

large share of my love for yourself please answer soon as convenient  
and excuse my poor writing for I am in a great hurry for I am  
drone with my work for I am a going to work at my trade the first of  
next month if nothing happens it is churning and Dyeing I think  
of working here in this village and if I get up there this summer it  
will be after the drive of the Spring work and then I guess I will make  
up less time send up that way I am a coming up there to get a bear  
for I am not a going to have a Rhode Islander I think I shall have  
a Bocher If your father wants to know what kind of a girl I am  
tell him I am almost a fool besides being underwitted I must leave  
off now and bid you good bye for the present hoping to hear from you  
soon and of seeing you soon

From your most  
obliging and loving cousin  
P.S. To William & Briggs  
I want to see you more I think  
than I can write with pen and ink  
But when I shall I cannot tell  
At present I must wish you well  
I had never received your  
letter and found as you will the  
consigne which you wrote it cost  
We are all well at present Please to write and  
so no more at present  
Thomas & Briggs

we received  
Sineys letter  
and Helen  
received your  
let us now when you  
are and what I should

April 11<sup>th</sup> 1850 2 o'clock P.M.

Cousin William's

I received your kind letter of April the first  
and was exceedingly pleased to hear from you and your family and  
was pleased to hear that you was well and it found us all well as usual.  
You might be of seen me when I received your letter I guess you would of  
thought you had a very foolish cousin I was sitting and a little boy come  
and brought it in I jumped clear out of my chair and threw down my  
work to read it for I knew it was from you and I read its contents with great  
pleasure for I was happy to hear from my ever dear cousin and to hear that  
you received my letter in due season and ever me as one of your <sup>own</sup> cousins  
I was pleased to hear that you have got to be uncle for it must make  
you feel pretty well to be called Uncle William at least it would me if I was  
in your place. You wrote you wished I could be with you to some of your  
sugar parties I wish it was so I could be up there in sugar season for  
I would get me a sugarheart if nothing more if I was there you would  
know it for I am a very noisy creature and I should laugh loud enough  
to frighten you for I laugh very loud especially <sup>when</sup> out doors a racing I think  
I should run a race with you and beat you all to nothing my happiness  
would be about complete if I could be up there but it is not for me to  
enjoy myself so well. I should like to see your Brother and Sisters  
very much and especially you who I am forming up acquaintance  
through a correspondence You write about letter writing that is an art  
that I was never able to learn and that you know without my telling  
you and you must make allowance for my inability  
The lady you wrote about wanting to see you is a married lady so you  
will have to look farther but I am not married nor am I a going  
to be just now for I am waiting patiently to see you for I think you

must be good looking at least I have formed such an opinion of you  
yet I care not for looks but I can tell for better when you come down to  
see me or send you miniature that will be received with pleasure  
by me you must send it very soon ~~rather says~~ or I shall not be myself long  
for she says she hears nothing but Cousin William ~~if you~~ <sup>with</sup> send your  
miniature perhaps you will see mine coming up that way but the saying is  
that when miniatures is exchanged that there is engagements but it is not  
so in this case yet a while for you will not think much of me if you should  
see me. I hope you will not engage yourself to keep school this summer  
for you must come down here and see your cousins if you will come down  
we will go to the shore and have a good time I will learn you how  
to go to the shore and have a good time I went last summer with cousin  
Vernon Briggs he is your cousin as well as mine he talked of coming  
up here this summer and he asked me to come with ~~them~~ but he  
has got married now so if he comes I shall not come with him for he  
will have a wife to bring if you come down I do not know but I will  
come home with you But I have got me single cousin yet as long  
as you are single. I saw Cousin Benjamin last Sunday he and his wife  
sends their love to you he would give me no reason for being affronted  
with you he would not own exactly about it he is foolish to get displeas'd  
with your writing for I am sure if my good nature will not let me harbor  
one thought against you nor would I if I could for I have formed  
a good opinion of you for that I have no objections to continuing this  
correspondence with you and it is with pleasure I write to you and I  
wish I could write more scholastically but it is not in my power  
I do not know whether there will be any summer here for it is now very  
cold the wind blows very hard and last Friday we had quite a snow  
storm. If you come down I will go round and introduce you to your  
relatives I will have you sound amongst them greatly I will show

you Rhode Island in all splendor but I would not have you think  
it is any thing extraordinary for it is not. I long to come up in that  
part of the country and ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> travel sound about the world you  
must know I am roving minded but enough of this or you will  
think I am a foolish girl

I have to write on business to Uncle Thomas tell him that the  
property of Cousin Rebecca Gardiners which he owns a share in they are  
a selling out Aunt Harriet and Uncle Ambrose has sold their share to  
Nicholas & Fry and mother is a going to sell him hers and you or your father  
must come and see to it if not write what he is a going to do with it  
I should think that as you are single you might come down and see to  
it for him. I will tell you now who ~~your~~ <sup>two</sup> ~~your~~ <sup>two</sup> aunts married you spoke  
about Aunt Marys first husband was fathers brother his name was  
Charles Spencer her last husband is George W. Reynolds they live to the west  
about 40 by married Benjamin Tangle she died 17 years ago last July  
Aunt Ruth died in Philadelphia but I do not know any more about  
her ~~for~~ <sup>now</sup> I guess I have ~~read~~ <sup>read</sup> your letter over ten times mother  
says I shall have sore eyes if I am not careful but they are sore it  
will be through a good cause but I will resist.

You must excuse the liberty I have taken but I do not like to be under  
a restraint when I write I want to write familiar and it pleases me to  
have you write so familiar to me for why should we not for we are  
cousins but one of my cousins told me that we should ~~marry~~ because  
I wrote to you and you answered it I think they have began quick  
to talk but I do not care for it and you must not you must not forget to  
send your miniature if you do not but you would come if you knew  
how I want to see one that I am a writing so familiar to that I must  
not write much more or you will call me a tedious cousin we all join  
in sending our love to you and your fathers family you must reserve a

subject we are not favored with but one drunkard amongst us  
William and that is Uncle Ambrose and I have did all I could  
to reform him but I fear there is no reforming him he is so far  
gone I shall have to lose soon for I must write a few lines to chide  
you must come down this fall now be sure and come and I will cheer you up  
if that is what you want I have dreamed of you twice within the past  
week And such dreams they were good ones I can tell you  
Our family all writes in sending their love to you mine I send singly  
yes I come and it freely to you and all the rest of my friends up there  
I have farmed in summer here you see I do not know whether  
it is a good one or not I do not know of any more to write only you must  
expect bad spelling and writing for a fly with all its claws and a mosquito the  
other and it keeps me a pumping all the time you know I have seen they are  
very large a great many can carry off a common sized cherry if you do not  
feel disposed to believe it go on prove it

Please answer soon and I hope the next will bring the joyful news  
that you are coming this fall and you must send your miniature if you don't  
come

I remain your most  
affectionate and truly loyal friend

Do Williams

Forget thee in though far and wide  
Fate may our fortunes sever  
In weal or woe what else betide  
I can forget thee never

*Do Williams*

Natick August the 15<sup>th</sup> 1800

Cousin William

Your kind letter under date of July 20<sup>th</sup> arrived in  
due season but I was from home and have just returned and I read it  
with joy and was happy to hear that you was well and still in the land of the  
living I have been away ever since the 4<sup>th</sup> of July I arrived home yesterday  
I have been over to Aunt Elizabeth Briggs I enjoyed myself very well they  
sent their love to you they are all well but Aunt she has been sick a year but  
she is some better now. You spoke of Cousin William C. Briggs I have seen him  
he was here the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May and spent the day he stayed here in Rhode Island  
but one week I visited him last week he is at his sister Maria's and has  
been there ever since he went from here he enjoyed very good health  
whilst he was here he said he had not been so well in a great while he  
said he was in a great hurry to get home when he was here but I see what  
his hurry was it was to get away from us I hope when you get here you  
will not be in such a hurry to get away from me so that I do not  
think you will if you want to for I shall not let you go if you want  
to you must come this fall and stay the winter you must be sure and  
come for I shall expect you soon and do not let me watch in vain for if  
you knew how much we <sup>all</sup> wanted to see you you would come.

You spoke of my holding to my promise and not marry I am a going to hold to it  
until you get here and a great while longer for matrimony runs the milk of  
human kindness as you tell of for I believe I shall be an Old Maid after all you  
spoke of your miniature you must send it by all means I shall receive it with  
the greatest pleasure imaginable and when you come down you shall have  
mine with pleasure I see you speak of the 4<sup>th</sup> I spent mine at home as all Old Maids

have to for the want of some one to go with me I wish you had been here you only spent 3 days for your fourth and I spent 7 weeks only, a long fourth for me you spoke of your tiresome letter but your letters are never tiresome to me you would not think so if you know how many times I read them over, you spoke of dreaming of me I should like to know what you dreamed about me very well. When they get tired of you up that way you may come down here I do not think we shall get tired of you very soon at least I shall not. I partly promised cousin Willard that I would come home with you when you came down I think I should if you come home with him if he had been going that home.

I saw cousin Benjamin Briggs and wife yesterday to his mother he will not say why he stopped correspondence with you so I am as innocent as ever about it he asked me if we corresponded yet I told him we did he made me this answer the next I hear William and you will strike up a match. I do not know why he should say so but he did not appear to want much conversation with me when you come you come from New York city to Providence and then you can come to watch any day as there is five or six coaches pass our door every day to and from Providence you can come and stay longer than Willard did if you do not get tired of us <sup>soon</sup> as he did. I get along very well but I need you here to talk to me once in awhile when I get in one of my high keys as mother call them for I am as gay and thoughtless as ever and that you will find out by my writing if I did not tell you at least I need your good advice if nothing more I thank you a thousand times for the advice about my persons behavior in company with me but I have seen more of that behavior yet and if I had I must fancy them as well as they me.

I was very much pleased with cousin Willard's ways whilst he was here he gave me a description of you and he said he wanted to see us together he thought we should be two hoppers to be together he was very much pleased with his visit and wished several times that you was here with him but

he wished so me more than I did but you say you will come this fall so I will try to wait patiently untill you come I should like for you to bring your sister Nancy with you I was everjoyed to receive a letter from her and I shall be happy to receive more from the same source and I shall try to answer ~~in my feeble way~~ in my feeble way. O Mother was weighed last week and she weighed only 178 pounds I tell her she is falling away fast she says I act so like fun she shall have to send me home with you to try and see if I shant stady down a little I guess I shall be milder than I am now if you do not keep a strict hand over me. I am to will to marry or think of it in some years from now I am a going to take up with georotrice and live single for awhile for in my opinion it is the happiest life of any I am not married so you can just bust me yet and tell me some of your life when we meet if we ever meet you spoke of death amongst the hard drinkers and I see you are as much opposed to strong drink as I am they say down this way that I am to set upon the matter but I say I am not I say it is good in its place but there is reason in all things for William what looks more heartbreaking for wretched than a person under the influence of strong drink we have lost one of our most famous and best of temperance advocates he died 3 weeks ago his name was Thomas ~~Pen~~ he believed untill he wore himself out he went into the next consumption he lived a short time after he began to complain. I say I never will have a man that drinks no more even a moderate drinker for in my opinion they are as bad as a set give me a person that can live without the aid of rum and that is the man for me I hope William and you shall not disagree upon this point if we do I shall have to give you a short lecture upon my favorite

Wednesday Dec the 25<sup>th</sup> 1850

Cousin William

I seat myself to pen another letter to you it seems a very long time since I heard from you, and it being Christmas I have thought often of you in the course of the day and oftener wished you were here to enliven me I do not know why it is but I feel very lonesome this evening. But I am alone about for the two young Ladies that board here have gone to writing school, my sister Mary sits in the room with me with my Accordeon a trying to learn to play, so I thought I would write to you I suppose one thing makes me feel lonely is just this William and nothing else I have got tired of the blaze of fashionable parties but you may ask why I do you go to them I will tell you I must keep up appearances for the crowd must know me as the gayest of the gay but the more I see of the world the farther off I am from marrying I suppose you will call it a childish whim but I tell you that false deception dwells in man but there is some few exceptions I am single and free and I intend to remain so for a while I went to a party Saturday evening I enjoyed myself very well I had an invitation to go to the Christmas-ball but I declined going I could not enjoyed myself if I had O how I wished you was here to go with me to some of our sleighing-parties I some expected to of gone to night but we gave it up for the present, I expected you down here this fall and if you did not come I expected your miniature. I guess I have been to the Postoffice 50 times in 3 months, but I have received no epistle from you Cousin what have I said or did to merit your anger just tell me if any, and I will if it is in my power remove it O how I wish I could sit beside you and tell you some of my thoughts then I should be happy I have no friend to sympathise with me. My father's family are all well I am well as usual they all join in sending their love to Colz William and mine I wish you to receive for yourself which I send freely.

William what do you think I heard last week why it was this an intimate friend of mine came to me and asked me if I ever received letters from York State I told her I did then she asked me if I ever wrote in return I

answered yes and asked why they wanted to know so particular for, and they said that they heard so, I did not know what they meant then they said that they heard I was a courting a young man in Helson New York by the name of Briggs I asked who told her and she said that one of my cousins said she would not tell which one but I told her it was no such thing for you was my cousin and I guessed if you was not, you would not want such a foolish thing as me, but she would not believe it.

We have never heard from Taden yet - how often to I think of my brother that is on the trackless main if living how often do I fancy him dead but then I think that he is too likely to love as father did for father was a sailor all his young days he went to sea untill he was married. I saw cousin Benjamin Briggs a few weeks ago he asked me if Cousin Bill and were corresponded yet I told him no but I corresponded with William Briggs and he said no more he keeps house at the Harrisville about 30 miles from here. William you must not think from what I have written that I do not wish to marry thinking that my happiness has gone for life. On the contrary I am of opinion that a superior degree of happiness in a married state may be attained, to what I perhaps may find in any other. I know the forlorn situation of an Old maid, the Chagrin and peevishness which are apt to infect their temper and the great difficulty of making a transition with dignity and cheerfulness from the period of youth, beauty, admiration, and respect, into the calm, silent, unnoticed retreat of declining years. but I wish to marry for no other reason than to make myself happier and I hope I shall never be so foolish as relinquish the ease and independence of a single life to become the slave of a fool or tyrants caprice. William bid I not promise I would not marry until you came down I believe I did, and when I make a promise for sober earnest I calculate to keep it so I shall keep my promise with you. O I dreamed of you last night you was sitting by my side my hand in yours and we was talking of, I almost told you what but I will not but it on paper I will tell you when you come to see me. The Sleigh Bells jingle merrily every few minutes as they pass now I am alone and it is very still for the family have retired for the night and I must soon stop writing as

it is very late you must be sure and send your miniature to me it will come safe and straight to me I've live at Hatick yet I expect we shall move from here the first of April if we do I will write and let you know give my love to all that enquire after me and to one more for fear that no one will enquire. I shall send this to your fathers not knowing where you are at this time but you must write and send your miniature as soon as you receive this I am in a great hurry for it is now a clock and I begin to grow sleepy.

O I wish you a Merry Christmas and a still happier new year is the sincere wish of  
Lysal Spencer

Good night William