were wounded. Oh! how long

did the days seem to us, after news
of that bloody battle reached us,
before we heard from him. When
we did hear from him I trust we
were truly thankful. But now we
are constantly excited by hearing
that "another heavy battle may be
expected soon." We can only try to
be prepared for the worst; hope
for the best; and trust in Him
who "doeth all things well."

I copied your letter and sent
it to Charlie. If he ever gets it,
and has an opportunity, I think
he will write you. He sent us
a good likeness of himself a
short time since. O if we ever
have peace again shall we not
know how to prize it? We have
some fears that we may have
trouble in our state, with our Dem-
ocrat-governor. Mother rec'd last
week, a long, and very interesting,
letter, from Uncle William. He is

still at Prescott, Wisconsin. ^{My} We had heard nothing from him for a long time, before. He and his wife were well but Fannie (who resides in Kalamazoo) was not in very good health. James has been with me a week. It is pleasant to have him come home once in a while.

Frank & Eliza are both at home. I have been teaching the little school in our district; but it closed 2 weeks since. I was glad on account of Mother's illness to have it out.

^{My} We have had a very mild and pleasant winter - have had very little sleighing, but have some at present. I will enclose a poor photograph which may give my Oregon cousins some idea of their cousins Margaret's looks. Don't think it flatters me very much, I would like very much to become acquainted with my cousins. ^{My} Wish I could see their likenesses, and I would like very much to have them write to me.