That pleases me. Well I guess I will stop writing for this time. Mira has sent Birdie a piece of her dress and Carrie's. The blue is the trimming. Ida said she had written a letter to Birdie and sent it. Write and let me know how much it cost to send the box and if you think it best to send another, I think a little moss put lightly around them will do. I guess they water them all the way out here. I know they wet them here the day they come. You know the box was pretty tight and it held all the moisture. I can't bear to give it drip. Write as soon as you get this. I think you done well for you, Miss Addie. Try again.

Ellen

Mira said she was going to write to Birdie next time. I have a poor pen so I will stop writing.

Ellen

Eau Claire, November 23, 1872

Dear Sisters,

I have just received your letter to day that was mailed the twenty third of last month, four weeks ago to day. Ida brought it down to me, said it was in their box. I don't see why it is we have such a time getting our mail. We have rented a box for the past year. We have wondered why you did not write to me. I wrote you when I got my box of plants, but have received no word from you until now.
We are all well. We had pretty cold weather the past week. Some snow. The ground is covered with snow, but the sun is melting it away fast to day.

Lizzie and Gortie was here Thursday afternoon. They had been to Monominie to visit her brother, went Monday, intended to stay all the week but Gortie was so homesick she had to come back Wednesday. She staid all night with Mrs. Vinton, came here the next day. Got a chance to ride home with some of their neighbors. Almon is at work here in town for the Eau Claire Company. This week he is in the flouring mill and a Norwegian man is driving his team. They do not intend to come home this winter. They told me so. I suppose they want to get a little richer before they go. Almon has raised more grain upon his farm this year than he ever has before. They made preparations last Spring to go home this fall. She done lots of sewing for her self and All. But I don't know any reason why they don't go.

Charles was sick election week. Laid up all the week with his side. I guess he had a pretty bad spell, but he is at work again now. I was in to see him, said he was going home soon, showed me his new suit he got to wear and a new gold fob chain for his watch. Thought he would be there to spend Christmas. Mary said she could not go, but she wanted Charles to. If I had not heard him say, so many times that he was going, I should believe it. But he has been going down there every
Spring, fall and winter since I came here, and he has not got there yet.

Ida said to day her Father wanted to surprise you, walk up from the depot, not let you know until he got there. If he comes you need not tell him I wrote he was coming. Burn up my letters for if Mary happens to come and gets a chance to read them, it would just suit her to bring back some thing about Jeff and I should not make any preparations for I don't think they will come. Charles may, if he happens to get a fit on and start right off. Mary is doing her work alone now, but has had a woman sewing for her this week making her a new black Alpacca dress.

Jeff has bought him a big fiddle. It is as high as he can reach. He has to stand up to play it. He plays for dances, concerts and with Vinton. It cost thirty four dollars.

I think you have had more than your share of peaches this fall. I think we will get some pictures taken before long. Carrie looks like a little boy. She and Carrie Williams went to work and cut her hair almost all off her head. I wanted to shake them both. I have not got the paper Mother sent. There Jeff has come from work. Says he has got to write a little. I will stop.

Ellen