

Letter No. 10

Leominster April 1st 1863

Dear Brother-

I am sitting down once more with pen in hand to let you know that we are well, and whatever else I think you would like to know. We (Mother and I) wrote to you last Wednesday and told you we received your letter of the 9th, and was glad to hear you was in such good health, and spirits, and hope this will find you the same. What you said about Lucius Balek made me think you was not very low spirited, and I hope you can always see a bright side of a dark picture.

The leaf you sent us was real pretty, and Mrs. Burr told us the name of it but I do not remember it, and said she had seen such in Rhode Island. We have shown the flowers and leaves to several and they were thought very pretty. We keep them in your book of Popular Biography on the parlor table. We all went to a concert given by Mr. Ossian Dodge and Mr. William Haywood on Monday evening and we liked it very well. I will enclose the bill of it. You and I went with father and Lizzie Colburn to hear Mr. Dodge sing about 14 years ago, and I have not seen him since.

He is real good looking much better than in the pictures, and his assistant is about your age I should think, and quite pretty. It snowed here quite fast nearly all day yesterday, and looks like winter today, though it is quite pleasant, and not very cold. We expect Willie home tomorrow, and mother thinks of going to Mr. Low's the tailor's with him to get some cloth for a spencer, and have it cut at the same time. His hands are better than when I wrote you before. We put on some salve you left at the store, and also the wash you left at home. I have been up to uncles Jonus' this morning to see if there was any news in the papers last evening in relation to your regiment, but there was no more than I had heard before, of you going up the river a little way and then returning without any particular adventure. Cousin Carrie enquired in relation to you. She is not very well, and has not been since Sunday though not much unwell, and aunt Matilda's stomach and back troubles her. I am going to a sewing circle at Mr. Fay's this afternoon. Mr. Willard of Lunenburg preached Sunday from the texts found in the 7th chapter of Mathew. With what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again and Do unto others as you would that they should do to you. His sermons were not written, and were very good. Thursday afternoon, Willie came home about 11 o'clock, and has been down and been measured for a spencer. He brought one home to try on, it fitted pretty well but mother thought it was too thick for summer. It was made of gray cloth and costs 4 ½ dollars. He brought Mr. Wilder's dog up with him, and got a collar for him at Mr. Allen's store, and will send it back if it does not suit Mr. Wilder. It is of a whitish color. The collar he wears is of a steel color and rusts his neck. Mr. Wilder's folks are pretty well today. Willie would have come up yesterday, but Mr. Wilder's head ached so that he was not able to be in the store in the afternoon. A lot of boys have been in to see Willie; Frank Stearns, Eddie Blodgett and Milton. Frank has not heard from Charlie for some time, but thinks by the papers that he is in Cleavland, Ohio. Willie brought up some specimens of sugar at 13, 12, and 12 ½ a pound, calico at 23 cts a yard, and house paper at 15 and 20 cents per roll. The paper was very pretty and mother thinks of taking 8 rolls of the satin paper at 20 cts which is slate color, brown and white for the sitting room. There were only ten of us at the sewing circle and the next one is to be at the vestry and we are too have tea and

invite the gentlemen, and a social party in the evening. Miss Mary Lincoln inquired if we had heard from you lately and now you health is now, and Mrs. Fay asked where you was now. But I will close , for my sheet is almost full.

From you affectionate sister Josie.

P.S. We all send our love.

brother, Thomas Augustus Hills, age 22.
Lucius Balek
Mrs. Burr
Mr. Ossian Dodge and Mr. William Haywood
Lizzie Colburn
Willie, Charles William Hills, age 14.
Mr. Low
spencer, a short waist-length jacket.
Uncle Jonus
Cousin Carrie
Aunt Matilda
Mr. Fay
Mr. Wilder
Mr. Allen
Frank Stearns
Eddie Blodgett
Milton
Miss Mary Lincoln
Josie, Josephine Amelia Hills, age 24