

[Letter from Alice Drinkwater to her sister Olive Drinkwater; Alice is working at a hat factory in South Framingham]

April 17 1872
So. Framingham
Wednesday Evening
11 O'Clock

Dear Sister Olive I am going to take a few minutes to night to write to you although as you see it is time I was in bed but I came out of the shop to night at nine oclock and have been to walk with a lot more, the best of the shop of course I don't walk with the best let me tell you, my escort was one of the head men in the shop and a perfect gentleman in every respect. Miss Davis and a lot more of the girls and boys went too. I have only just begun within a week to get out any, it is nice wheeling here now and getting to be quite pleasant, but we work so many hours in the shop that we don't have much time to improve it last Sunday was my 21st birthday and you think of it at home it is the first Sunday that I have put my head out of doors since I have been here so you can judge whether I have stayed close or not. Last Sunday I got up at six got ready at Seven and started with a lot more for a morning walk the same gentleman was my escort, that was with me to night we walked until nine came back and had our breakfast got ready and went to church got back just in time for lunch at twelve and at half past 1, two couples of us started for a ride the first time I have been in a carriage since I left home Although I have had two invite before. We had splendid time nice horses and the nicest of [toppier] buggies rode about 30 miles and altogether I guess I shall remember my 21st birthday some time but it was too much for me and I had to stay out of the shop the next day with the head ache so I didn't make much out of it after all I wish you would fix my blue dress and send it to me by express it wont cost much to send it and I need it have not got any thing to wear put on heading on both sides if you havent got it fixed and do it up closely with Emmas black silk over skirt and bretelles if she left it at home I will make it all right with her if she did'nt leave it at home Send the dress with [??] direct it to So Framingham Mass care of A. Richardson and I shall get it all right you need'nt pay the express I will pay that when I take it out only have it directed right I guess it would come all right done up in stiff paper I had a letter from Emma last week I suppose you have had one before this time give my love to all the family tell Ernest I am very much obliged to him for his gunn it came very acceptable tell Mother and Lillian I will write to them next Sunday and now good bye Allie

Write if you send my dress and send it as soon as you can if you send it at all