match the one he had. Yesterday sold the span for three
hundred seventy five dollars. Tell Mother that the most of
my plants died. I have got the Scarlet Lily, two of those red
plants, the maderia vine and those little lily bulbs and the
Dahlias, is all I saved. They was all right when I got here
but I went up to Almon, and staid two weeks, and Charley's
folks let them all dry up. I have got some new plants that I
never saw there, the musk plant and wax plant are two of them.
I have not seen any nice flower gardens here yet. You say
you have to do all of the writing. I think not by the looks
of this. You ought to write every week. You don't have
anything else to do. No more this time. I will send Birdie
some pieces of my dresses. The white is Mira's dress.

Ellen

[In the margins:]

Susie and Mira were so pleased with their paper that they both
hopped up and down. She send Birdie one. The baby tore Mira's
into just now but I will send it just the same.

I wrote to Asa a long time before I got your first letter, had
no answer yet. They won't hear from us again, not by my
writing to them. I think Asa has played smart to marry into
that tribe. This card is for Birdie.

Tuesday, Eau Claire, Feb 21st [1871]
Dear Sisters,

Today finds us all well and enjoying the best of health. Jeff is still driving team as usual. We have nice sleighing here, about six inches of snow and I have not seen a bare spot of ground this winter. To day it is a nice warm spring day, to pleasant to stay indoor. Almon and Mary made me a visit yesterday, said they had just written to Father and sent his picture. Al just got a letter from George Chillson. He has a baby girl almost a year old. He owns an interest in a hardware store in Chicago but he is not in the store him self.

Aunt Lorrinda lives in Galesburg in a nice house that Uncle Chilson bought before he was killed. Francis Roe lives with her. George wanted to know where Al Bannister was, said he left there last Spring, and has not heard a word from him since.

I suppose you and Birdie are a going to school. I don't see why you can't write to me as often as once a month. You never said how you liked your presents or whether you liked them at all. You must set down and write Charley wife a good long flattering letter and thank her for her present she made you. She is looking for a letter from Mother, and you know Mother is all out of practice so you must do the writing. I don't think we shall move this Spring. I don't think it would pay to go upon Charleys place where there is only six acres broke. We could not raise enough to live upon, and pay our
way along as we go, and then I don't think Charley will build a house there. He has got a kind of sell out (on the brain) to go to Iowa or Missouri. I guess it won't amount to much. Mary said Charles is selling with the Company and will not stay another year, unless they raise his pay to fifteen hundred a year. We can do well to stay here in town until we can get some breaking done upon our own place. We received a letter from Asa yesterday, said his mother was very sick.

Tell Father that most all of the steamboats that run up and down this river last Summer have been burned this winter. One burnt at the landing here in Eau Claire and three or four others at different landings below here. All set a fire, without doubt, by some rough. The one here burnt down about four o'clock one Sunday morning. The watchman, the only man upon it, was awakened by his dog, just in time to save his life. Tell Bertha that Eliza Connel, Charley's hired girl, is there yet and is going to send her picture to her in a letter. So Birdie you must answer it when she does. I must close for want of room. My love to all.

Ellen Miller

I have written in a terrible hurry and I guess you will think so when you get it, Addie and Birdie.

Eau Claire, May 27th

Dear Sister Birdie,