

Home, Franklin Co. Mo.

March 18th 1862

Dear Mary.

I did not think when I first received your letter that I would so long neglect you, but time flies swiftly and I have not improved it.

I do not know that I have any thing very important or interesting to tell you. We are all alive; and well except colds, and trying to get ready for summer's work. Stillman & Henry are breaking up land for potatoes, and garden. Father gets around over the place & bosses Ben, we are going to raise cotton & flax. father sent to St Louis for flax seed and paid \$2.50 for $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel. S. & Father have bought a breaking plow for four yoke of oxen and are going to do things up right.

I wish you could have been here last night and seen the fire. they burn the grass out, in the woods every spring. The new grass will come up so much better. We saw the fire coming down the hill $\frac{1}{2}$ mile off, leaping

up ten feet, as the fire would catch into
the oak bushes. We went down to the coun-
-ty road and watched it so, that it cou-
-ld not cross and come to the house. I thought
it was a beautiful sight, Eliza thought it look-
-ed too frightful, to be beautiful. We could
see the light of the fire, at the windows
till daylight this morning.

I wish I could see you, I could talk eno-
-ugh to tire you out once, but what I
would say, would not look so well written.
Do you remember staying to aunt Lucy's
one night? and what I told you? now
you will think I'm queer to ask such a
question when I said so much; but I mean
one thing in particular, Well what I was
going to say, my mind has wholly changed
on that subject. If you know what I mean
I know you'll not tell, and if you don't
why I'll tell you sometime. You know
I always was telling you some nonsense.
I suppose by this time Julia's school is out
and your school too, so that you are both

at home, and the other girls that have
been teaching are at home too. How lonesome
it must be there, some of the boys dead
the others in the army. We feel sad to
hear such sad news, from the army boys,
when did Benton ~~be~~ volunteer we did not
know he was in the army.

Please tell me where to direct to Sylvanus
father wants to write to him. Tell me all
news from S. and W. when you write. Geo &
Samuel too. you were good to tell me so
much from them in your letter.

I will close for another wants to write a
little to your mother. I hope to hear from
you all soon tell Julia not to forget her prom-
-ise about writing. Much love to you all.

Yours affly Lucy.

Mrs. A. Bartlett Dear friend. I thought as
Lucy was writing to Mary I would say a little
I need not tell ^{you} I should be glad to see you
for that would be nonsense I do not soon
forget old friends and often as I think of

Give my love to Mrs. & Mr. & children.

Plymouth friends you may be assured
you are not among the number. when
I think of writing I hardly know what
to say because every thing is strange to
you and almost the same to me but
~~at~~ a few words will perhaps keep our
memories fresh I do not forget the
pleasant visits we have had together
(would they could return) and the times
of meeting often together - but the
scene is ~~some~~ scene is changed.

I hope and trust in some respects for
the better, our worldly prospects are very
good (I mean after we get started) but as
regards meetings &c but little prospect
for the better as yet. we have preaching once
in a month no sabbath school in winter
but commences in the spring again. Stillman
with us have sent for the Independent, the
same ^{paper} that Sylvanus ^{read} read sermons from
when we were in Plymouth so when we cannot go
to meeting we can have a sermon at home. I wish
you would write me a long letter and tell me
all the news &c &c Adams lameness improves slowly he
sends his respects to you. believe me still your sincere friend
H. M. Finney

Bowdon Md
Mar 19

Miss Mary S. Bartlett,

New Plymouth.

Vinton Co.

Ohio.