

have done, as far as I have gone,
 of our heavenly Father's
 gift of love, for us to have
 the same home. He is able
 to bring it about,
 though we may
 not see how.
 Let us trust in
 His more fully,
 & more reservedly.
 Know full well I must
 love.
 As ever,
 Margaret.



My Dear Uncle,
 Yours mailed
 10th inst. - reached me on the 21st &
 I improve first opportunity to send
 you a reply. Something over 2 weeks
 seems to be the length of time, it
 takes for a letter to get here
 from you. Were you, as long on
 the way, when you took your
 journey to the Coast?
 The contents of yours last,
 gave me another surprise; for I
 little thought that after receiving
 only one letter from me, you would
 feel prepared to take such a step.
 Please accept thanks for the

express my feelings freely; which I

H. Lyman

Forest Grove, Oregon.

confidence you repose in me.

It is not generally supposed that "old maids" have very tender susceptibilities; but you may be assured that I do in some degree appreciate the offer you make. I can imagine something of the priceless worth of a loving companion.

Was there nothing but self to be considered, it seems to me that I could soon give you an answer; but there are so many things to be considered, that I do not feel prepared to give you a definite reply at present.

The case is somewhat different from that of my dear Aunt & yourself. I suppose you had seen each other. Are you not running too great a risk, in thus placing, as it were, your future happiness in my custody? If I do slightly resemble

my dear Aunt (though I fear the resemblance if there really is any, is very slight) I may at the same time be a very different person & you might; at the first glance discover something about me, which would make me repulsive to you.

In that case should we not be placed in rather an unpleasant position, if we were really engaged?

Another thing which comes to my mind, is the effect it would have on your peaceful & happy family to have one so unfitted for it take the place of their beloved & sainted mother. It would be far from my wishes, to be in any degree instrumental, in leading your dear children to feel that "home is no longer home" to them; as is often the case, when a step-mother enters the house. You may be able to judge in this matter; but I can not

Now I will return to my own home

I have long thought that while my mother needed my care, I should never enter the matrimonial state;

I have not as yet, mentioned to her, the offer you make me.

She is of that age when the grasshopper is a burden & I prefer to trouble her about it. She would probably think the journey to Oregon too long for her to undertake & perhaps it would not be agreeable to you & your family to have her live with you, should she think she would venture to go. I think your climate would suit her better, than ours; as she dislikes our cold winters. Thus, in a very awkward & perhaps almost unintelligible manner I have mentioned some of the things, I must consider before I can accept your kind & loving offer. You kindly allow me all the time I wish. You have invited me