

[illegible]

I am afraid that, though this letter is not like an essay,
and although it has a distinct beginning middle and end, and
might be for as such qualifications would go be called an epi
yet I fear not for this title - Only call it not a Pignoli - Such
as it is however it is an exact counterpart of my mind at this
present moment, thinking of twenty different things at once - this
letter is like the mottoes at the head of chapters in a novel, it gives
the few words, the substance of pages, but is (I am afraid) rather
superfluous - But such as I have written I must send for it, but
seldom that I can write eight pages good or bad, and I hope
that you will think with my friend Solomon that bad is better
than noise -
I was indeed astonished when you informed me that I had
not mentioned either Aunt Ann or Matilda in my last letter.
It is no wonder that they should feel for could I believe the fact
I should not forgive myself - you must have torn the letter, or
perhaps it had been soaked through with rain and
the writing thus defaced - that such things do happen I have one of
your letters to me to prove - But to atone for the omission of