Dear Sister,

Your letter of Apr. 19 received, also the one of Feb. 23rd which you supposed was lost, it did not reach Oxford until after we left, but our friends there sent it on to us here, to cheer up Sister if our letters do not go back & forth as quick as we wish they get along sometime. You say you are sorry we have to be moving about so much, could you know the benefit it has been to us, you would say how glad I am, we did not leave there because we did not like it, we had become attached to the place & people & had it not been for Smaed's sickness we probably should have been there now, but that put us back by getting us some into debt & he had such a good chance to sell, yet clear & do better, we could not withstand the temptation, buying & selling is every day
business with our western people, some
make themselves independently rich by
selling land, but we do not calculate
to speculate quite so much as that, but
if life & health is spared, we shall, a western
home we shall not be ashamed to have
you come & see, I am not sure you but
you would think I did actually gain an
"iron constitution" by coming here if you
could see how my health has improved
since I came, am getting fat & tough, think
you would stand a chance to get a good
shaking if I could get hold of you, do
not be alarmed about our going to the
end of the Globe, we calculate to within
bounds, bread & butter right side up, if the
best is only excuse for not coming to see us
is "you should not know where to find us
we move so often," I think you have none
at all, for we stayed in Oxford almost two
years, you might have come there in a week,
if it will not take much longer, if any,
you to come here, besides, can come much easier,
take the cars at Greenfield, come to Chicago, then take the Chicago 
& Galena railroad to Dunleith, then take the 
Steamboat up the Mississippi river to 
Reeds landing, then up the Chippewa 
river until you reach Eau Claire, 
probably as you passed along you might 
see me standing in my door looking at 
the big boat as she glided along in the 
water to land a little above our house, 
we do like here very much indeed, I have 
ever seen the place since we left Mass 
which suited so well as they 3 unless 
sickness or misfortune happen some way 
this will probably be our home, the only 
objection to this place is its being so far 
north, but from all accounts it has 
not been colder here nor are things 
more backward than in Mass 3 many 
other places, Samuel is not going on to 
his farm at present but is at work 
in this village at his trade, gets 2 dollars 
or 3 quarter a day & is soon to have 28 y.
this is a fast place & every thing is fast in it. Provisions are high, wheat $2 dollars a bushell potatoes 1 1/2 dollars, butter from 35 to 40 cts lb, Pork from 18 to 20 cts, sugar 15 to 20, Salt 20 to 22, we are not troubled with fat but ours Pork here is equal to old Mass Hogs, & we eat it too. Smede has bought a village lot & is now building a house on it, I do wish you see how pleasant it is out here, truly the western country is beautiful, you cannot imagine how handsome the Prairie are at this season of the year. would that I could describe them, but I cannot, so come & see for yourself. I have sent you a Circular occasionly that you may know what is going on here & wish you would send me one occasionally, also send you a Circular that you imagine some what a place this is getting to be. Smede says tell brother Adam money lets here for from 40 to 60 per cent interest goes quick at that. well Ed & I am indeed sorry to hear such of Freedom & family, bad hoped her afflictions might lead to see the folly of living wholly for this world, for all things are passing away here & Eternity is drawing near to us all, I have written a letter would like to know what she says about it. Have had a letter from Annie & Charlotte they say you have made them a visit
that they enjoyed it much, did it, show you any of my letters & what says he.

I have also a letter from Erastus, he says he has a little daughter, (that's pretty well for an old man) I would like to see the little darling, have not heard from Abner Lysander for a long time, I know not what is the reason, I have written to them, just had a letter from Mrs Haynes & Mrs Hunt, they are well & doing well, Mrs Haynes has a daughter born last Feb., she has named it after me.

We have some of our old Oxford neighbors here with us, so we are getting acquainted here, & like the people well, We have Huckleberries & wild Plums, Cranberries & Snapes in great abundance, also have all kinds of dried fruit plenty, by paying handsomely for them, dried apple is 20 cts a lb. You say Sarah Pink's husband is best, should they come on would like to know where they are. Give my love to her & Mother & other enquiring friends.
I am glad to have you write us about old acquaintances, for we often think & chat about them. Death has made great changes in your town & at Sally, we hear from there occasionally by our old friends. O let us strive to live so that we can meet death in peace, & may God bless & keep us till we meet to part no more, it is now time to get supper, so I will not try to fill this sheet, for I have not time, we have three cases of Small Pox here, but am in hopes there will be no more, let us hear from you soon & often, you may laugh hard as you are a mind to over this letter & then turn it up & send me another good long one to pray for it, My love to you all, Smeads likewise.

From your loving Sister

L.A. Hastings