not had any very nice ones this winter. I will send you a ball ticket. They had large Masquerade Ball here a week ago last Friday night. Well Birdie I think I have written enough for one letter. So I will close by saying good bye for this time. From Ellen.

Tell Addie I don't think it will hurt her to write once in a while.

I will send Father our last paper.

[1872]

farm this Spring or not.

The children were very much pleased with those papers you send, and Carrie thinks just as much of getting a paper from you as Mira does. When I read your letter to Mira about the lambs, she said let us go right off down there.

We have not had very cold weather this month. To day it is warm and the snow is melting fast. There is not any sleighing here now. Once in a while we see a sleigh go past. Tell Mother it is about time she was looking over her flower seeds for I want her to send me some of all the kinds of flowers she has got. I let an old lady a friend of mine have the seeds I brought with me. She sowed them last spring but it was so dry, but few of them came up. I would like some of those cabbage seed that Mother

[In the margin] I don't know whether Lizzie got her book.
I have not seen them.

had, when I came away. There is a very large garden spot with this house, large enough to raise our living, and the rent is not very high. We have not paid any rent for this house since we lived here because they never asked us for any. Now Mary tells the neighbors they are going to have rent for it this summer or set it a fire. I pity the one that rents it.

Where is Net Foskit and her husband. Have they gone to Boston to set up in business. How does Penny get along.

Tell Father that we are living in an incorporated City. The City is five miles long up and down the River and three miles wide and is divided into six wards. Tomorrow is their first City Election. We are looking for Mr. Vinton and Mr. Merriman, in April. They are coming out here to live. Mr. Vinton wrote to us that he went to see Father after he left us. They made me some nice presents when they went home. One presented me with a silver butter knife and the other a set of silver plated teaspoons. Well Birdie I think I have written enough for this time. Tell Addie not to cry because I did not write to her, and I will cut her a paper doll with my big shears.

Ellen to Bird
Tell Father I have sent him an Eau Claire paper. We take the paper now so I will send him one every week or two.

I want Mother to send me some house plant a monthly rose, Hydrangea, and some slips off all her plants, that if she has any plants rooted send them along. If she send slips send two or three of a kind so I will be sure to get some started. Send me some of that myrtle that you had in a box that had dark green leaves, some of all kinds of Fuchias, and be sure to send some monthly rose and Hydrangea. I want them expressed through. Get a small square box. Put the plants in wet moss with a little moss around them. Nail some strips across the top and let the plants stick up between the slats. That gives them plenty of air. Be sure and wrap them tight with wet moss. Tell Father to get the box expressed through. I will pay all express charges myself. Send it so I can get it next week. Mrs. Charley Spaulding can keep her Gladiolus for all I care when I get some plants from home. Tell Addie to send me some of her old hens and chickens she had when I came away. Any kind of house plants will be acceptable. I guess Mother will begin to think my wants are numerous. It seems as tho house plants are quite a rarity here. Those that have any are very choice of them. There is a woman lives just across the street in that stone house has got a large monthly rose bush. But oh my she would not slip it for any body.

Has Albert got back and how did he like the country down
there. Write and tell me all the news. I have not written much news to day for I can't seem to think what to write about. We have a great deal of rain here. But not any too much, for the ground was so dry. Crops look nice, and I guess the potatoe bugs are not so thick as they were last year or at least I don't hear so much about them.

Charles is with the Company yet and every thing goes on about as usual. Mr. Vinton and Mr. Merriman have come here to live. They rent an office up town and have gone into business in good style. You will see their advertisement in the paper. I guess I will stop writing. I never made so many blunders, blots and mistakes in writing as I have in this letter.

You must write often to me. Tell me how Father's broken leg is getting along. Tell Maranda I am a going to write to her soon. Jeff has commenced to write two or three letters to all and then wait for me to finish them. They would lay around until they got so old. Then he would burn them up. We have not heard a word from Jeff folks. We got a few lines from Asa's wife. Soon after you wrote to me that he was gone. She wanted to know if he was here and to let her know if we had heard from him. We sent a letter back to her the same day to tell her we had not seen or heard a word from him, and wanted her to write back to us the particulars, but have not heard from any of them since. No more this time.

From Ellen

To Birdie and Addie
Note: The following two letters were written by Carrie and Mira.

Dear Grandma,

We are all well and I hope this will find you the same. The baby is full of fun to night. The baby slept all day and he is as good as a little kitten. Mira is playing with the baby to night. The baby he laughs right out loud. How is birdie. Tell her that I like thoes cards very well. Ellen is well. Uncle jim has come down from the woods to day. Jeff is making perperation to buy a knitting machine. I think it is all nonsense. Don't you.

[In Ellen's handwriting: Send me some everlasting flower seeds all kinds that you have.]

Ellen cried when she red your letter. Our baby is as fat as a little pig. Jeff smoke every day. I do not go to school. Now I am piecing blocks. I think we will come down to your house by next May.

[In Ellen's handwriting:]

Carrie says she don't want to write any more. Birdie if you have got any flower seeds to spare, send me some if you get time, so if I don't get some until fall I can have my flowers. I saved a good many seeds last fall but they got wasted when I was sick. I have got a different kind of princess feather, that I never saw East. I will send you a few seeds. Now write as soon as you get this, and I will answer soon.