Eau Claire, Feb. 25th, 1861

Dear Sister Sarah.

Long have I looked in vain for a letter from you, & now I have come to the conclusion that I must write & stir you up, or there is no telling how much longer I might have to wait before I hear from you. Remember this is my second one to you, since you wrote me. Sometimes I have thought, I would wait & see how long it would be before you would write, but I find that too hard a case. Now Sarah if you are not sick, it is too bad not to write oftener; if sick surely some one might let me know it. I know you might find time to write two or three lines, at least, if you set yourself about it. Way off here as we are from all our relatives, it seems hard to have you so negligent about writing. There have I said enough to stir up you ideas? If so, I will forbear & expect to hear from you soon.

My health is, & has been all winter, extremely good for me; I think better than at any time since my sickness at Greenfield. Smead is about as usual & we are comfortably situated. He has not earned much this winter, there cannot be much to be done at Carpentering in the winter, but we raised plenty of provisions, & so are well cared for. I said this because you are wondering how we are getting along.

Our winter has been very mild yet extremely changeable. Yesterday was cold & tedious, today if very warm so that I have had my door open considerable of the time, & this is a specimen of what our winter has been. How about yours? We have only snow enough for good sleighing.

It is now almost year since brother Erastus died; it has
Eau Claire, Feb. 25th, 1861

been a lonely time to me. He used to write me so often. Oh how I have missed his kind & affectionate letters. Carrie writes to me occasionally.

One of her letters I would like to copy for you, but I do not think best. Yet will tell you somethings she said. "July,12th. she says, the last four months have been lonely ones for me bereft as I am of my stay & helper. God bless him. I trust & feel sure he is perfectly happy. I sent a trunk to Greenfield containg all of Erastus clothes (except four of his best articles) which he desired should be given to his brother Joel's family. The four articles, he told me to sell, for he knew I should want every cent of cash which I could obtain after he was gone. But have not heard of its arrival, shall write soon. In it I sent some of his own usefull articles thinking Mrs Adams would know best how to divide them. I have acted exactly according to his own directions.

While on this subject I will continue & mention the possession of two notes he held of yours, & when I repeat what he told me to write to you, I trust you will not be offended. It was tell them you will be glad to have some or all whenever you find yourselves able to send me." The above is copied from Carries letter, more I do not think best to copy. If I remember right, it is not far from 60 dollars that we owed him; you know what I told you he said to me when out here. It does not trouble me any, although I am very anxious to have it paid, & we intend it shall be as soon as we can dispose of some property we have on hand. Smead has a village lot here without any buildings on it; we shall sell it soon as possible
Eau Claire, Feb. 25th, 1861

& hope to pay it up. What we owed him is all we owe. I should not have said anything to you about this, but after telling me what he did, I did not like to say anything to Carrie & thought perhaps he said something to you. So you must excuse me, for you must know it caused me some anxiety. It is all right, he was ever a kind & benevolent brother to me. Carrie says she will send me her little girls likeness, she I suppose has lately written you.

I had a good letter from Lysander not long since. He always speaks of you & your kindness to him, wishes he could repay it. Olive's husband has bought the old homestead & they all live together. It must be pleasant for Sister Almira she has not wrote me for a long time. Have you written to her yet? If not, do write & not let there be such an estrangement, remember how uncertain life is. Olive has a little daughter.

How is Mother? Give my love to her. I have forgotten her age, she must be very old; for only think you & I are quite old Ladies. How is its do you look much older than when I last saw you six years ago? I believe I look about the same, excepting I have lost my front teeth. Smead says when we get able I shall have some put in. Now I think of it I will give you an expression Lysander made in his letter. It was this, "You speak of growing old, it is very true with me. I see my whiskers are quite gray, wrinkles running every which way on my expressive countenance. Leaves have their time to fall & I don't know as I have any petickular wish to be the last one to stick on. Does not that sound just
Eau Claire, Feb. 25th, 1861

like Lysander; poor dear brother, I do hope he will be ready when called.

Where is she that was Sarah Pratt & how getting along & all the rest of the folks, I used to know. I hope to hear from you soon. Our love to you all. Do not keep this scroll.

L A Hastings