

Bartlett O., Jan. 19. 1895.

Mr. J. S. Harris  
Ada Ohio.

Dear Joe: - Your letter just received, if I may call it a letter, for it seemed more like a bright sun-beam in this dark hollow than anything I have met with this week except the few which have found their way between the lofty structures of nature. Another week has rolled by since I last conversed with you and it has brought many blessings and pleasures. I find myself becoming interested in school work again and time does not pass so slowly.

We too had quite a blizzard  
but more cold weather than  
anything else, only about two  
inches of snow.

Another snow of about four  
inches fell Tues. night, but  
the ground is almost bare  
again. I had a sleigh-ride at  
school yesterday also had  
my face washed which of  
course I enjoyed.

At our literary society last  
evening we voted to have  
an open session four weeks  
from tonight. We extend a  
cordial invitation, to everyone  
and would very much enjoy  
your presence. We think  
you will be fully repaid  
in coming but we will  
make no further requests  
for our society is surely

of world wide fame? But we do wish to announce, that we do not quarrel like the societies at Ado do.

And now dear Joe as I stop and read your tender and affectionate letter once more and realize that you share in my joys and sorrows, that you feel an interest in the work of my life as your own, that you sympathize in every tear, and are ready to share in every joy, I realize that I have found "one that sticketh closer, than a brother" I thank God tonight for such a friend and by His help and guidance shall try to return the love and affection which

has been given so kindly.

I can not express in words  
the thanks I owe you, for  
your kind interest and  
sympathy in my work.

Not an hour passes but it  
inspires me in my  
work and cheers and  
enlightens the dark hours  
which must necessarily  
come. I am sure your life  
shares my sympathies & desires  
in all your undertakings.

I surely thank you for the  
freedom you have manifested  
in expressing your feelings  
toward me. Never have I,  
in fiction or reality, seen  
love more severely tried  
and more steadfast through  
it all. I surely could have  
no reason to doubt your  
true devotion.

I sincerely and humbly  
 ask pardon for any <sup>and every</sup> pang  
 of sorrow which I have  
 brought to you, for I realize  
 that I have indeed brought  
 sorrow to your pure and  
 innocent soul.

By God's help I shall try  
 and make the future more  
 pleasant, and if such  
 were possible, to amend  
 the past.

If I fail to express my  
 feelings and emotions toward  
 you I hope you will not  
 judge too harshly for I  
 presume it is natural  
 for me to feel more of  
 a timidity on my part.  
 But I think my timidity has

all disappeared, judging from  
this letter.

Sun. Afternoon

I will write a little  
more as I did not  
finish my letter last evening.  
I was at church this  
morning and heard an  
address from Rev. 19-8.

Our protracted meeting  
begins tonight, which will  
suspend our entertainment  
for the present. Howard has  
just passed on his way  
to see Ella, I presume.  
Your folks were all at church  
this forenoon, I think you  
might be at church tonight  
to come home with me?  
I always have to stay at  
Frank's on Sun. night.  
"May the Lord watch between me  
and thee" Lovingly - Bertha.

12



W. J. H. Harris,  
Ada,

Box 499  
Ohio.