

Ft. Covington, Feb. 16, 1841 Monday, 3 o'clock P.M.

My dear daughter,

I received your letter from Sheridan in due time. Likewise Carroll received one for himself and Cornelia. We were glad. We have received none from Sheridan since he went to Boston or soon after his return. Where is he now? What is his prospect in the navy? How is his health? His mind? His habits of stability? I know he is ambitious. So be it.

In your letter he says I would not try to assist him in the naval appointment. I wrote a good letter to Mr. Paulding for him. So did Judge Skinner. Silas Wright was then in New York. Had, a few days before I got Sheridan's letter, taken wine and cake at our house. I so wrote to Sheridan. It was unkind of him to say I would not assist him in that matter. This morning Mrs. Mac Donald said you had written to E. Adams that Sheridan had got some appointment. I should like to know something about it if so, but I conclude that is not quite so but that he hopes for one.

I and your mother went to Malone (court) first Wednesday in Feb'y. had a good visit at Father's. Father and Mother came to see us in January. He drove. They are quite smart ?? Marshall keeps school where he did last winter.

William has gone through 12 books of Virgil, 1 oration. Is now looking at the Greek alphabet. Carroll goes to Wyman, Cornelia to Mrs. ?'s Bill grows tall. They all attend singing. So do I and Ma – when I can. It has been quite sick here all winter. First measles, then influenza. Three weeks ago, I cut off the whole of a lower lip – cancer. The patient is doing well. No money here at all scarcely. I have not taken thirty dollars in cash for practice since you left here but enough of everything else – over 12 bushels of rye. M. Richardson quite sick today, threatened with fever. ? Hitchcock and wife were here awhile ago on a visit to see if they can live anywhere her. No chance to live at ? M. Palmer is here yet, poor. I am so busy I cannot get time to write decently – up last night at M?, their babe sick of influenza, more comfortable to-day, shall go again this evening. I have been busy ever since you went from here. We wanted to travel to Niagara last summer but could not find time and hard times hindered. We wish to go next summer – cannot, I suppose.

When do you think of coming home? I know I ought to advise and direct but it seems Sheridan has more money than I and he directs. Ninety dollars, says he, and then you get what you can't home! Why, how much does he think you ought to lay out? \$90 added to what I have let you have should bring you home. You must manage accordingly. If your health is strong, your behavior good and you can teach next summer to a fair advantage, do so. I have no objection. If you choose to come home, do so. Is it best to go to your uncle's again from Portland? It cost much. If you come home from Portland to Randolph is but a little ways. If they don't bring you on, some of us might meet you there.

Is Sheridan nervous or unsteady? Feeble in health, petty? Does teaching school disagree with his health? If not, could he have continued teaching at Belfast at \$50.00 per month? Think of Mr. Richardson. Came here, asked \$350 a night here and at Westville and Moira. None would agree to give it. He went to Ogdensburgh to see again but could not succeed. Came back and teaches in Fort Covington two nights at \$250 per night three months. Spent forty-five dollars in traveling. Sheridan would call this hard fortune. He is studying in my office gratis – oh, how my hand aches! I should write to Sheridan if I knew where to find him. We should all be glad to see him but probably never, probably but few times more if ever. He is not dutiful in not writing more and oftener. He will so find it one day. As I have said before I want you should know drawing to teach Wm. Be wise, be prudent, be steady-minded, be religious. Behave well. Take advise from a father. Consider well all you do. Make no works for repentance.

(on this same sheet, the following letters were written)

Louisa, I want to see you. Are you pretty well? I am most sick to-day, stay from school to-day. Caty is here. Igman Cheney is dead. Now you see how poor I can write.

Farewell. Cornelia Bates

I am well. Are you well? I go to school to Mr. Wyman. When are you going to leave Gorham and where are you going when Yoyou have. I wish I could see you. Are you coming home in the spring? Has Sheridan gone to see you yet?

Farewell. Carroll Bates