

West Cambridge April 29 (30 is crossed out) 1838

My dearest Husband I received your very short but very kind letter last eve. by Mr Brackman. I am very much grieved to find your spirits so low- and do wish I could pass this blessed day with you and comfort you but my dear H do not give way to low spirits-I am fancy (?) to myself, you in your lonely office confined to the old books and sick and gloomy and I do not wonder that you should have the huffs (?) and then the difference you must feel, to go to your brothers and feel obliged to do your part in society- instead of coming home, with your slippers sitting down next to the old cooking stove at your ease with nothing to annoy you. You know every XXX in this world as an alloy – but perhaps my xxx family lectures from me on the old pink nose on tobacco –xxx some other domestic topics- now confess, dear Husband, if you could only see xxx would'nt you be willing to take a seal olet (?) of xxx scoldings? I am affraid you will have to take it hot and heavy when you do come for I have no chance of scolding at all for every body seems to try to please me and even Henry has been such a god boy, that I have not the heart to scold him- here I sit on my easy chair xxx upon to my hearts content with plenty of Books and poetry and my friends all calling upon me that I can't scold. In the morning I hold a xxx I breakfast in bed- and compose my nights cap in order (sp?) and receive company. Brothers come first, either to bring me a dear letter or to say xxx xxx- he halts a few minutes then he takes his leave. Then our servant (?) will come with love from Mrs Chadwick and to xxx, what Father says and when I shall get well. Then the rest of the family call and pay their respects to me- by this time depositions (?) arrive from Sister Rebecca and Miss Trufts and sometimes Father will call to know how I feel and how I have rested-the deepest wound my XXX love because that all xxx – make speedy enquiries of “any news from NY XXX this morn? Or when is Henry coming home?” Occasionally( not sure) this makes me sometimes suspect that were it not for our dear xxx one I should not receive all this attention- well after I see fit to rise- I do and then the bell will ring, ring- and the knocks will be frequently heard at the eve. door and my numerous friends and acquaintances call to enquire after my Ladys hip's health (not sure) and express their affectionate sympathy to me in my loneliness-xxx-I am really afraid when you do return and I have to come down to common life, you will find me more difficult than usual to manage- so my dear H, I warn you to possess your soul with patience when you do return- but xxx of nonsense – dear H I recover my strength nicely and have been downstairs, I called first inxxx Helen's her room looks very pretty and I think and hope she will be happy here- she said she longs to see you and will play chess with and sing to you- so I scold xxx you will have some one to amuse your dull moments at home. I cannot but anticipate much pleasure and comfort in our little society if we can only be permitted to stay here and enjoy it. “How blessings brighten when they take their flights”- Tho' I hope we shall not have to take our flight from the pleasantest of towns at present- but I shall not say anything about going to that great dull lonesome city- but assure you will try to subsist with much cheerfulness as I can. As your determination whatever it is knowing as I do what you feel will not be hasty or thoughtless xxx but will do what you feel convinced is your duty and for the best- dear Henry do be careful of your diet for I feel affraid that coffee, tea and xxx food then you have been xxx, together with fatigue and anxiety of mind- will make you wholly sick and then dear Husband what should we all do? Remember that your health and life is precious to very many hearts and every xxx to me – and do not make too free use of coffee or tea or tobacco for I am affraid that together with the nay (?) water it is not good for you- It will be 4 weeks tomorrow since my confinement and truly the laws of thankfulness should be written on my heart to my heavenly Father that I am enjoying such a good measure of health at this time I am weak-Yet truly I feel

quite well and if you was here (?) should feel able to xxx out a little way if you stay much longer I shall dismiss kind Mrs H and have many return- dear Clara has promised to be my bedfellow until your return- she will commence her school on Tuesday the 1 of May I feel under great obligation to her for the constant kindness and after her(?) attention that has been of so much xxx in my circumstances- It has been very cold and stormy all this month I have been obliged to have a coal fire all this time- it is a little pleasanter now and I do hope that May will be somewhat warmer on the buds and grass with the destroy (??) . Henry goes to Mr Brown's school- Mr B gets along without any difficulty I believe but the town and cant agree yet about the xxx xxx a notice for another town meeting has been issued this is the 4h that has been held. Graham has lectures here evenings this week and has made many converts. Genshom is adopting his plan for living and this(thinks?) he feels much better- Aunt Lucy is quite a convert Mr B and Mrs Hopkins drink nothing but water- Aunt R has made no tea for a fortnight so you will find us all Gramhites on your return. Aunt L makes his bread altogether- I brought some over this afternoon and I had it for my dinner I think we should like it very much. I have thought when the bell has rung every night for these lectures (he was on the Bible Sunday eve) how much xxx the very people must constant now, would make if they were religious meetings. Oh Henry say (?) we not belong to(?) of our own souls best interest but continues to love each other here and prepare for a holier happier world- with love from all (?) accept the warmest love of- your own EAW. Thank H. for the xxx and Maria for her letter, love to them all- this is hardly worth the postage but I thought it might cheer you to hear from me- dear Henry do be careful of your self- remember you are alone and I have my friends about me and our good Dr to take care of me so dont worry about us Mother is better and Lacy (?) G- is now well- Mrs Hooper has returned – and will stay a little time longer. Betsy I hear dont get well and they fear she is in consumption. Sister XXX was well last week xxx well. Joan's xxx xxx a week in May out here as the children have a vacationthen- Sister Harriet is not coming down until July. Aunt Lane passed the day here Wednesday she talked much of NY and her friends. There you must go and see her folks before you come home for she anticipates hearing from them by you. Mrs Josiah Whitten, nc, Mrs R's mother is quite sick tho' better now- but she is very anxious to hear particularly from Mrs Roby, Mrs Bradley from xxx was here yesterday she feels much for her sister and so does all Mrs R's acquaintances appear to- Little Henry is very anxious to see you and says you must come home soon and bring him something- your Hens have come off but I dont know exactly how many chickens we have- Mr Palmer sees to them- Henry Prentiss has left Shattered- I believe unknown to him- I dont exactly know about that however. She says to us that he was going where he could get a dollar a week- Elizabeth Swinnets (?) has called aurie (?) to enquire if there was any news from her Aunt Dennis- tell Mrs D that all her folks are well and the same as xxx dont forget to mention to her that Lynus' (?) wife has another son tell Hannaah she must write to me by you and all the Dexters must write- ask them if they got the news-paper with Baxters speech in it- I could write all day and find enough to say but my paper poetry reflected and I won't say anymore only that I do want to see you and miss you more than pen can express. Your own loving wife- EAW

Don't forget to remember me to all your friends. I feel very grateful that you don't have to lounge in a stranger's house- do get the Dexter's address when you come home-do come quick as you can- I forgot to mention the garden, what shall be done with it- or too it- will the high time to have it planted (?)next week if you intend it shall be-Barton is at home could he not see to it? I wish you would come and give your own orders- we cant spare you much longer-as I see- I might perhaps have our little gardens fixed and have some potatoes and squash planted there-it is quite cold yet, but the grass is very green and some flowers have made their appearance but I should think you have had as much cold and storm as

we have and xxx the weather was very xxx- Mr B mentioned that you would move Monday- so I suppose you will be most tired to death- for I know how you act on such occasions- how does your coat hold on- and do tell me about how you get along about your clothes-

Monday Morn. April 30

I again open this letter to say that Mr. Brackman and his wife called here last eve. and told me the news from NY. I am very sorry to hear that you have been so unwell and must again repeat my earnest injunction to you not to live on too sick food oh and if you could make up your mind to abstain from tobacco I believe you would see(sp?) the benefits of it - do not suffer the perplexities of your business to harass your mind and when you leave the office at night do leave anxiety and care with it- and visit among our friends and try to divert your attentions from business- I do hope you will come to some speedy conclusion-If Jesphoin (sp?) was to come on and stay a few days could not you make your arrangements quicker than by letter. We have talked of it a little and I but mention is I do hope you wont have to take a stranger into the business I should think a good clerk would be better why would not friend Henry Dexter esq (sp?)- he would feel interested (invested?) to do all in his power to promote the interests of the concern (sp?)- and would soon learn to transcend the business then by taking advise(sp?) of Brother Timothy – oh my dear H- I cannot think of moving but I did not meant to say so exactly it was a slip of the pen – Brother Samuel has just called he enquires after you particularly he is better but not very well- his little xxx was quite sick he says yesterday and xxx they were xxx with him afternoon all night- I wish he was in some good business I am sure for he is a dear brother to me and always will be – Brother xxx xxx xxx xxx some charcoal this morning he took 6 bushel for me it came to 2 xxx. I have not spent much since you have been gone and I dont mean to anymore than I can help- Mr B has almost given up eating meat and I cant any without it hurting me – so Mrs H says it is hardly worthwhile to cook any but we do cook it. Mr B has made the kitchen fire every morning and has been very kind and endeavored to assist us as much as possible. I do hope you will return before he goes indeed I cannot think of you staying three weeks longer. I dont believe you can make out all this letter but when I began to xxx if (of) – I did not know I should have to write so much excuse the nonsense oh the first page I wrote to make you laugh and drive away the blues- you will owe me a long letter and a good many kisses for being such a good girl to write to you.