From August 28, 1864, Sabbath.
My Dear Earl,

What in the world is the reason you do not write. I have been almost distracted about you for the last ten days. I should think you would known we would be anxious about you after such a terrible freshet as you had there in that Ravine and then your friends have not even mentioned it but Phil McLean & Henry Poitier's wrote about it and I read a letter from John Lashway saying there was great destruction of property & a good many lives lost, and we heard at the Rocks that there was a large number drowned from the Xe, but have had no particular from any source. Had a letter from Henry Friday. He did not mention it, said he had a letter from you a few days before if you was thinking against we wish you and he could not to Jackson and came. Forgive of your mother & Dr. Bruce & Mrs. from Eliza.
The home next month, so to be here when that election comes off; I mean Bell's affair. She feels as though she could never leave home without seeing her brothers again, as though you must both be here at that time and 6 hours. I wish you could come. It seems very hard to give her up now at this time, when you are both away, and while I am in a constant worry about you, but I cannot keep her always and they certainly are both old enough. I shall have to make the best of it. I would be glad if we could do more for her. She needs 75 dollars now to get her out to go, and times are so hard we can do but little. Newt is doing well. They have bought a house and lot and will go right to housekeeping. We expect Frank Throop next week to stay until Newt and Belle go back. Sabbath Evening Sept 14th. Well Earl. My letter that I began just a week ago today is still unfinished. Since I commenced this I have been to
Wilmington blackberrying and am trying some to send to you and thought this fall or winter but I will try and finish this. We have felt very anxious about you until last week. We have not heard from you only by way of Henry since the 11 of August and we heard of the freshest in the papers did not know but you were drowned. You must remember that we are in a constant worry about you and Henry and want to hear as often as once a week. Henry complains that you do not write often he is long spirited when he is sick and you know just how bad good. A letter does one when they are sick in a hospital among strangers and you must write often to him if you write but little. He has been a beloved good brother to you and you must not neglect him. There is a terrible suit thing and squeezing here in town on account of the Draft yesterday they
looked but mine to fill their quotas and a great many are getting substitutes among the number that you are acquainted with is Martin J. George Young, Williamson Bull Seth Johnson, Joe Wood and I believe two of Riley Towns sons the Jesse Toby and wife went just about distracted about Frank. The cried day and night and they rode all the time until a sick boy froze and he told Will Tramshondt that he would not sacrifice every cent he had in the world before he would let Frank go, and this is the kind of man you will find among all the hot headed abolitionists and I am perfectly sick of it and Milton Gettys was so afraid he could not get someone to go for him that cried boldly at pay and the Platthand even in the Proost Marshal's Office I don't know if I was a man it would be a man and not a baby or a calf I would rather be shot. Be careful of yourself and do your duty in the fear of God put you trust just turn and ask him for help and thank good by God I hope you found yourself.