

New York Sep 17th 1846

My dear Sister

I was much gratified, upon going home a few moments since, to find your kind letter of the 15th inst in the hands of Sarah. She having just read it. It came most opportunely, for it found her lying upon a sick bed, resulting from ~~the~~ ^a premature ~~confinement~~ ^{confinement} which happened on Monday evening. We did not look for the event for at least three months to come, and can in no way account for it, ~~but~~ ^{perhaps} it may be owing to her taking 3 of Dr Brand's Pills which she did on the Thursday previous. She had used all the pills which your good mother had given her and wanting some gentle medicine this was proposed to her. I have always been opposed to all quackery in medicine; but fancied that the chief virtue in these pills was, that they could not possibly do harm. She was quite well on Sunday and went to Church with me, and did not feel at all unwell until Monday morning, when I called in our old Physician Dr Stearns who at once said she could not avoid being confined. He can only attribute it to those 3 Pills. I am happy to say however that she is getting on very well and hope that she will be well enough to answer your letter in person in the course of a week or ten days.

I regret now more than ever that I have not
a house of my own that I might have some
of my family with me, particularly at such times,
for even with persons in robust health it is
not always well for them to be too much in
solitude. The people in the house are kind
enough, but they can never fill the place of
a kind mother or sister. It was my wish
all Summer to go to housekeeping this fall &
Sarah & myself went to look at a house on
Statens Island, a beautiful situation & one which
I much wanted Sarah to take, she did
not seem inclined to it & we consequently
put it off till the coming spring. Even
had I room in this house where I could
sleep, I should insist on your coming on
for a week or two, but the house has just
filled to overflowing & there is not a room
left vacant. Of course I have not even
mentioned the matter to Mrs. Snick, when
Sarah was first confined of her first child her
treatment of her at that time forbids us to look
for sympathy or kindness in that quarter &
since then much else has transpired to make
me wish to forget that such a ~~man~~ person
exists. With her, Mrs. Seland has been informed
of it. I don't doubt her sympathy, but
her house calls for her attention, and again I
do not think that she is one calculated

to render much consolation in such a case.
You must not be alarmed for Sarah is doing
wonderfully well and doubt not that she will
be about in a few days.

Sarah will get the coat from Mr. J's and she
& I will review our task and see if we cannot
have it re-made into something to suit you,
and should you have any other command I
hope you will send them but I will be
more prompt than in the affair of your hat,
'this' in that case wishes Sarah & myself were
to blame.

Little Kitty is growing quite fat, and runs
about alone. She made her first attempts a
week ago. You must say to your mother that
Sarah intends to get her flannels at once, as
for myself I think I shall try them this winter.

Sarah tells me ^{to say} that ^{before Grandmother's} Mary, was at Mrs. S's
to day, they were all well, and house full.

I wrote you a letter some long time ago, which
I suppose you rec'd. ~~It was also sent on~~ the
Coat & Shawl which I sent on by "Harbours".
I will write again in a few days.

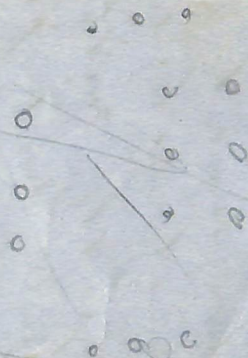
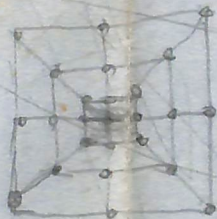
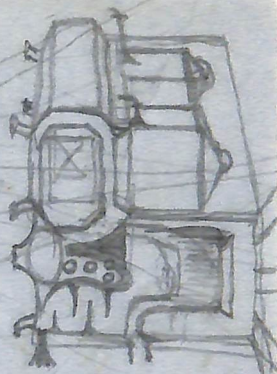
Can you decipher this scrawl? I fancy not.
I write in great haste that I may send it
by to day's mail, remember me affectionately to all.

I am off

William Irving

P.S. Sarah wants you mother to send her two or three
boxes of those Pills by first opportunity.

Ms Jane Niles
No 19 M Sean A
Boston



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