Dear Brother

Lowell, Nov. 21 1858

I take the present opportunity of writing to you hoping to find you all in good health as it leaves me at present thank you. I was sorry to hear of trade being so bad with you but of course I expected nothing else for I dont expect you will have much trade frome before next spring. Trade here generally is very slack but I am thankfull to inform you that I am one of the lucky ones for I have every prospect of work for this winter with full time. So I hope by next spring to be rather better qualified if work should fail to with stand it. I have wrote and sent 2 letters directed to my sister Nancy just 4 weeks since today but did not post them until the following thursday on account of a misshap wich happened with my bills being carried off by accident from the table by some of the girls cloths and carried out of the house
to another where the called 3 doors lower down so that I did not know but the was lost. However by good fortune the Mrs. found them on the floor in the kitchen on the Tuesday morning hand brought them in for me of wich I can assure you I was truly thankful. I directed them both to Nancy for fear of losing the money there was 25 dollars or 5 pounds for Mrs. Dunn wich I hope has arrived safe before this. I received a letter from Mrs. Dunn last Wednesday but of course she could not have received mine then but in the course of another fortnight I expect one to say she has received it safe. I merely mention this so that if it has not arrived you will know when you get this that I have sent and will let me know in your answer back to me. Some one as been kind enough to give my directions to Margaret as I have received a very saucy letter her but I have not yet answered it but I think I shall and give a pretty good one in return but as I can only write on a Sunday it must wait its course. I received it last Friday but one when I expected one from little Dickey but I have not received one as yet. When you wrote I hope you will be kind enough to send me all the particulars respecting both friends and foes I am always thankfull to hear from home and more particulars of my Mother how she is getting along. I felt truly sorry at leaving as I did without calling to see her but as soon as I can work myself round I will send her a present of 5 dollars but it will take me a month or two as I was almost naked for clothes and tools too wich is very is very expensive here. You will see I have sent you a representation of Lowell on this letter together with statistics where you see Capital stock is that $ for dollars I mentioned this so that you will properly understand it.
if you will notice it you will see there are mostly females in the cotton mills as the call all kind of works here factorys. so that [----ing] Iron works and all together you see there are more far more females at work than men. I never saw such a place for females as Lowell is in summer you may see them coming from the mills with their vails of Blue green or Black wich the all wear and parasols and as neat and clean as if the where going to church. In the mills every room there are wash stands with Iron wash bowls in rotation with water taps sinks and all complete. I was in the Merrimack Corporation (the are all corporated bodies bodies here with every one distinguished by a name) there at this mill the provide their hands with soap to wash them with. I can assure you the look much more comfortable here in the mills than home every one has a stool one chair to sit upon and watch there work and likewise all provided with a looking glass where you may see them stand combing their hair at the glass and straighting up themselfs as if in a Bedroom.the wear no stays here but all have large cain hoops under their dresses and an enormous size some of them are but on the whole the look very well. it will give you an idea when I tell you on saturday night I got here the mills as just closing and behold I thought it was A boarding school until I got near and saw the mill and I was surprised, you will see the number of churches to be 22 you will understand that all places of worship here are called churches you scarce ever hear the name of chapel mentioned. The are too far me different kinds of religeon here than home there is the english church called Episcoplian church there are 4 methodist churchs and I dont know how many catholic but the are very numerious here there is the calvanist the advents the spirituelist a very singular one this is the will go in a
trance and preach while they are in them the can cause the table or chair to run dance jump and I know not what. I wish you could see them for the must see before the could beleve such things there are the Millwrights these I have not been to see them. there are the quakers and the Shakers and a host of others the Shakers dont beleive in marriage and never marry here is a village of them only a short distance from here but I have not been yet though I wish to go to see them. the get their lively hood by making some kind of cakes that they bring into Lowell and other places they dress much like the quakers and when the meet for worship the form a rotation along the the meeting house Men on one side and Women on the other as if the was going to dance a country dance and then commence to walk backward and forward facing each other and commence singing all things carnal.

[written on the side]
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it is what I call school children kind of work but there A many of them and I merely mention these things to give you an idea what foolish ness there is amongst them.

The military companies are what we call at home militia men you may see some of them on duty smoking their cigars the are any think but well trained nothing like home their regular army would cut a sorry figure placed alongside of our own young Bulls as the call us. The only other item I shall refer you too is the newspapers with the only advantage being so cheap only one cent and about as large as the Bury Times. I often wish I could peek into the Weekly Times Paper. It would be such a treat but will send you one of ours over to you so you will see what the are and if you would sometimes post me a Weekly Times you would greatly oblige me. You will perhaps of heard how Mark is getting on I hope you will send me word he often use to wish he was hear but I can assure you he would not do better at home than here. I can hear of few doing well in the cotton mills here only such as manager or founder or overlooker spinning dressing etc. all done by women its women for everything I wish you with your family of girls was here you perhaps might do pretty well but I can assure you there is so much pride in dress that it takes considerably off to satisfy them there is one thing I wish to correct in my last that is I stated some girls has 8 looms but I have been corrected since six being the highest so I beg leave too conclude with my kind love to all friends and accept the same yourself from yours John Wood