around the edge of the leaf, and that plant that had blossom like phlox. Mira and Carrie says tell Aunt Birdie to pick them up lots of pretty buttons for them to put on their string and have Mrs. Vinton bring them back with her. No more this time. Now write soon as you get this. Mary expects Cousin Ellen Rowe up to make her a visit.

From Ellen

To Bertha

[In Jeff's handwriting:]

Tell Adie that she ought to had a boy. There is enough girls in the family now. Our next will be a boy.

Jeff

I don't think All will sell for he wants to mutch. I can sell bouth of my farms any time.

Jeff

Eau Claire, Oct 12th, 1876

Dear Sister,

I thought I would write you a few lines just to let you know that we have not forgotten how to write, and I'll bet you have. This finds us all well as usual. The girls are both at school, and Jeff went with the band down to Augusta to play yesterday. Last night they played for a dance there, will be back this afternoon if they don't play there to day. They are holding a Fair now. I suppose you have seen Charley
Miller by this time. He left here for home, one week ago Tuesday. I guess he got pretty homesick. Asa wrote that Father had got home and we would like to know how he is, for we have not heard one word from him since he left here. Tell Father that William Spaulding came to Madison the week that he left here, that he or Amos or both of them wrote to him. Charles got the letter. Charles and Mary went down to Madison on a visit a week ago last Saturday and staid three days, said they had a good time. I have only seen Mary once since she got back and then only a few minutes. So I can't write any particulars about the folks down there. But she said William was going right back to California and if they had waited a week later they would not have seen him. He has rented the hotel for a year, that is the Capitol House. I suppose he owns it. Amos is quite smart, does business all the time, but his eyes are very bad, has to wear glasses all the time. Mary said they went all over the City, saw Thorp's residence and visited the Insane Asylum. I suppose Charles will write Father all the news when he writes to him. Mary and I made up our minds we would give Father a good scolding when we did hear from him. We visited the Post Office night and day to get a line from him and not a word did we get. I have seen Almon once since Father left. They have not sold yet. We have had a cold wet disagreeable fall until now. This month so far has been warm through the day and cold freezing nights.
It makes me think of home, Mother's nice feather beds and woolen sheets. I have got some quilting to do yet this fall, and I wish you were here to help me. Ida was over here last week. She has got four music scholars now taking lessons of her. It makes her feel independent now I tell you. She says she will learn Mira for nothing.

Mrs. Vinton was over here Sunday night, wanted to know if I had heard from Father. Now you tell him he must write to us and let us know how his health is. We think of moving but have not found a good house yet. There is lots of houses we can get but they are no better than this one. Well Birdie I must stop for now. I told Mira to come home at half past eleven so to take this to the office. Tell Mother I got those papers. Next time I will write more news. They are having great excitement over election now. They have a torch light procession every night with the band. It looks nice I tell you. Be sure and write soon, and a long letter. No more for Mira has come and waiting. Give my love to all the folks. Tell Adda to have her picture her husband and baby's and send to me.

Ellen

April 29, 1877

Dear Mother and Sister,

It has been a long time since we received your letter. I