

Ellington July 23 '53

Ever remembered friend,

In accordance with your wishes I very happily embrace this my first opportunity since I received yours, to answer it. We are all well. I am attending school now, and you know by experience how one's time is nearly all engaged in school duties; but your school days are over now, and you have fearlessly entrusted your future happiness in another's keeping, and I presume you are happy. I hope that your future may be as bright and joyous as the many days of our childhood, when together we roamed in fields and woods with happy hearts that never knew nor thought of sorrow- those were our best days, as you used to say. And together we have trod the flowery path of science, and drank from the pure font of knowledge.

But time has sped and we have been doomed to separate again, but I must hasten to my sketch [?] of all the particulars which you wished me to write. I hardly know where to commence so I will begin about your folks. Your father & mother & Sylvia and her children and Diantha & Mrs. Hiram Bagy and some others were at our house a short time since, and you cannot imagine how natural & pleasant it [was], and we thought if Aurelia had only been there too, our happiness would have been complete. Sarah is out here now, she and Diantha came here one afternoon and Sarah staid all night and part of the next day, and such a good visit. She spoke of you frequently, and by the way, your bridal tour[?] came very near proving a very fatal one to you. What an ugly girl for not telling ???, I felt provoked at you when I heard of it. About as much secrecy as ??? serenade, but I suppose you must keep the Doctor's secrecy[?] so please be silent. Emma Wells is going east in two or three weeks, her mother is here now. I do not think of any weddings, except Phebe ??? & Philo Beers