Eau Claire, Oct 27th/62

Dear Brother & Sister,

Once more I am seated to write you hoping this may find you and yours in as comfortable health as it leaves us. My health is surprisingly good for me, and since cold weather has come on Mr H is much better so that now he is able to work all the time and eat quite hearty.

I believe I have not written you since the time I told you of our Indian fears. If I remember right it was the Sabbath after I wrote you. Our village was thrown into a terrible consternation by a report being brought us that there was coming three hundred Indians strong and were within a few miles of us burning and destroying everything before them. The news spread from house to house like wild fire, and in a short time the streets were alive with people. Every old gun was put in order, axes, shovels, & hatchets, pitchforks, and in some instances lightning rods were speedily taken down and fixed into spears. & almost everything that could be converted into weapons was brought forth, such a time I never saw, and hope never to again. The home guard was called, pickets sent out and many sent of horse back in every direction to learn the truth of it. If true when within hearing distance of our pickets, they were to blow a horn and they in turn to give us warning so that all the women were to flee for refuge to a large three story building. The men were to protect it, but on return of our scouts it proved there was but small foundation for the fright. A few Indians had committed some depredations in the back settlements and frightened the people away, told them to leave, as more were coming. I suppose all they wanted was to get them
away so that they could get the better chance to steal. However there has been awful murders in Minnesota, and they are still trouble yet, and there has been great reason to fear the Chippewas (these are nearest us) would make war upon us, and we still have some fears though small because a treaty has been formed with the old Chief of our tribe and he seems quite friendly. And we trust other tribes will be subdued before they reach us, and even if they should come we feel tolerable secure for the Governor of the state has sent us one hundred guns and ammunition, so that with what we had of our own in the village we feel tolerable secure.

You speak of the deplorable state of our country, it is indeed in a sad condition. I little thought I should live to see such a time as this. Do you remember our Father used to say, who ever lived to see it, probably not in his day, but there would be war between the North and South or else it would be divided. Well his words have proved true; war is in our land with all its train of evil and desolation. What awaits us in the future God only knows.

You speak too of the war meetings in your place and of the fife and drum, this is all familiiar to our eyes and ears. Eau Claire has sent of four companies allready, and now there will soon be drafting, I suppose. The soldiers marched and drilled in our streets daily before they left. I cannot if I could describe the feelings it gave me to see them; many of them have been killed on the battle field, others sicken and die in the hospital, and some return wounded and crippled for life. When will men learn war no more?
Eau Claire, Oct 27th/62

Brother, I never intended to give you reason to think your letters if frequent would be considered a burden. I wish I could always think and speak aright, but I am a weak erring creature, full of faults. Will you not, can you not overlook all and believe that I mean well? Happy to hear from you any time. Our love to all, good bye. L A H

Ps, Brother Adams writes me he has got some grave stones for brother E. Words cannot express the gratitude I feel for his kindness and generosity. He has given me one hundred dollars, have just received fifty the other I can have when I call for it.