

Mother says to tell you she has lost all her teeth and
 her hair is turning gray but she can spin her
 dozen a day and stand on one foot till she puts
 her stockings on yet and Now Uncle maybe
 you would like to know something about who
 is writing this impudent letter to you well I
 suppose you have forgot your niece that was a
 little girl 4 years old when you was to see us in the
 Good old Country but I have not forgotten you
 and I am now 16 years old and as tall as Ma
 If I had some money I would send you my likeness
 in this letter ^{Oh} I do wish you would get yours taken and
 send it to us in your next letter Ma says our Willie
 looks like you I would like to see you so well Sarah
 Wannie Willie and me started to school this morning
 we only have a quarter of a mi to go this winter we have
 no schoolhouse yet in our district we are going to build one
 next summer I believe you never seen Willie Wannie was
 the baby when you last seen us he is our youngest he is
 4 years old the 10 day of this month his name is
 John Wilson Pierce but we always call him Willie
 we are all well and always are Thanks to a kind
 Heavenly Father and of a healthy Country I have
 not been sick enough to go to bed since I came to
 Iowa and that is 4 years this haul my hand is
 getting tired and I expect I am wearing your patience
 out so I will bid you Good bye for this time Mother
 Pa and all the children send their love to you all
 give my love to Auntie Philander Berona Charly
 and all the Cousins I have and Please except
 a large share for Uncle Andrew Bell from your
 From your loving niece Olive W Lewis

one of the best of the kind you
 have ever seen
 I had a little of the
 in our to do it

CIVIL WAR - How the
 must make to make
 me to make
 to my uncle I have
 of going to make a letter
 January the 4 / 69 A.D.

Mr. A J Bell from Lewis (nephew)
 My Dear Uncle

yours of the 29 are received on Newyears day
 and I assure you it was a welcome Newyears gift
 we was exceeding glad to hear that you was all living
 yet after waiting so long to hear from you you
 said you had no disposition to write you are not
 much like your niece then for I would much rather
 write to my friends than eat unless I was very hun-
 gry. This is a bright beautiful Sabbath day they
 have all gone to meeting but Frank and I, Ma told
 me when she started to meeting to answer Uncle
 Andrews letter for I could write better than she could
 Well I will try Uncle in the first place I think
 you are too hard on Old Abe you must remember he
 is nothing but a man if he is President of the
 United States and a poor awake sinful creature like
 all the rest of us you said "his everlasting war" if
 you think the war is destined to be everlasting
 how do you expect Old Abraham or any other
 Man to stop it. It is my ^{humble} opinion that God alone
 can end this devastating war and I hope and