

Ellington Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 1863

My ever dear Friend Aurelia

Permit me my Dear Friend to address a few lines to you after so long a neglect but not with joy as I should have done had I written to you sooner. As it has been the pleasure of Him who doith all things well to enter our circle of young associates and take one of our beloved companions from earth away to a brighter and purer world above,

Me thinks I can hear you say Who is it oh, tell me quickly, but oh, I fear to tell thee my hand trembles it comes near my heart it is Emiline Baldwin yes, it is her. She left this world of toil and ease on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August she died Sabath morning at half past ten and was buried Monday at 2[?] o'clock they had no sermon preached on account of her Sister Sarah illness, Oh; Think of their bereavement when I tell you that Sarah too has gone to the spirit land so young to die but it pleased the giver of all good to take her to himself ere sin or sorrow blighted her young and tender heart.

She died Tuesday morning Aug 30 and was buried on Wednesday, they then had a sermon preached for them both. They buried Sarah before the sermon there were 2[?] little girls dressed in white with black silk birther capes and straw hats trimmed in black that marched behind the coffin and then six young ladies dressed in white with black capes and lace veils over their heads and eight young gentlemen dressed in black with a badge of crape on the left arm – It was a mournful looking sight as with sorrowful heart and slow step we marched to the graveyard the final resting place of all livings.

Emeline and Sarah were sick only ten days they died of Typhoid Fever there a great many more that are very sick but not all the same fever. Among the number are Henry and Gilman Baldwin, George Waithe, Alvah Bates, Ms. Burk, Mrs. Albro Brown, and Eugene Polly Bates Cullen Gates Wife Agnes Palmer and the baby and Emily Greene etc. etc.

And now my Dear Aurelia I must close this sorrowful letter by asking you to forgive my negligence in regard to writing to you before and promising you that I will be more punctual in future if I am spared the privilege of receiving an answer to this letter from you. Do write soon write a good long letter and something that will comfort an aching heart. Mother and Rose join in love with ne to you and your Husband.

So no more at present this from an ever true friend

S. M. Nessel

Mother and Brother Darlin have been quite sick but are now on the gain this from a heart that is overflowing with sadness please read my poetical works in the next page. So good bye.

For my Friend E. S. B.

, Tis over, tis over, and the snow wreathed brow  
Can barely conceal the mournful heart now,  
For the green turf has covered her from our view,  
And the farewell is spoken to me and to you.

With her eyes uplifted and her bright smiling face,  
On the arm of her savior her hope then she placed  
And with a kind look to her friends that stood by her bed side,  
She said "May good angels be ever your guide."

But her bright sunny smile forever has fled,  
Yet firmly and proudly her farewell was said;  
Oh, careless the word which love's bright chain could sever,  
But, when it once parted, 'twas broken forever.

From her friend S.M. Nettle