

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

South Framingham Mar 30<sup>th</sup> 1873

Dear Sister Olive.

I have been at work ever since I got up this forenoon until now. I have a few leisure moments that I will improve by writing home although I have received no answer as yet to the last one I wrote. The frost is coming out of the ground here, and it is horrid walking. And when I came home last night it was pouring hard. I had about half a mile to come and it was fun my clothes are not dry yet that I took off last night; had to change every ray [?] I had on, they have sent me down to another shop where they have first been putting in machines. To learn the girls to run them in place of Miss Houghton the Lady who learned us. She could not leave our shop and so she recommended me and I liked to accommodate her and so I went I shall have good pay for it. I have got to be there next week was there four days last week Miss Houghton has told them all that I was the smartest machine girl in the Hall and now I must work hard enough to keep up my reputation. One day last week I sewed one thousand yds of fine braid and it went all over the shop before night every one of the crowd that works in the shop knew it and I heard about it on every hand. I earned three dollars that day I think they want me for an overseer down to Richardsons the rest of the season. But I prefer to stay to Metcalfe I should not like to shoulder the care that an overseer is obliged to have. Last night after I got done work I looked out of the window and wondered what was going to become of me. It was raining so hard and I didn't know whether it was best to start or not, when I saw a friend of mine coming with an umbrella after me. he came from our shop down to Richardsons on purpose to see that I got home all right. I think he was very kind don't you. I am working very hard, don't stop to think of any thing but my work. I comb my hair over a roll in front and bring it all up to the top of my head in a pug. Haven't worn it any other way but two or three times since I have been here don't wear a thing on my head but my own hair not so much as a piece of ribbon I work about 13 or 14 hours a day and don't have time to fix myself up. I sewed that thousand yds in ten hours but could not work so hard every day. Miss Houghton wanted me to see what I could do so I thought I would please her they say I am growing poor on it but don't care if I can only have decent health the rest of the girls have all gone to church to night but I would not go it was so muddy and I was tired but I must stop for my sheet is full so good bye from Alice