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Pleasant mound Aug 29<sup>th</sup> 1859

My beloved brother

Pa wrote to you only a few days since, but I feel tonight as if I must write and endeavor if it is possible to comfort you in your deep [affliction]. Our hearts have been filled with sorrow at the sad tidings of the death of my sweet sister – your precious, and devoted, wife and she my dear dear brother when I feel what pain it gives me, to think that I shall never again on earth behold the beautiful form and hear the gentle voice of dear Kate, my heart overflows with sympathy for you, for although she was very dear to us, yet how much more, so was she to you. I always feared you loved her too much. I believe she was as worthy of it though as any one on earth ever was, she was too pure for this earth she was lovely here but how much more lovely, and radiantly beautiful is she now she turns her bright harp around our saviors glorious throne. Try my dear brother not to think of her laying in the cold grave, but as a happy spirit in heaven, free from all pain, and singing the praises of our redeemer forever and forever. I know dear brother that it seems to you a great trial, perhaps you cannot see why your sweet young bride was taken from you so soon, but I trust you have faith to believe it was for some wise and good purpose, and that you bear it with christian fortitude, for “you doth not afflict willingly, or grieve the children of men” Ma bids me to say to you that she sympathizes as deeply with you as it is possible and will write to you soon, would have done so today but was not aware until this evening that any one was going to town in the morning and cannot see to write well at night. She says (and we all join her that you must come out to see us soon, that a change of scene and place would cause you to feel better, your dear little infant my brother? Does it still live? We are exceedingly anxious to hear from you, having as yet received but one short letter from Henny. Has Mrs. Reynolds returned home? And has she the sweet little babe? I expect she thinks she ought to take it, and it is natural that she should wish to have it, but if it is your wish dear brother nothing would give us more pleasure than to take the dear little motherless creature to our hearts, and cherish it not only for your dear sake, but for the sake of its angel mother.

We are all quite well at home except Ed who has not been so well for two days though we hope he has been improving some the past few weeks, but he coughs very badly and sometimes it is with difficulty that he gets his breath. I sincerely hope you will come home soon we want to see you very much. Willie was to see us a week or two ago was quite well and in fine spirits. I suppose Mr Watts will not return for several weeks. Please give our love to Henny, Sallie, and the children All join me in warmest love to you , and that heaven may help, and comfort, you my dear brother is the prayer of

Your fondly [illegible] sister

Emma