

Lucy to Home Feb 24th 1864

Dear Mother,

Several weeks ago I received a letter from you bearing date Dec 20th 63. So that for sundry reasons, I did not reply being chiefly hindered to my being forced home at the time of Mr. Wright's departure, I was sitting Columbus out in the constant course of folly & dissipation, I neglected but did not forget. Upon my return home I determined to write to the world.

Nearly two weeks have elapsed since the receipt of a kind epistle wherein is portrayed your disappointment in not receiving a reply to a former communication.

It also contains, so gentle a reproof, and so open an example of the course that should be pursued in the Commerce of the Affections, that I cannot but regret my past delinquency and will endeavor to repair the wrong by replying immediately to my father's communication.

The death of your sister, must indeed have been a terrible blow. Death is terrible, come with many, whether it strikes us in the face, or places his iron grasp upon friends & relatives. I can readily conceive the anguish that prevented

your soul, upon the successful intelligence of her death - as I have
passed through the severe trials of bidding a sad adieu to a dear
and only brother - how shall I my comments, & my griefs, be conveyed
above my very heart strings - thus as the last sad adieu trem-
bled upon the lips, what anguish wrung the heart? The thou-
ghts that pure spirit had fled; those counsels never more to be heard
- those ears were open to receive me, now closed in the cold and
- care of death. All the sacred presents, rushed upon my mind
with lightning speed, and my thin frail nature barely with-
stood the shock, of a first and only grief - But we must
remember that it was God, who gave our friends, and that it
is he who has taken them to himself. Shall the thing formed, say
with me when, why have I thus done so? Nor let us submit to
his will, and when it shall be his pleasure, to call us home,
we may bid adieu to earth, & join that heavenly Choir above.

My parents are willing, and ever desirous, you should
visit here - as an acquaintance with you is particularly wished
for, if you see us to continue our correspondence. - Further expect
to be absent during the first week of April. & if convenient we
would like to know at - or about what period you expect
yourself as he would wish to be at home.

Yours truly

Mary.

James M. Woodland.