

THE EADS LETTERS

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NOTES ON THE PREPARATION OF THIS FINDING AIDE

The headings given to each letter are transcribed directly from the inside upper right-hand corner of each letter; original spellings, punctuation, and abbreviations have been maintained. All comments within brackets [] are the comments of the processor. When the heading of a letter has information in brackets it means the information was not given in the letter's heading, but was found in another part of the letter or envelope. Original spellings for people and places have also been maintained in the descriptions of the letters.

JAMES BUCHANAN EADS: BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

James Buchanan Eads, named for his mother's cousin who would later become president, was born on May 23, 1820 in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. His father ran a general store, but was never very successful. The family moved often, searching for the right location. When James was thirteen he, his mother, and his sisters Genevieve and Eliza went ahead of his father to Saint Louis, the next place they hoped to find success. The steamboat ride there was the first experience James had with the Mississippi River, which would so dominate his life. When the little family arrived in Saint Louis, the boat caught fire they escaped with their lives, but lost all their possessions. They were stranded with nothing in a town where they had no friends. James was a frail looking boy, so he could not find anyone to give him a job. He was determined to help his family and so he began peddling apples on the street. Eventually Mr. Barrett Williams took pity on this bright and determined boy and offered him a job in his store. James did all kinds of little errand and odd jobs, but when he was not busy and in the evenings after work, Mr. Williams kindly offered James the use of his private library. He even told James that he would purchase any further books he needed to learn civil engineering, which was James' passion from the beginning. James did not go to school but this library served as his textbooks, his later experience as a mud clerk on the Mississippi that served as his laboratory, and keen observation was his teacher. James had an extraordinary mind; while working as a mud clerk he recognized the danger that the accumulating sunken steamboats and other natural obstacles presented to boat traffic. He invented the diving bell submarine to allow salvagers to clear the river of such debris. At the age of twenty-two, he went to the boat builders Case & Nelson with nothing more than his plans and asked them to be his partners. This began the salvage business that would eventually make him a fortune.

There were other important things happening in James life at this time. In the spring of 1839, James' cousin Eliza Eads married Colonel Dillon, a prominent and wealthy man of Saint Louis with two daughters, Sue and Martha. James was smitten with Martha and called to see her often, but acting the part of a gentleman James did not tell Martha of his feelings until he felt like he could support her. It is here that the letters begin. They courted without her father's knowledge until James was ready to propose himself to her father. Colonel Dillon, who was unhappy with Sue's marriage, refused James because he was not socially prominent or wealthy enough. They endeavored to convince him to consent to the match, but after losing all hope of that, Martha married James anyway on October 21, 1845. James, wanting to provide Martha

with the lifestyle she was accustomed to, left the salvage business and started the first glass factory west of the Ohio. Sadly, within two years troubles getting supplies and the financial crunch of the Mexican War forced the glassworks to close. As a mark of how charismatic James was, his creditors to whom he already owed \$25,000 lent him more money to go back into the salvage business with his old partners. During this time, Martha often stayed with James' parents at Argyle Cottage, the farm James bought for them. Due to the nature of his business, James was constantly traveling up and down the Mississippi and its tributaries working on steamboat wrecks. The separation was hard for both of them, but it is because of this time spent apart we have this large collection of letters. Later in life, James would build ironsides to help the Union win back forts on the Mississippi, his famous bridge in Saint Louis, the first of its kind in the United States and longer than engineers of the time thought possible, and the jetties that would open New Orleans as a seaport. These accomplishments have made James Eads one of the five greatest engineers of all time along with De Vinci and Einstein, but this collection of letters gives us an amazing look at the personal life and greatest love of James Buchanan Eads.

MARTHA NASH (DILLON) EADS: BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Martha left very little behind except for her precious penned words, so most of what we know about her comes from these letters. The collection has many gaps when they are together, but most important information from these times can be gleaned from later letters. An explanation for the abrupt end of the story is in order though. Martha repeatedly warned James not to travel without cholera remedies, but in 1852, she was on her way home from recovering with the water cure after nursing James' mother in her last sickness, when the dreaded disease struck Martha. She died leaving little but these her daughters and these letters.

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

This collection of 212 letters between James Buchanan Eads and Martha Nash Dillon Eads spans their entire relationship from their secret courtship in 1844 to the last letters Martha wrote before her death in 1852. They shared and lost much during this time: futile efforts to gain her father's consent, their marriage against his wishes, the childhood of their daughter Eliza, James' establishment of a glassworks, the pregnancy and birth of their son, the end of the glassworks, the death of their son,

the reestablishment of James' salvage company, and the close interaction between their families. Their letters are timeless; filed with things any couple goes through. Struggles with family and money, longing to see each other when parted, stumbling with trying to find the words to describe the depth and breadth of their love for the other, becoming attached to each other's families, having and raising children and wanting to find a place of their own. These letters reveal in a strikingly personal way the relationship between Mr. & Mrs. Eads. They write of their love, their struggles, and their dreams.

CONTAINERS LIST

1. Letters from James to Martha 1845-1847
2. Letters from James to Martha 1848-1852
3. Letters from Martha to James 1844-1847
4. Letters from Martha to James 1848-1849
5. Letters from Martha to James 1850-1851
6. Letters from Martha to James 1852 & Eads Letters Miscellany

LETTERS CATALOGUE

- **Letters From James to Martha**
 - **J. B. Eads to Miss M. N. D.**
 - **Berlin Apl. 22 1945**
 - [noted to be a copy but appears to have been copied by the original hand]
 - tells of the delight he feels at being able to address her as Cousin Martha, but looks forward more to calling her 'dear wife'
 - describes marriage in beautiful terms
 - lets her know he is writing with the "neat little implement" (the pen he gave her, her father forced her to return, and she asked him not to use until he was writing to the one he would make his wife)
 - relates a mistaken impression of the community that when he arrived home he would bring his bride and the conversation of some friends about what would happen
 - describes the beauty of spring, but the nagging absence of one charm- her

- **St Louis June 24th 1845**
 - tells in detail of his calling upon her father to ask for his consent to marry Martha
 - in the narrative James records the objections of Martha's father to their marriage and his attempts to overcome them
- **Saint Louis July 1st 1845**
 - laments the unkind refusal he has just received from Martha's father
 - quotes several of her father's insults to James' character and honor
 - asks Martha if he has behaved in any way unbecoming of a gentleman
 - asks her to come and marry him even against her father's wishes
- **Saint Louis, July 7th 1845**
 - expresses his exuberant joy of receiving her last letter which was the first to tell of her love for him
 - argues with her setting their wedding date so distant, November 22nd, out of hopes to persuade her father to give his consent, which James doesn't think will happen
 - gives her encouragement for dealing with the troubles she must currently bear
- **Broadway Hotel, Cincinnati July 28/45**
 - gives details of his tour of travel, including who he met and what he did with them
 - delightful epistle of a man in love
- **On Board St. Bt. New Hampshire July 29/45**
 - describes his enjoyment of the scenery and Tasso while riding on the steamer
 - contrasts the romantic tales of the crusades with the pigs and poultry and other such humble things that surround him
 - reflects on the past grandeur of Virginia
 - tells of the difficulties of eight steamers trying to pass the Sister islands at the same time
 - describes Pittsburgh after a fire that burnt 25-30 blocks in the heart of the business district
- **Baltimore Md. August 6th/45**
 - describes the rivers he has been traveling upon
 - relates an incident with a nervous gentleman in the stage [very funny]
 - describes the beauty of the Alleghany Mountains
 - declares the benefits of train travel

- wishes he could write like Byron or Scott to adequately tell her of his love, but she must be content with everyday style by knowing the motives that prompt his letters- love
- talks about his visit to Uncle Buchanan's and describes his family there
- **Baltimore August 9th 1845**
 - tells of his travel plans
 - describes his visit to the Washington Monument, the battle monument at the site of the Battle of Baltimore, the Cathedral, the German Catholic Church, the fort, and the harbor
 - is disappointed at not hearing from her, but is happy to hear she is well in a letter from Dr. Stevens
 - postscript asks for her to write him in Buffalo, NY
- **Prince's Hotel, Harrisburg Pa. Aug 14, 1845**
 - praises the letter he has just received from her
 - wishes for their wedding day to come
 - misses her and talks about the time he spends with her in his imagination and his dreams
 - reminisces about an afternoon spent alone in Sue's room kissing
- **Sunbury Pa. August 18th 1845**
 - describes his journey to Sunbury and his cousins he meets there
 - details the entertainments of this country town
 - closing messages to friends and family
- **Astor House, New York Aug 25, 1845**
 - tells of traveling with new acquaintances through a particularly bad rain storm
 - describes the practice of boarders being given rooms and service based upon the appearance and quality of their trunks
 - writes of his visits to St. Patrick's Cathedral for mass and St. Peter's Church for vespers
 - describes the Mammoth Steam electrifying machine Ben Franklin
 - tells her of some shell specimens he has gathered to complete their collection
 - talks about the fires and the burnt district
 - relates his travel plans and schedule for the rest of his tour
- **American House, Boston, Aug 31st 1845**
 - praises Boston for its morality, industry, and neatness
 - poetically describes a sunset on the East River

- describes his travel to Boston and his joy at finding a letter for him there from her
- addresses the concerns of her letter including her fear that she has written too affectionately to him
- reminds her of the importance of getting a letter to the post office as soon as it is written is as great as the importance of writing early for him to get her letters
- **Troy House, Troy N. Y. Sept 2, 1845**
 - accounts the incredible cheapness of fares because of an opposition line of boats
 - endeavors to tell her why he loves her and how much he looks forward to their happiness once they are wed
 - talks of kissing and his belief that a woman not fond of kissing is not fit to be a wife
- **Rosco's Hotel, Montreal, Sept 6, 1845**
 - [entirely covered in cross-writing]
 - writes about how comforting it is to write her amidst a land of strangers
 - records several incidents on the packet (boat) before departing including records of dialogue
 - describes the beauty of the scenery and some of the history of the region around Lake Champlain where he is traveling
 - relates his travel on to Montreal
 - accounts his visit to the House of Parliament, the Cathedral, the Bishop's Church
 - describes his search for her friend and his discovery that she was too far away for him to visit
 - describes the English manners he has observed at his hotel
 - writes of his homesickness for her
- **Albion Hotel, Quebec C. E. Sept. 8th 1845**
 - looks forward to meeting her again, now that he is at last turned homeward
 - hopes that they will never be separated like this again
 - describes his jaunts about the city of Quebec with special details of the Cathedral
- **American House Buffalo Sept 15 [1845]**
 - [entirely covered in cross-writing]
 - writes again of how much he appreciates it when she writes him affectionately
 - tells of his unexpected stay in Ogdensburg and the sights he saw there and in Prescott including the mill where Canadian patriots made a stand

- describes his rescue of a five year old boy who fell in the river
- is astounded and dumbfounded by Niagra Falls
- looks forward to clasping her again in his arms and to their upcoming union
- **To My Wife [1846 &] 1847**
 - **On Board St Bt Mail near Louisville Thursday 9th April 46**
 - has lost his appetite, but otherwise is healthy
 - tells of his dreaming the boat was on fire and frightening a fellow passenger
 - realizes how much he loves her now that he has left
 - describes his attempts to pass the lonely time
 - **Cincinnati Apl 10th, 184[6]**
 - brief note to say he is well and on his way to Pittsburgh
 - lets her know his appetite has returned
 - **On board St. Bt. Hiberuin Apl. 12th [1846]**
 - writes on his way to Pittsburgh detailing his travel plans
 - asks her to write the Virginia where she will be when he returns so he can easily find her
 - wants never to leave her again and writes beautifully of growing old together and in love
 - **Exchange Hotel, Pittsburgh Apl. 13th [1846]**
 - beautifully describes how he misses her
 - thinks she would rather hear of his business, so he describes his difficulty in finding a pot maker
 - complains about the weather and the fire in his room having gone out
 - asks if she has taken morning walks as she promised and wonders how she is
 - **Saint Louis April 25 Sunday 1847**
 - hopes she, Sue, Eliza, Frank, and Genny have brightened up the Cottage
 - tells how much he, Dr. Stevens, and all their friends miss them
 - gives news from St. Louis
 - asks not only Martha, but also Mother, Father, and Sue to write
 - tells how much he misses her and Eliza
 - **Saint Louis May 3rd, 1847**
 - tells her all about the progress of the glassworks
 - is distressed by learning of his father's accident, but is glad Martha has arrived in time to help

- describes his room at her request by saying, “It looks cheerless enough without you”
- writes hopefully of future success with the glassworks
- sends love to those at the Cottage
- **Saint Louis May 6th 1847**
 - replies to her request for an account of the glassworks and its prospects
 - tells of Benny McDowell’s unexpected death
 - thankfully receives her miniature and letters
 - asks her to write and write affectionately
- **Saint Louis May 9th 1847**
 - update on the glassworks
 - tells of his visit with Dr. Stevens and friends about town
 - fulfills her request that he give a report on his health
 - asks for and comments on the news from the Cottage
 - talks about the tenderness of their love
 - remarks on his mother’s advice that he must love his wife more than her
- **Saint Louis May 16th 1847**
 - is disappointed because she does not write twice as often
 - wishes he could spend every spare moment writing to her or reading her letters
 - gives an account of his health
 - tried to convince Dr. McDowell to let Mrs. McDowell go with James and Dr. Stevens to visit the Cottage with no luck, asks Martha to write and invite her on Mother’s behalf
 - gives the news of their acquaintances and the glassworks
 - gives news of the Mexican War
 - discusses the particulars of his deed to her of Argyle Cottage and adjoining lands, but wonders if they should record it because then the lease to his parents could be seized over Father’s debts
- **Saint Louis May 23rd 1847**
 - writes on his birthday
 - tells of relaying and reading her letter to Mrs. McCullah
 - informs her that he cannot come because his partners know nothing about the business and cannot handle the crews, ruminates on the kind of character needed to manage people
 - hopes she can come to visit him for a while
 - tells of the happenings at the glassworks

- gives her the news of two funerals he must attend
- warns that if she continues to show his letters to Sue he will have to write less affectionately
- **Saint Louis May 28th 1847**
 - complains that Martha does not write as often as she should
 - includes shipping notes and an update about the glass factory
 - sends a package containing: a lantern, 2 large jars, 2 Rough and Ready flasks (a new article), and 12 bottles of soda water (but the bottles must be returned because they cost three times as much as the soda)
 - sends her \$10 but cannot send more because he has \$400 in bills due soon
 - teases her by threatening not to write her again until he receives two or three letters from her
- **Saint Louis May 30th 1847**
 - does not carry out his threat, but writes profusely in cross-writing
 - talks about spending Sundays home together
 - he wants to go to her at the Cottage, but business prevents it, he resolves to go up in June
 - expresses his love of his daughter and Martha as a mother
 - reminds Martha to mind her weight, practice good posture, and dental hygiene
- **Saint Louis June 1st 1847**
 - mentions her letter from the 26th
 - thanks her for being such a wonderful wife
 - speaks on his duty as a husband
 - *very beautiful love letter*
- **St. Louis Thursday night June 24 (1847)**
 - apologizes for hurting her before he left her
 - describes how devoted she would be to him even if he died
 - tells of news of friends and family, and household affairs
 - his version of a catalogue of his letters
- **Saint Louis June 27th 1847**
 - records a busy Sunday's schedule
 - tells who he called upon
 - relates news of a friend getting a job and lists wages
 - the letter of three hand written pages took him 2 hours
- **Saint Louis July 4th 1847**
 - writes beautifully and affectionately to Martha

- feigns illness at not receiving letters from her
- tells of the tenuous position of the glass works business
- thanks Martha for clothes he received and corrects specific measurements
- **Saint Louis Friday night July 9th 47**
 - mentions her letters from the 27th and the 4th
 - shorter expression of love
 - again promotes good hygiene
 - short account of the glassworks
 - news of friends and family
 - reader here learns his daughter's name is Eliza
- **Saint Louis Sunday night July 11 (1847)**
 - expressions of love, praise, and devotion
 - wishes Martha and Eliza could come home, but gives the need to stay with family and the city as a poor environment to raise children as the reasons they cannot come home
 - tells of the prospects of the glassworks
 - again speaks of Martha's possible return and leaves the decision up to her
- **Saint Louis Thursday night July 15 (1847)**
 - exceptionally praises her letter of the 8th
 - short statement of health, factory, and news
- **Sunday, St. Louis July 18th 1847**
 - astounding praise of Martha
 - long passionate description of his love for her
 - short news section
 - includes some wares from the glassworks and gives their wholesale prices
- **Saint Louis Thursday night July 22/47**
 - apologizes for not getting the last letter out on time
 - gives an account of the glassworks
 - news of an omnibus company to rival Capt. Case's line being started and Capt. Case thinking James was involved
 - James attempts to soothe Case's mind are futile, but James comes out acting reasonably and Case's character is tarnished
 - reports the death toll of the previous week as 111, 59 of them children under the age of 5
 - makes plans to leave Eliza at the Cottage next summer, but have Martha stay with James and asks her opinion
 - praises her and writes of his love

- makes a final note that if Martha needs money she should ask frankly
- **Saint Louis Sunday night, July 23 1847**
 - quotes “England’s noble bard” Byron, speaking of the stormy weather and then poetically describes it himself
 - tells of the sickness of a few friends
 - gives an account of the glassworks
 - tells of the fabric he has sent and lists its cost
 - greetings to those at the Cottage
- **Saint Louis Sunday Aug 1st/47**
 - thanks Martha for the shirts she sent him (3 letters, 2 shirts, and 2 cakes came together)
 - tells of their circle of friends
 - denies her request to stay at the Cottage until late September, because he needs her unless the suit is brought against his Father
 - gives some advice about the suit
 - gives figures for the glass factory
 - closing remarks of love and missing her
- **Saint Louis Thursday night Aug 5th, 47**
 - details of the glass factory
 - dismisses the suit question of her former letter
 - resolves to send for her in August and gives her some details
 - closing affection to the family at the Cottage
- **Sunday night, St. Louis Aug 8th 1847**
 - tells how much he misses her and looks forward to her return
 - gives details of her return journey
 - again dismisses the suit as a cause for her to stay
 - gives an account of the glass factory
 - enquires about Eliza
 - asks Martha to wean Eliza so that Martha will not be so drained and so that she may pay more attention to James when she comes home
 - alludes to his desire for marital relations upon her return
 - postscript includes the news of their acquaintances
- **Saint Louis Tuesday night Aug 10th 47**
 - details of why Martha and Mother should not worry about the suit
 - advice on what to do if the suit is brought
- **To My Wife 1848**

- **Diving Bell Submarine Mar 31, 48**
 - describes the weather and its effect on the diving operations
 - talks about daily tasks of “Diving Belling”
 - enquires about Martha, Eliza, and friends
- **Submarine at Swatara Apl 7th 1848**
 - tells her how much her letters mean to him
 - looks forward to seeing Eliza again
 - relates probable postponement of salvage operations because of the quickly rising waters, one diver being sick, and the other being inexperienced
- **Bell Boat Submarine Apl 16th**
 - summons Martha to meet him at Cape Gerardeau
- **Saint Louis Sunday 2nd July 1848**
 - writes of nearly losing a lot because of taxes thought unpaid, but saved because he had the receipt
 - tells of visiting Corneillius Harris’ house and gardens in Burlington
 - relates the news and health of their circle
 - relays others’ best wishes for Martha, Mother, Eliza, and “the lady”
 - asks Martha to sign a deed and send it to be recorded
 - tells of the calls he has made
 - news of the revolution in Paris
 - closing news of friends
- **Cairo Ills. Sunday July 9th 1848**
 - description of his love for her
 - speaks of his confidence in her getting through her second pregnancy
 - tells of his business affairs and news of friends
- **Cairo Ills. Sunday July 16th 1848**
 - praises her letter from the 1st
 - describes his love for her and the little one on the way
 - talks about the hard work he has been doing
 - mentions his habit of swimming for recreation
 - describes the weather and river
 - gives messages to those at the Cottage and relays those from friends
- **Cairo Ills. Sunday 23rd July 1848**
 - responds to her letter of the 12th by calling it an indulgence in vain fancy
 - regrets her having to be bled
 - passage on the strength of a mother’s love

- tells her of his business, waiting for boats to be completed and Mr. Nelson to arrive
- hopes their child will be a boy, but will love a girl just as much
- **Cairo Ills. Sunday July 30th 1848**
 - awaits news of her giving birth
 - tells of his salvaging business
 - reminisces about the desire to be with his family
 - sends a \$10 bill and asks that she write if she needs anything
 - asks about Eliza and the baby
- **Cairo Ills. Sunday, Aug 6th 1848**
 - written and then continued between the lines, very difficult to read
 - writes of business, going South of Memphis to work on the Belle of Hatchee
 - complains of not hearing from her and wishing he could go to her
 - sends a dress pattern and hair brush for her
 - gives instructions for sending him letters
 - postscript of receiving her letter of the 21st
 - much praise and affection for her as she prepares for childbirth
 - closing remarks of love and devotion
- **Cairo Ills Aug: 13th 1848**
 - thanks her for her letters
 - writes of his wish to be with her and the business complications that prevent it for at least two more weeks by which time she would be 4 weeks past her due date
 - beautiful description of his love for her
 - ruminates over her last letter and the effect of the letter writing deepening love
 - writes lovingly of home and its blessings
 - closing news, weather, and reports of acquaintances
- **Bell Boat Submarine Below Helena Ark. Aug 19th**
 - [has a hole in need of repair]
 - expresses his worry and concern for her
 - talks about the progress of his work listing several wrecks and telling about a controversy over the Hatchee and Capt. Dodge's rival claim to it
 - gives news of his crew and directions for sending letters
- **Bell Boats Submarine 10 miles Above Princeton Miss. Sunday Aug 27/48**

- wishes to hear from her
- details daily operations of his salvage boats
- looks forward to going home in a month or so
- talks of cleaning his teeth and plans to clean Martha's when he sees her and get her a filling when they get back to Saint Louis
- praises her beauty and reminds her to preserve it
- asks about Eliza and the baby
- **St. Bt. Tributary near Lake Providence La. Friday 1st Sep. 48**
 - this letter is entirely covered with cross-writing (written over several days of a journey)
 - poetically describes his love for her and fears that he might lose her
 - admonishes himself for not leaving sooner
 - refutes her penitence for not treating him better when they were together by praising her and her treatment of him and remembering times when he treated her ill
 - remarks the slow progress of his journey
 - endeavors to hope for the best and describes hope beautifully and poetically
 - daydreams about Martha bathing the children and herself
 - disappointed at not finding a letter when he finally reached Memphis
 - discovers his child is a boy when he reaches Cairo and he writes of his joy
 - writes of his deepening love for Martha and their children and of hopes to share the rest of their lives together
 - speaks of Martha's skill at letter writing and his difficulties with it
 - encloses a key to write in code to each other
- **Bell Boat Submarine, near Fort Adams Miss. Sunday, Sep 10th 1848**
 - tells of his business plans and travels to come
 - encoded section
 - anticipation of seeing Martha and the baby
 - speaks metaphorically of the seasons of life and of Martha as a plant
 - apologizes for hurting her feelings in a previous letter
 - praises her character
 - tells of his chess playing and plans to teach her the game
 - wishes for those at the Cottage

- another section in code
- **On Board St. Bt. Latona near Baton Rouge, Sunday, Sep. 17th 1848**
 - tells of his hoped for contract at Bayou Sara being realized
 - writes that he cannot return by Oct. 1st, but will be till at least the 13th
 - writes her a little love poem
 - describes a little accident at work
 - encoded section
 - compares Martha to a dancing party of twenty young ladies he met and finds Martha still to be the sweetest face he knows
 - asks her to take care of herself and let him know if she needs anything and mentions something in code
 - asks if she would like casts for her breasts while healing and nursing
- **Bayou Sara Sunday 24th Sep. 1848**
 - news of business affairs
 - questions about home and family
 - reminisces about her affection and treatment of him especially when he was sick
- **Wreck of the St. Bt. Starspangled Banner, Sunday, Oct. 1st, 1848**
 - relates the death of Michael Boine, one of his workers
 - tells of his salvage efforts on The Starspangled Banner
 - ass Martha to have her work done when he gets there so she can spend time with him
 - encoded section
 - postscript note about sending sweet potatoes and oranges
- **St. Bt. Illinois Lower Miss. Thursday Oct 12th 1848**
 - writes lovingly to Martha even though he will likely hold her before she reads the letter
 - he describes the words himself as poetic and then later includes a rather lengthy poem
 - he writes beautifully of his anticipation of their meeting again including a short poem wishing the sun to speed up time
- **Suawnee Nov 28th 1848**
 - very brief letter letting Martha know he will not come tomorrow because of a business deal with a tallow merchant
- **Wreck of the Suawnee Monday eve Dec 8th 1848**
 - brief letter with a few business concerns

- **To My Wife 1849**
 - **Florence Feb 19th 1849**
 - bad weather delays salvage job he is working on
 - went the day before to visit Charley's mother
 - hurried closing and well wishes because the going to town was ready to leave
 - **Wreck of Milwaukie Feb 23**
 - describes his salvage work of the past few days including the turning over of the Milwaukie while they were trying to raise her
 - **Cairo Ills. Mar. 8th 1849**
 - brief letter relaying messages to his Father and others about business
 - **Cairo Ills. Mar. 8th 1849**
 - sends a box of chestnuts and pecans
 - business update
 - news of acquaintances
 - **Saint Louis Aug 31st 1849**
 - tells Martha about the illness of family members
 - news of their circle of friends
 - sends her \$10
 - **Submarine No 2. Oct 12th 1849**
 - details his salvage finds from the Neptune
 - **Saint Louis Nov. 21st 1849**
 - details his success of getting a contract to raise the Saint Paul (a boat just sunk) for \$4,000
 - talks about his financial state of affairs
 - worries about his father's health
 - **Saint Louis Nov. 29th 1849**
 - relates a compromise he made with another salvager over the Saint Paul
 - is grateful he compromised because the river rose dramatically just after he raised the boat and had there been a delay it would have been lost
 - cites his profits from the Sarah and the Saint Paul as \$5,000 within 30 days
 - says he encloses several newspaper articles about his work, one of which from The Daily Union is still with the letter and he criticizes its merit and truthfulness
 - makes plans to see her again in a few weeks
 - writes that he received the socks she sent and encloses \$20 for her
 - explains that he cannot fulfill her request that he write her an "old time letter overflowing with affection"

because he knows then she wouldn't let his mother read it and it does his mother good to read his letters

- **St. Louis Nov. 30th 1849**
 - writes beautifully of the fortune of marrying each other
 - relays news that Miss Hester, a thief and trouble-maker, has been exposed and left
 - accounts of his social calls
 - talks of a tiff between Eunice and her aunt and a man interested in Eunice, James steps in to take care of cousin Eunice and asks Martha if he has done right
- **Saint Louis Sunday Dec. 9th 1849**
 - tells of Nelson's efforts on the Neptune and other salvage business matters
 - says he has been too busy to miss her as much as usual, but dearly missed her 2 days last week
 - he has been through an attack of fever and "diarhoea"
 - tells of the \$1500 worth of investments he has made in the company, buying chains, pumps, canvases, etc.
 - thinks they could close their business, pay all their debts, and still have about \$10,000; goes on hypothetically if they settled with Nelson, it would leave him very little, but would pay off his debts
 - gives many details about the standings of his accounts
 - tells of visiting and of all their friends wanting to see her
- **Saint Louis Dec. 16th 1849**
 - details of work including that he is valued at \$80 a day
 - relates a controversy about the engines of the Sarah
 - tells of his Sunday social visits including the health of her father's family where he visited
 - relays messages and best wishes of friends and family
- **Saint Louis Dec. 23rd 1849**
 - wishes Martha and those at the Cottage a merry Christmas and happy New Year
 - working a crew of 46 men on the wrecks of the Martha, the Kit Carson, and the Belle Isle
 - lists the workmen's wages at \$1 a day, but says he could hire a crew of 500 at \$0.75 with all the people asking for employment
 - gives further accounts of his business
 - news of and from friends and family
- **To My Wife 1850, -51, & 52**
 - **Smithland Ky. Friday 8th [March 1850]**
 - tells her of his movements and business

- **Cairo Mar 12th 1850**
 - writes at 2 A.M. so that she might have a few lines from him
 - tells her how work is going
 - wonders about what has happened with the Doctor's situation
- **Submarine No 3 Wreck Boston March 28th 1850**
 - complains of his health, a toothache and cold
 - looks forward to getting a letter from her
 - asks if Susan needs anything and gives Martha instructions for how to draw money if Sue needs it
 - looks forward to seeing the cousins from Jacksonville when he returns
 - tells of his business and when it will allow him to return
- **St. Bt. Amazonia Mar 28**
 - describes traveling with a bad cold and what appears to be an abscessed tooth amid a ship crowded with Cal. Emigrants
- **St. Bt. Bay State Apl 2 1850**
 - short note to say he will return next Saturday or Sunday
- **Nashville Jan. 15th 1851**
 - has just received a telegraph sent the 11th telling him to come home because his father-in-law is mortally ill
 - describes a somewhat botched salvage operation on a coal barge
 - speaks of his financial troubles
 - tells of his inability to learn anything more about his father-in-law's condition and so he leaves
- **Saint Louis Feb. 2nd, 1851**
 - writes to comfort her in the loss of her father
 - tells her when to expect him up to see her
 - gives an account of bad weather stranding his boat on the way to St. Louis
 - gives the details of her father's will
- **St. Bt. Wyoming at Oquaka March 11th 1851**
 - tells her of his mixed luck in travel
 - Sue is ill, but will make it to St. Louis, asks Martha to send her some items she forgot
 - James also forgot her miniature and asks that she send it only if she gets a safe opportunity
 - worries over her poor health, tells of his good health and his efforts to make Sue feel better
- **Saint Louis Mar 17th 1851**

- tells of his business affairs
- speaks on a matter of her mother claiming a dower and another business matter about land warrants to be purchased for Mr. Adams
- updates her on the health of family and friends
- gives his intentions for purchasing gooseberry bushes and pear trees for Father
- finishing business matters, he tries to write how much he loves her
- wants her to join him as soon as she is well enough to travel, wants her to go with him to Pittsburgh, New Orleans, and maybe even Washington D.C.
- **Saint Louis, Tuesday, Mar 18/51**
 - writes out of love even though it's late and he wrote just yesterday
 - searches to find a way to describe the passion and ardor of his love
 - praises her as the best wife a man could have
 - hopes the bargain is not all one sided
 - warns her to be careful of her health, never to sacrifice it for others because it might take her away from her family sooner
 - is anxious to see her and advises her on her travel down
 - tells of Sue's poor health
 - postscript telling her he longs to see her as much as he ever did in the early days
- **Wreck of Oregon June 1st 1851**
 - excuses his short letter because of the mosquitoes
 - believes the Oregon will profit them more in reputation than money, especially because they recovered a safe which the contents of will not be sure until opened
 - love for those at home
- **St Louis May 27th 1852**
 - tells of all the errands he must attend to the next day
 - tells of the health of all the family
 - starts to write of loving her, but stops because this is a business letter
 - does not know when he can go to see her
- **St. Louis June 25th 1852**
 - relates the ill health of several of their family
 - tells her about a man, Gen C Conway, courting cousin Eliza
 - closing messages of friends and family
- **Cincinnati, Sunday July 11 1852**

- this letter is written on stationary from the Burnet House and includes an illustration of the building
- written as an affectionate tribute to her without news because he will see her before she reads the letter
- extols Mattie for the wonderful influence she has been on him
- sorrows over her poor health and the possibility of losing her
- hopes that her health is improving and that she is not pregnant as she fears, but reassures her that if she is it will replace the child they have lost and that this time he will be with her to comfort her throughout the trial
- tells of cousin Eliza and his visit to Uncle Arnold's family
- **Saint Louis Aug 16th 1852**
 - relates his plan of going to see her soon
 - tells her that he has hired Mary out to the Bosserons, apparently to care for their children
 - speaks of all the health concerns of their family
 - passes on Dr. Stevens recommendation that she take a water cure
 - expresses his desire to be with her and nurse her with tenderness
 - remarks about a cousin selling stock
 - asks to be remembered to the friends who are nursing her
- **Letters from Martha to James**
 - **Miss Martha N. Dillon to J.B.E.**
 - **Monday night, Oct. 1 1844**
 - writes to return the pen that he gave her because her father disapproves of exchanging presents of any kind
 - asks that he drop the term cousin in referring to each other for propriety's sake, especially because she could never call him anything but Mr. Eads in front of her father
 - hopes that she has not hurt his feelings
 - asks that he not use the pen until he has occasion to write to the woman he has chosen to be his wife
 - **St Louis, May 11th, 1845**
 - explains why she has been unable to answer his letter until now
 - gratefully accepts the affection of his last letter, but asks him not to talk or write so again until they gain her father's consent

- doubts that her father will give consent and asks that they remain only friends until he does
- requests that they be more faithful in observing religious obligations because they will need God to get through this trial
- **Rose Hill, May 18th, 1845**
 - he wants her to admit that men are “superior in intellect” to women
 - she says yes, but that the difference is caused by education, which she explains is biased to men
 - also reasons that while women take care of the home and children they have little time to read, but in order for a man to succeed he must think critically daily
 - praises women’s imagination and intuition and asks what man possesses these
 - signs “A would be De Stael”
- **Rose Hill, May 21st [1845]**
 - accepts his invitation to go riding every few evenings in order to view the spring landscape which points all to the Creator
 - chastises humans for not admiring and enjoying the beauty of creation more often
 - signs “Annot Lisle”
- **Rose Hill, July 5th, 1845**
 - reply to the letter he wrote in response to the refusal of her father
 - relates her unsuccessful attempt to persuade her father to give his consent
 - writes of her wish to wait until the later half of November before they wed out of deference to her father
- **St Louis, August 1st, 1845**
 - writes of the pleasure it brings her to write to him
 - gives him a message from Sue
 - grieves over not having known his sisters
 - relays messages for him to deliver to some of her acquaintances he might find on his journey
 - assures him that she returns his love
- **St Louis, August 11th 1845**
 - explains her calculations for getting this letter to Boston when he will be there
 - tells of her father’s kind treatment of her and her wish that he would accept the marriage she wants
 - lets him know that she enjoys his descriptions of the scenery, especially because they are just for her

- is glad that he attended mass and asks him to continue to do so and enquires if he keeps fast and abstinence days
- asks him to pick up a present for the child of a mutual friend
- replies to his question about early rising by saying she enjoys it but has not done so of late
- **St Louis, Friday night Sep 11th 1845**
 - explains her calculations for writing at this time
 - tells him about the letter she has given to Papa saying that she plans to marry James even without his consent, trying to refute his objections, assuring him of her devotion to him, and asking even if he doesn't consent to treat her kindly while she lives with him
 - explains what happens with the letter and puts to rest his worries that Papa might take severe measures to prevent their union
 - responds to his complaint about letters needing to go to the Post Office soon after written by telling of the circumstances involved with the letter in question
 - almost hopes she does not grow to love him more, because she could not bear his disapproval then
 - explains that she does not profess her affection for him lest it should be a discredit to her modesty
 - doesn't believe women should make such professions during their engagement for delicacy's sake and expounds upon her case
 - justifies to herself that although she would love to see the places and people where he is she did right not to accompany him
 - tells him that Sue will still be in the same boarding house when he returns and describes her last call there
 - hopes that when he comes back if they cannot be alone when they meet he will meet her just as a friend
 - declares that she will not be kissed in front of witnesses
 - asks that he not stay with his Mother longer than necessary and lists the benefits waiting for him in St. Louis
- **St. Louis, Sept. 13th 1845**
 - **Section from Sally A. Eads**
 - thanks him for sending her a second letter when he is surrounded by such wonders

- thanks him for his poetic descriptions of the places he has been and compliments his skill as a writer
- reflects on memory
- notifies him that she has written aunt, but it took her three weeks
- assures him she is healthy and gaining an appetite
- comments on him becoming Frank's godfather
- thinks that he must be careful to be straight-faced while in the East because they would be shocked to see how Catholics here keep the Sabbath
- tells of visiting Eunice and naming her baby Virginia
- **Section from Martha**
 - worries that some hidden sorrow is plaguing Sally's heart
 - asks that he write Sally as soon as he writes her to try to cheer her up
 - says as much as she misses him she can spare him to his parents for a while
 - begins to worry about his safety as he will soon be crossing the Great Lakes
 - is terrified at the possibility of losing him, but begrudgingly entrusts him to the Almighty's care
 - tells him of a friend loaning her the book *Flowers of Heaven* because she thought Martha neglected religion
 - wishes he could have heard today's message which explained some questions he had about doctrine very clearly
 - tells of passing his compliments on to cousin McDowell
 - wishes she could see her teacher whom he may have called on by now
 - tells him of the sad but beautiful autumn weather
 - explains that she has found a sympathizing friend in Mama
 - sorrows over the dying child of Mr. A & Mrs. H. Gamble
- **From My Wife 1846 & 7**
 - **Rose Hill, April 15th, 1846**
 - expresses her anxiety for him

- news of family and friends
- writes of her love for him, but is prevented from writing a long letter as he requested because of back pain
- thanks him for using the life preserver at her request
- **St. Louis, April 9th, 1847**
 - wonders why he hasn't written yet (it has been 5 days since they parted)
 - writes from Sally's room in Papa's house
 - conveys her and Eliza's delight with the house, which has just been completed
- **St. Louis, April 16th, 1847**
 - is very saddened by their separation
 - worries about their finances and hopes he will find a way of succeeding with "the little submarine"
 - tells him of her plans to leave Eliza with Sally if she is well, but she has been sick lately
 - hopes to see him soon and to be well enough herself to take good care of him
 - notes that she has been working on her dresses to please him when she sees him again
- **Tuesday night Apl 23 1847**
 - short note in reply to receiving his letter
 - knows that his attention being held by business is really for the sake of his wife and child
 - writes that her spirits were depressed yesterday, but better now
 - worries for his health because of his hard work
- **St Louis, April 26th, 1847**
 - relates the ill health of his father because of a fall from a wagon
 - tells him of a bad dream his mother had and how it affected her until their arrival
 - writes of her deep and undying love for him
 - asks him to write at least once a week because his letters are her sole source of joy
 - tells of Eliza and her relationship developing with her grandparents
- **Argyle Cottage April 27th, 1847**
 - writes of the inability of words to convey her true affection
 - tells of their spring cleaning
 - asks how his glass factory is doing
 - asks him to send some household items

- tells him to be careful with his health and use what remedies he has and knows will work
- **Argyle Cottage, Sunday May 2nd 1847**
 - is thankful that she knows he was in good health
 - tells of the occupations and amusements of those at the Cottage
 - reflects on their parental love of Eliza
 - describes the weather at the Cottage which has been unusually cool
 - reminisces about the interaction of Eliza and her grandfather
 - looks forward to seeing him by the first of June
 - asks James to bring some wares from the glassworks for his mother
- **Argyle Cottage, May 9th, 1847**
 - describes her walk with Mother and Sue to his prairie lot, their picnic there, and the vision she had of him that worried her
 - reproaches herself for her past conduct in failing to provide every little attention that a wife should
 - tells of his father's remarks to a visitor about how much Eliza reminds him of when James was a baby
 - relates the visitor's comments about the fine wares he had seen from James' glassworks
 - gives James the news that Eliza has cut her first tooth, soon after her second, and is now working on an upper one
 - writes the news of a cousin's dying son and asks James to visit him
 - asks him if she can give his father some money (\$4-5) to pay his debts
 - asks that if he can come to see her only once in the summer that he wait until mid-June to come, but if he can come twice like she thinks he should that he come at this first of June
 - asks that he bring the Doctor and aunt Cate with him
- **Argyle Cottage, May 13th, 1847**
 - thanks him for his romantic letter of the 3rd
 - is happy to hear of the success of the glassworks and expresses her pride in him and his accomplishments
 - asks him to say hello to some friends and express their condolences to the cousin whose son has died
 - gives an account of the family at the Cottage
- **Argyle Cottage, May 16th, 1847**

- describes Eliza's appearance in church and the reaction of lady acquaintances to her (she is 9 months old now)
- implores him to continue to write letters as promised every Sunday even if he writes extras between
- hopes that her cousin will not come at the same time as him, the Doctor, and Mrs. McCullah
- asks him to procure another bedstead if he is to be accompanied by both the Doctor and Mrs. McCullah
- asks him to bring several household goods
- gives him messages to relay to friends and tells of those at the Cottage
- **Argyle Cottage, May 21st, 1847**
 - tells him how much she appreciates his last letter
 - describes Eliza as he had asked her to
 - tells of arrangements for he and his friends' stay as well as for Mrs. Henderson's boarding with them
 - asks him to bring some things from home and pass on Sue's similar requests to the Doctor
- **Argyle Cottage May 23rd 1847**
 - [this file includes a letter and another piece of paper with a note dated the same day and folded together]
 - addresses him because it is his birthday and she has been thinking of him all day
 - poetically describes Eliza
 - tells of Eliza and Frank's attachment to each other as playmates
 - gives an account of her health as he had asked
 - tells him of Mr. James who is to deliver this letter and a recent acquaintance
 - describes a little attack of poor health that Frank had suffered
- **Argyle Cottage, May 26 1847**
 - describes his last letter as possessing affection ardent as the days when they first wed
 - relates details about who to invite to accompany him and what to bring
 - explains that she must be brief in order to get the letter to him
- **Argyle Cottage, May 30th, 1847**
 - writes him even though she hopes he will not get the letter because he should be on his way, but just in case he cannot come she wouldn't want him to not know that his family was all well
 - apologizes profusely for not doing every little kindness possible for him in the past

- gives him an account of Eliza learning to stand
- looks forward to seeing him again
- **Argyle Cottage, June 1st 1847**
 - welcomes Dr. Stevens to the Cottage
 - hopes that aunt Cate will come to visit with James
 - relays her and his mother's disappointment that his visit has been delayed and will be short
 - worries about his health
 - tells of Eliza's latest little behaviors
 - praises the obituary he wrote for Mrs. Doherty
 - addresses his complaint that she does not write often enough by explaining how busy she has been and promises to write every two days from now on
 - corrects his mistaken impression that she lets anyone else read her letters
 - writes how she longs to see him
- **Argyle Cottage, May/June 4th, 1847**
 - writes of her constant yearning to see him again
 - lovingly talks about Eliza and her bedtime antics
 - wishes they could both go to bed together
 - tells him that she could not sleep until she wrote of her love for him
 - begs him not to travel by water because it worries her so much
- **Argyle Cottage, June 7th, 1847**
 - explains that she did not write Sunday because she expected to get a letter from him and wouldn't know until then whether he was still in St. Louis or not
 - writes of her exceeding joy at receiving his letters the next day
 - longs to kiss him again
 - would have stayed up to write him, but Mother wouldn't let her, was going to write in the morning but Eliza needed to be nursed
 - writes about Eliza
 - tells him about a day of calling on friends
 - explains the numerous obstacles that prevented her from writing sooner
 - responds to his pleas for her to preserve her beauty
 - looks forward to him coming as soon as his business will allow
- **Argyle Cottage, June 10th, 1847**
 - explains she must be brief because it is already 11 o'clock and her back is aching

- describes the depth and strength of her love
- writes beautifully of how much she misses him
- tells him of saying goodbye to the Doctor
- wishes James would come up, but does not plead because she knows he will come as soon as he can
- tells him her weight, 110 lbs., 24 less than when they were first married
- **Argyle Cottage, June 20th, 1847**
 - describes her mourning his departure
 - worries about his health and his journey
 - wishes for his business to be well when he returns
 - assures him of her love even if business should fail
 - reminds him to look after his health because she can't be there to do so
 - writes of what she will do to keep busy so she will not miss him so terribly much
 - compares how his mother and she miss him
 - tells him about Eliza riding the dog
 - relays Mother's counsel on the way he should set up the deed to a property to best take care of Martha
- **Argyle Cottage, June 25th, 1847**
 - tells him how her deep love pains her because she is without him
 - explains that she must write briefly because the boat she is sending the letter and a bundle of shirts on is about to leave
 - worries about whether or not the shirts will fit him well
 - expresses the love and care she put into the shirts and cap and how much she misses him
 - again asks that he put the previously mentioned property into a deed of trust instead of selling it
- **Argyle Cottage, June 27th, 1847**
 - explains that her previous letter and package did not get sent because of a boat mix up
 - tells him how much she appreciated getting to sew the shirts for him as a way of showing her devotion to him
 - tells of Eliza growing sweeter every day
 - can't believe he has only been gone little more than a week
- **June 31st, 1847**
 - writes of her jealousy of the woman carrying this letter because she is bound for their hometown and will see James before Martha does
 - tells of her frequent bittersweet thoughts of him

- adds to the previous letter's story about Eliza
- asks for him to send materials for her to make more shirts, nightshirts, and a cap
- **Argyle Cottage, July 4th, 1847**
 - lovingly writes of her anxious wait to hear from him
 - asks him only to write her once a week because she wants him to get enough rest
 - hopes that if a friend should call on him that was coming back to her region that he would write because she could hear from him sooner than usual
 - continues her debate with him that she would not be a happy widow as he thinks
 - writes her annoyance at being interrupted by company calling when she wanted to spend the day in solitude writing to him and others
 - tells of attending a fourth of July celebration and how it scared Eliza
 - describes her desperate wish to see him again
 - accounts for everyone at the Cottage
- **Argyle Cottage, July 8th, 1847**
 - describes her morning routine now that they must rise earlier to keep Father from having to plow during the heat of the day
 - relates with pride that she did well milking on a couple of days when Mother was too sick to milk
 - writes of their difficulties in trying to send each other letters
 - asks if he feels that she writes complainingly, but also gives her reasons for writing as she does, she misses him and is used to sharing her feelings with him
 - asks him to tell her frankly about the prospects of the glassworks
 - worries that the shirts she made and sent him won't fit right and that he will have to wear dirty shirts because he doesn't have enough changes of clothes
 - asks that if he should fall ill he come to the Cottage or send for her immediately
 - tells him about Eliza's learning to talk
 - describes Sue's social schedule and her antics after winning the dance competition at a ball
- **Argyle Cottage, July 8th, 1847**
 - writes to him again because she has found a friend who is traveling to St. Louis in a few days and she feels she must take advantage of this opportunity to send him a shirt and a letter

- thanks him for his affectionate letter, the third of the 5th series, but worries because he was ill and she was not there to nurse and comfort him
- describes how much she wants to serve him when he is sick or unhappy, even more than when he is happy and well because it is her pleasant duty as his wife
- receives compliments for James' assistance to some ladies while traveling and she reflects how their love has made them better
- politely states that if he should insist she will copy her letters, but she usually finds that the original is better than the copy
- responds to his question about the character of several men in a debating society
- describes her and Eliza's fight with mosquitoes
- closing messages to friends and family in St. Louis
- **Argyle Cottage, July 11th, 1847**
 - explains her passionate desire to write him
 - reminisces about his visit, how happy it was and how lonely she felt when it ended
 - reflects about what would happen if she died
 - talks to him about the differences between men and woman which she believes makes it right for a man to remarry but not for a woman
 - tells about Eliza kissing the letter for him and about her attachment to her grandmother
 - restates a list of household goods she needs him to send in case her didn't get her earlier letter
- **Argyle Cottage, July 16th, 1847**
 - describes the effect of his letters, they are received with joy, but she always hungers for more
 - tells him how much his love means to her
 - responds to his pleas that she look after her appearance and posture
 - is glad to hear of his unusually good health and persists to remind him to take care of himself
 - exchange of news and messages to friends
- **Argyle Cottage, July 18th, 1847**
 - writes in response to his letter from last Sunday as to her opinion of when to return
 - she decides to wait until the end of September, not for the reasons he suggests, but because of her concern for what it would do to Mother and because Mother would be left with far too much work for her strength during the harvest

- explains her choice lest he think it was because she did not love him
- lets him know that although she looks forward to their reunion with joy, she is not so heart-stricken as she was just after he left
- extols the tenderness both grandparents feel for Eliza
- describes the effect the hot weather has on her
- tells him she will come if he wants her to because her devotion is to him before any other
- describes the ineptitude of words to describe their love
- tells the news of those at the Cottage
- **Argyle Cottage, July 22^d, 1847**
 - reflects on her decision to stay and although she misses him the work of the last few days has cemented her decision
 - writes about their writing to each other regularly but the letter seldom being received regularly
 - gives him an idea of a place to set up an agency for the glassworks in Gabur where there is no glassware to be obtained
 - writes tenderly of Eliza
 - gives him the news from the Cottage
- **Argyle Cottage, April 25th/July 25, 1847**
 - beautifully describes her wish to be held by him again
 - tells him that his mother has suffered an attack of poor health (er sipitas)
 - gives him the news that the trial is set for the first part of September and gives him what evidence she has for the case
 - asks him to come if the matter does go to trial
 - worries about his health because of the measles outbreaks in Saint Louis
 - believes that few are as happy in married life as they are
 - passes on the compliments a friend gave about Eliza
- **Argyle Cottage, July 28th, 1847**
 - gives an account of the party they threw
 - writes of receiving his letter and it making her miss him
 - tells him about the sewing she expects to have finished by the time they meet
 - answers his question about leaving Eliza there next summer and going with him and also the question of weaning Eliza for her comfort's sake

- tells about Eliza learning to walk and calling for her grandparents
- **Argyle Cottage, August 5th, 1847**
 - addresses the issue of the upcoming trial
 - gives an account of the events she knows
 - begs for him to come for the trial
 - asks him to beg Elijah and his wife to come also and if they cannot to have their testimonies recorded before a magistrate and sent up
 - asks him to send her a few good pens and a tub for washing dishes for Mother
- **Argyle Cottage, August 8th, 1847**
 - describes how she will feel when they meet again and how the wait has been both short and long
 - explains that their love makes them mind their actions to be truly good and virtuous for the sake of the other
 - writes beautifully of growing old together
 - tells him that Eliza is walking timidly now 5-6 steps
 - relates Eliza's misbehavior in church
 - worries about what they would do if Eliza died
 - apologizes for the faults of her letter
 - sends kisses from Eliza, Mother and herself as well as the compliments of ladies of the neighborhood for him
- **Argyle Cottage, August 11th, 1847**
 - tells him how sick she got from bathing in cold water
 - counts 36 days at most until she will see him again and happily anticipates their meeting
 - describes Eliza's development and notes that her birthday is the next Monday
 - asks him about whether he plans to buy a lot or not
 - asks him to send her money for her trip home
 - talks to him about writing up an obituary for Mr. Letton
- **Argyle Cottage, August 14 [1847]**
 - thanks him for the three letters she has finally received
 - discusses the suit a little
 - asks him to tell the Doctor that Sue wishes to stay until after the trial and that Frank has suffered dysentery but is somewhat better now
 - explains that she must remain because of the suit
 - describes how much she wants to see him and hopes this will be their last long separation

- tells him about Eliza's latest traits, throwing tantrums, walking about the house, and grinning when she does something clever
 - addresses his concern about her weaning Eliza by telling him it does not bother her and will not prevent her from bestowing all the tender caresses he is anxious to receive
- **Argyle Cottage, Sunday Evening August 15th, 1847**
 - talks about how their letter writing prevented her from keeping any other correspondence but was still deeply treasured
 - assures him that all the effort he puts into his letters will be repaid when they are together again
 - tells him that she has hired some of the sewing out because of a string of circumstances prevented her from doing it and because she wants it done so she can spend time with him
 - reports that Frank's dysentery is a bit better, but he is now suffering from chills and requires nearly constant attention
 - continued on Monday, wanted to write about Eliza's birthday, but can't because she received his last letter and is busy getting ready for her to leave
- **From My Wife 1848 & 9**
 - **Argyle Cottage, July 1st, 1848**
 - mentions that Eliza was ill but is better now because of a medicine made of brandy, rhubarb, and spices which is not so strong as the powders they previously used as medicine
 - describes her concerns about delicacy while she is pregnant and he is away
 - talks about picking and eating currants and raspberries
 - describes how Eliza misses him
 - mentions his miniature and that she and Eliza often kiss it
 - **Argyle Cottage, July 8th, 1848**
 - she is not feeling well because of a "pain in her side"
 - worries about his health in the South during the warm season and his safety on the river
 - expects to give birth in about 10 days
 - details her plans for obtaining what appears to be a midwife and nurse
 - gives an account of Eliza growing fatter and how attached she is to her grandparents

- tells him about the ball, they made \$16, and Sue looked beautiful
- asks him to pray for her and Eliza
- **Argyle Cottage, July 12th, 1848**
 - feels like she must write him in case she should die in childbirth
 - worries about their child being deformed
 - is relieved to hear through his letter that he is safe but begin to worry about him as soon as she is done reading it because it has been a week since it was written and something could have happened since
 - asks that he write more about himself in his next letter
 - tells him how good Eliza has been
 - gives an account of her health, she could not breathe easily and so she was bled
- **Argyle Cottage, July 17th, 1848**
 - is feeling better and now predicts that it will be two weeks before she gives birth, so she asks him to come if at all possible
 - has not heard of any new steamboat accidents and worries he will be absent, but not even gain by having no work
 - warns him not to go to New Orleans because of the risk of catching yellow fever and that she and Mother could not go to him if he caught it
 - wishes he could enjoy their pleasant scenery and weather as well as their abundance of fruit
 - asks him never to neglect writing on Sundays
 - wishes he could see Eliza and be gladdened by her
 - tells him about Eliza running off to the orchard or going down to the garden and picking peas and gooseberries on her own
 - asks that if he should become very sick he ask that if he died he should be preserved in alcohol so she could see him again
 - tells him about a dream she had that he had nearly died
- **Argyle Cottage, July 21st, 1848**
 - tells him how much his last letter cheered her as she prepares to go through the trial of giving birth
 - works up her courage for going through this without him for the sake of making him proud of her
 - relates an incident in which Eliza wanted her father so much at bedtime that she kissed and hugged his

miniature repeatedly and refused to let go of it, she ended up sleeping with it tight to her chest

- tells a story about the Doctor's reception
 - hopes that their child will be a boy
 - wonders at how he can plan to remain absent so long even after the birth of their next child
 - muses about how Eliza will react to the baby, her current health, and how much she misses her father
 - agrees with him that full confidence in each other's devotion is the best blessing they have
 - praises his character and accepts his praise of her modestly
 - greetings and news from the family at the Cottage
 - discusses a matter about inheriting some land and having been offered to sell it
- **Argyle Cottage, July 28th, 1848**
 - it has been 4 months since they were parted
 - she describes her labor of love in refinishing his vest, lest it be the last thing she ever does for him, but has finished it and started on a pair of socks
 - talks about the arrangements they have made to have room for all the family, visitors, and boarders
 - asks how the boats are coming, only interested for his sake, and wonders if he makes any special plans for the room she is to occupy with him this winter
 - describes Eliza for him
 - details the changes they are making in order to house a boarder
 - love and greetings from those at the Cottage
 - **Argyle Cottage, July 14th/August 1st 1848**
 - explains that hasn't written sooner because she wasn't feeling well
 - details her attempts to heal her "indigestion"
 - worries about him working too hard, the heat bothering him, and the mosquitoes annoying him
 - have been apart 5 weeks
 - writes about Eliza biting her grandfather while he sleeps and running around constantly
 - **Argyle Cottage, August 2^d, 1848**
 - urges him to come to her, she has been frightened because of the previous deaths of two acquaintances in childbirth and now a third has lost her baby and is barely hoped to live, Martha feels she needs him to comfort her in this particularly deadly season

- reasons with herself that in justice to taking care of their family he left and only for the same reason would he not come now
- sent with a letter from the day before, and some cake from Lois' wedding
- praises their love and gives him instructions in case she should die
- closing explanation that the blots are from tears shed by her fearful heart
- **[Aug. 5th, 1848]**
 - poem "To an absent Husband" beautifully describes the Cottage and pleads for him to come home to Eliza, his baby son, his parents, and his wife
 - the poem is followed by a transcription of a note she wrote to an editor asking for it to be published
 - opens her letter by explaining that she wrote the poem in response to his letter to the editor so that he might be pleased by her publishing something as well
 - explains and critiques her efforts while praising his
 - later includes a copy of another letter she sent to the editor with a portion of one of his letters extolling a mother's love
 - worries that if her poem is published along with her note about its merit people of their town will guess the writer and she would be shamed because she is not sure yet whether their baby will be a boy
- **Argyle Cottage, August 6th, 1848**
 - apologizes for causing him distress with her last letter
 - wishes he could be there so neither of them would be sad
 - addresses her fear of death
 - relates how her only worry when the glassworks failed was for his health
 - hopes that he will get this letter before the one from August 1st because she wrote while she was so depressed
 - worries that he will think less of her because of her previous pleas for him to come to her
 - writes in praise of his letter to the editor which was published in the Davenport Gazette No. 47 Vol. 7 on the 3rd of August 1848 and the personal letter she received at the same time
 - asks why he writes that a mother's love surpasses all when she feels the love between them is stronger
- **Argyle Cottage, August 13th [1848]**

- feels terribly sorry that he hasn't received a letter for two weeks
- tells him that in writing the above lines she has experienced two contractions
- she goes on to say that she has been in labor since 3 am and it is now 6 pm, she repeats the assurances of Mrs. Disney that the last pains are not so bad when the body has been sufficiently prepared for a time by small pains
- hopes even now that he will come on a ship that is expected to arrive momentarily
- Sue finishes the letter on the 14th by congratulating James on the birth of his son James Eads Jr., born at 5 o'clock August 14th, 1848 and telling him that Martha is "as well as can be expected"
- **Argyle Cottage, August 27th, 1848**
 - complains about not being allowed to write sooner
 - writes that their happiness when their little family can meet again will overcome all the suffering and the sorrows of the past months
 - reflects that all earthly joys are imperfect and thus disagrees with his statement that their meeting will bestow more bliss than heaven
 - lovingly describes their son
 - tells him about how Eliza reacts to his absence and to her new brother
 - regrets that she has not treated his mother as affectionately as she should have because she was not herself
 - explains that she is sending for a dress pattern for Mother without asking him first because she wants to be able to make it before Mother leaves for Jacksonville
 - describes how receiving his letters is the vents around which the rest of her week revolves
 - addresses their plans for fall and winter, leaving the decision of whether or not she should join him on the boats to his judgment, requesting only that he not be swayed by the opinions of others
 - asks that he arrange to arrive at the first of October when his parents are planning to travel to Jacksonville and that they all make the trip together
- **Argyle Cottage, Sep 3^d, 1848**
 - tells him about her recovery and hoping to be at least something like the woman he married when they meet

- wishes that she will have the strength to wait on him when he comes
 - asks him if he plans to have her with him this winter and when he plans to come up
 - describes James Jr. as colicky, 9 ¼ lbs. when he was born, with his mother's nose and her father's upper lip, very alert and intelligent as well as strong
 - talks about Eliza having a cherub-like voice, learning to say more phrases, and keeping her clothes constantly dirty from eating melons
 - relates Mother's trouble with finding good help and the extra amount of work this has put on Sue
 - resumes the letter a week later explaining that she has been very sick, she describes her multiplicity of symptoms and their attempts to treat them
 - worries because she hasn't had a letter from him in two weeks
 - asks that he not dive unless he has to because she is worried that another accident might happen
- **Argyle Cottage, Sep 15th, 1848**
 - thanks him for worrying about her
 - describes the improvements in her health and her regret that James Jr. is not as thriving as before because she was too sick and ill-nourished to provide for him
 - describes how Mother treats James Jr. while dressing him
 - sends messages to those he will see on his way up
 - explains that she has been unable to finish reading his letter because when she was well enough to sit up her room became the family sitting room and she seldom has a moment of privacy
 - explains that she cannot read his letter and reply properly to it without injuring her already sore eyes
- **Argyle Cottage, Oct 2^d, 1848**
 - is very worried because she expected him on the 24th of September and has not heard from him
 - worries about Mother's health, she has a terrible pain in her breast
- **Argyle Cottage, Oct 10th, 1848**
 - [all but the first page of this letter is written very lightly in pencil and is very difficult to read]
 - writes to him in case he should miss the boat in Saint Louis and have to stop there briefly

- is hurrying in preparation for Miss Alice's wedding, but must write about a real estate issue they need him for
- looks forward to holding each other again
- received his letter and code key, which she burnt after deciphering the encoded sections of the letter
- relays her near acquiescence to Mother and Father to take Eliza with them to Jacksonville except that she wants the whole family to be together when he comes
- asks him to bring her two flash bulbs and a bottle of cologne
- asks if he might buy a new winter dress for Mother
- **Wednesday noon, Nov 29th [1848]**
 - writes because she is sick and she did not want him to just hear it from Mr. N[elson] because it is nothing to worry about
 - Mrs. Smith has nursed her, but she wishes it could have been him
 - describes her attack briefly
 - thanks Mr. Smith for his help with James' business and tells James that he must come when Mr. Smith does
- **Thursday morning Dec 7th [1848]**
 - lovely little note sent to him the day after they parted filled with love from her and the children who are traveling by boat
- **Sunday night [Dec. 1848]**
 - passes on a tip about the sinking of the Wyandotte near Vicksburg
 - hopes to see him on his way down but really wishes that the river life was over
 - no messenger was found to take this note, but she has now heard that the Dolphin sunk at Brunswick and its cargo contains lard, pork and lead
- **Davenport, Sep 12th, 1849**
 - short letter on her way home asking him to come all the way to the Cottage instead of having her go down to meet him at Burlington
- **Argyle Cottage, Sep 13th 1849**
 - hopes they will not be long separated this winter
 - will go to Burlington if summoned, but still hopes he will come to see Mother
- **[Nov. 1849]**
 - tells him again what boat to expect the Doctor on
 - encloses a package from Sue to the Doctor and gives instructions for delivering it

- wishes he wouldn't have left while she was still asleep and looks forward to seeing him in the evening
- says their boy won't give her any trouble
- **Argyle Cottage Nov 22^d 1849**
 - tells about Father recovering from what he thought was to be a serious illness
 - discusses plans for staying until Christmas with him visiting a week or two and then leaving Eliza there for fear of cholera while she and James return to St. Louis
 - asks him to write her an old time letter
 - worries about cholera breaking out in St. Louis and tells him he must come at once if it does
 - asks him to send lemon drops and a bottle of cologne for Father as well as a pound or two of good tea, some fabric, braid, and patterns for caps
 - write of her love for him
 - sends him a pair of socks she has just finished knitting
- **Steamboat Bon Accord Sunday night [Nov 24th 1849]**
 - desperately pleads for him to leave St. Louis if "the dreaded malady" breaks out
 - tells him about how smart Eliza is getting with a little story
 - wishes him a tender goodnight
 - closes her letter Monday night but can scarcely write because the boat is shaking so violently
- **Argyle Cottage, Dec 25/Nov 25, 1849**
 - takes a moment to describe her love for him
 - describes Father as struggling with a bad cough
 - wishes he could be with them, but will not ask for it unless Father's case should require it because she wants him to well enough now that he can spend next summer, when cholera is likely to return, out of the city
 - describes the weather becoming stormier and fear that the boats will stop running which would cut her off from him
 - debates about letting Eliza stay at the Cottage all winter
 - describes her and Eliza's walk to the swing he had made and Eliza's messages to him
 - tells him about a couple that may come to spend the winter at the Cottage
 - asks that he borrow a friend's muff for her to use if he should come up to get her
 - wishes he would send her a love letter

- asks that he try to comfort and cheer aunt Cate
- asks him to send more oranges, things for making Mother a winter dress, and a new cooking stone
- adds a note Monday morning including Dr. Gamble's report that Father is still on the mend, but will take a while to heal
- **[Nov. 1849]**
 - brief note enclosing Martha's letter to the editor in response to an advertisement for a wife for a Junior editor who Martha thinks is someone they know
- **Argyle Cottage, Dec 2^d, 1849**
 - business note about selling a lot in Jacksonville and amounts owed to different people
- **Argyle Cottage, Dec 2^d, 1849**
 - wonders how his business is going
 - pines for a letter from him
 - describes the slow recuperation of Father
 - feels compelled to stay until Father is well again lest he should take a turn for the worst and Mother be alone in nursing or bereavement, but she hopes to be home by Christmas
 - tells him about Eliza's continuing love for him
 - relays messages from his parents
- **Argyle Cottage, Dec 9th, 1849**
 - worries about him going farther away
 - reports that Father is healing slowly but noticeably and can now sit up all day long
 - hopes on behalf of all at the Cottage that he will come visit and make it by Christmas
 - gives thanks for the presents he sent them
 - passes along Father's hopes that James will come up and stay until the river becomes navigable
 - pleads for Mother and herself that he dress warmly for his journey to them
 - suggests that if the river is open part way he go up as far as possible and then go by land instead of land the whole way
 - congratulates him on the raising of the Saint Paul
 - approves of his actions with regard to helping cousin E
 - scolds Sue for her neglect and insists he tell her she must write a long letter
 - tells him about her meeting with Capt. Holt, who wants to establish a shipyard near the Cottage, but needs a partner and Martha hoped James might be interested

although she knows it would be difficult for him to leave the river when he is doing so well

- asks that James pay off a debt to a man she fears may do dark things in secret if delayed
- relays Father's request that James secure materials for making an overcoat
- asks for Turner that James buy some skates and have them strapped in St. Louis
- asks herself that he procure some "booters" for her to use on their return
- **Argyle Cottage, Dec 15th, 1849**
 - worries that the Doctor may lose his eyes and asks that James pay a debt they owe him plus some funds so that the Doctor, Sue, and Frank can get away to Syracuse for several months under the care of the Doctor's brother
 - Martha is even willing to sacrifice by staying all winter at the Cottage if James is willing in order to do this for them
 - tells him several items to loan and give to Sue if she is to make this journey
 - extends Mother and Father's invitation to have them come to the Cottage if they can't go to Syracuse
 - explains that his helping her sister is like her helping his parents, they love and do their best for both
 - knows that there are many claims upon him now, but hopes they can help before it is too late and the Doctor loses one or both eyes
 - looks forward to spending merry Christmas times together
 - hopes to see him soon
- **Argyle Cottage, Dec 23^d, 1849**
 - is disappointed that his arrival will probably be delayed
 - worries because he was sick and she was not there
 - complains that he did not even give her a guess as to when he will come up
 - thanks him for all the business details of his last letter
 - congratulates him on his success in career and reputation
 - summarizes her previous letter in case he did not receive it
- **From My Wife 1850**
 - **St. Louis, March 7th, 1850**

- hopes that he will be able to join Eliza, Sally, and herself at the Cottage
- discusses the possibility of the Doctor crossing the Atlantic
- tells him how busy she has been
- copies the valentine poem she wrote for Virginia, a childhood friend who moved away
- **S. Louis, March 15th, 1850**
 - writes of her loneliness without him and looks forward to seeing him in a week
 - tells him about the arrangements she made with Mr. Fife to buy seed and chain
 - relays some of the things from Father's letter needed to open James' own farm in Iowa and Martha worries about their financial ability to do so
 - tells him that Dr. Stevens will be on his way soon and hopes he and James can meet up on the way to say farewell
 - worries about her penmanship
 - details all the things she has been doing
 - tells him about a series of lectures the Bishop is giving and hopes he can hear some of them on his return
 - tells him about her father's new carriage and hopes it may be used to entertain their cousins from Jacksonville if they come
- **St. Louis, Wednesday 3 PM March 27th [1850]**
 - thinks that she may be writing too soon, but knows that a word from her when absent is always welcome
 - praises his character, saying that if she could remold him she would change only two things, have his religious views more closely align with hers, and have him care less about ladies dress
 - tells him about the arrival of their cousins
 - reassures him that her affection for him will never fade
- **St. Louis, March 31st, 1850**
 - complains because he wrote a letter to a man about business, but still has not addressed her
 - describes her love for him and how lonely she is when he is gone
 - gives the itinerary of her visits and entertainments with their cousins hoping to meet him at Mr. Fife's if he returns when expected
 - tells of her letter writing and visiting
 - relays the cousins' enjoyment of their visit and how it will be heightened when he returns

- **St. Louis, April 14th 1850**
 - explains that there are no pens so she had to write in pencil
 - explains that she has not written sooner because of all the things she has had to do, which she then describes
 - tells him about the party, but how melancholy she was because he was not there and she had to pack away their dead son's clothes and things
 - details her arrangements for going up and the money involved
 - praises him in his fair and indulgent treatment of her, especially in the area of money
 - wishes she could be with him and would give up seeing their daughter if she could see him instead
 - hopes that they will not have to bear the death of either one of them for many years
- **Keokuk, April 17th 1850**
 - writes from the steamboat Bon Accord on her way to the Cottage
 - tells a story about Mother and Father expecting him earlier and even mistaking someone else on the boat for him
 - explains that she had to ask for more money
 - meets Mrs. Letton on the way, who is going to stay at the Cottage, but is grieving over the marriage of her youngest son
 - wonders what he is doing and tells him to be very careful about cholera because she couldn't bear to lose him
 - prays for him and asks him to pray for her
 - closes with a short testimony of her love
- **Argyle Cottage, April 27th, 1850**
 - apologizes for not having written in a week
 - describes her utter sadness and how much she worries about him and about her dying before she could see him again
 - resumes her letter Sunday morning in much better spirits
 - worries that he thinks less of her for her worrying
 - asks him to answer in his next letter whether he thinks she loves him, then lists evidence for her affection
 - tells him about Eliza and the possibility of her catching measles, which are in the neighborhood, or whooping cough, which Ada has at the Cottage
 - tells him how Mother and Father are

- wonders how his business is going
- is counting the days in anticipation of seeing him again
- **Argyle Cottage, May 2^d, 1850**
 - praises his letter for Mother in which he remembers his sisters who died in childhood
 - takes his advice to work on her posture for his sake
 - thanks him for addressing her so sweetly in Mother's letter
 - asks him to purchase a stock for her father
 - hopes to fulfill his request to write often and long letters, but warns him that poor health or other good causes may be to blame if it doesn't happen
 - tells him of a friend's child who has a bad case of the measles
 - describes an incident in the shipping of fruit trees for Father
- **Argyle Cottage, May 5th, 1850**
 - wishes he would write more often and longer letters because they are to be parted so long
 - describes the strength of her affection to assuage his doubts
 - apologizes for her nervousness and ill-health preventing her from acting like she should towards him
 - wishes she could go to him
 - tells him about Eliza: how sweet she is, how she misses him, and how she is more attached to Mother than Martha when she is sick
 - tells of the happenings at the Cottage
 - apologizes for cross-writing
 - asks him to call on her family when he goes through St. Louis
 - closing love and best wishes
- **Argyle Cottage, May 9th [1850]**
 - has not had word from him in 12 days, but does not worry that he is ill because he surely would have notified her by the speedy new method of telegraph if he was
 - wonders about where he is
 - wishes he could settle in St. Louis and that they could get a house of their own
 - remarks about the possibility of boarding somewhere else this summer
 - tells of an accident that involved Virginia, her childhood friend

- explains that her letter will be brief because she worked too hard yesterday then describes how she generally takes better care of herself
- tells him that Mrs. Letton is not well
- **May- Sunday Morning [May 28th 1850]**
 - sends this note with a bundle of clean clothes in case his boat doesn't stop long enough for him to come see her
 - describes her little room and her occupations
 - says that if she could be certain of seeing him again she would worry less
 - closes in a hurry to get dressed prettily in case he does come see her
- **Argyle Cottage, August 27th, '50**
 - apologizes for not having written sooner and describes her health and spirits as recovering
 - thanks him for his thoughtfulness in securing life insurance on himself
 - tells him the news from the Cottage
 - wonders when he will visit in the fall
 - passes on the news that the Doctor may return this fall
 - closes her letter shortly because of a weak spell
- **Argyle Cottage, Sep 2 1850**
 - explains her reasons for replying by letter instead of telegraph
 - comments on the daguerreotype that was made of her
 - replies to his request that she invite Mrs. Nelson, the wife of his business partner, up to the Cottage
 - explains why she must be brief and answer his questions later
 - hopes he and Dr. Stevens can both come up around Sep 10th
- **Argyle Cottage, Sep 4th 1850**
 - explains that she has not written as she hoped because she has been sick for 5 or 6 days, she hopes this is because she is pregnant, but she isn't sure yet
 - asks about his business
 - thanks him for seeing her family in St. Louis
 - asks after her friends in Paducah, where he is working
 - gives him the news from the Cottage
 - hopes he will be able to come visit for a month
 - worries about his health, asking if he has chest pains and telling him how to treat them
 - says she feels as well as she does because of all the fruit they have

- **Step 9th, 1850. Argyle Cottage**
 - thanks him for his letter of September 1st and agrees with him about Sundays being a day to spend in thoughts of each other when absent
 - tells him how she plans to send the letter
 - asks about a letter she has not yet received and about Nelson, his business partner
 - tells him that Turner has run away and this will probably keep Father from planting his whole crop of winter wheat because he suffers so badly from rheumatism
 - closes so as not to keep the messenger of this letter telling shortly of everyone's health and that if he thinks of how much he loves her, he will know the depth of her affection
- **Argyle Cottage, Sep 14th, 1850**
 - feels "blest beyond the ordinary lot of woman" to have a husband like him
 - tells him of her recovery
 - gives a more elaborated account of Turner's disappearance
 - resumes in the morning but wishes she could have delayed until evening to feel the communion of spirits because of them both writing their love for each other
 - Father is well now and has hired a man to get all the winter wheat in
 - gives the news of expecting the Doctor's return in about 3 weeks
 - news from the neighborhood and greetings to people where he is
- **Argyle Cottage, Sunday night- Sep. 22^d [1850]**
 - has just returned from a ride feeling refreshed
 - talks about sending and receiving letters
 - asks if he has seen some acquaintances
 - misses him even more because he is now probably even farther away
 - confirms there are signs to suggest she is pregnant, but she has not felt any movement yet
 - must close for the night and wonders if he is still writing and where exactly he is
 - resumes on the 24th and must close in a hurry to get her letter sent
 - asks him to bring as much groceries as he can afford
 - closing news and love
- **Argyle Cottage, Sep. 29th, 1850**

- writes a day early (on Saturday) because of an opportunity to get him news quickly
- wonders how his business is going
- has now felt movement to confirm their hopes that she is pregnant, and she reminds him of his promise to be there when she is in labor
- regrets that their friend Luther is leaving
- heard from Turner, who made \$2 on a steamboat to St. Louis, went to the theater there, spent 50 cents on liquor, and is headed to Illinois to see his step-sister
- asks that if he does bring presents as he said, that they be inexpensive ones and only for the children
- gives him some requests for arrangements for the coming winter
- thanks him for writing regularly even though he is busy
- hopes that he can make it back in time for their anniversary, she would meet him with just as much joy and possibly deeper love than then
- **Argyle Cottage, Oct. 5th, 1850**
 - has not received a letter from him and she longs to know if his new boats suit him and when he will come
 - feels as though she cannot wait much longer to see him
 - wonders about his business and fears he may be financially stressed
 - thinks that he is probably too busy to think about her , but will on his way up so that the ardor of their first days of love will be rekindled
 - news from the Cottage, about Turner's disappearance, Eliza's temperament, Martha's health, etc.
- **Argyle Cottage, Oct 24th, 1850**
 - still has not heard from him and spent the last day she would have expected him to come crying over him and their dead son
 - worries that he has been detained because his boats have not been completed
 - mourns over their being parted so often and so long
 - describes Mother and Eliza's waiting for him
 - complains that in his last letter he told her not to write him because a letter would miss him
 - tells of the Doctor and Sue's return to St. Louis
- **Argyle Cottage, Nov 17th, 1850**

- writes the day after he left, but knows she would love a line from him more than long letters from all her friends
- describes the strength and intensity of their love
- worries about if one of them should die
- has an attack of grief when Father asks to use the pen and she is left with nothing to do but think of him
- tells him of the rearrangements they have made to the Cottage for the winter
- hopes to send her letter in a way so that he will get it before he leaves St. Louis
- tells him about Eliza watching her write the letter and wait to kiss it for him
- again tells him how sad she is in his absence and that his letters will be locked up from now on so he may write how truly he loves her
- tells him not to write if it will keep him from his rest because she already knows how much he loves her
- reminds him to always travel with medicine for cholera and his life preserver
- she has commenced reading Alice's Bruce to please him
- confesses it is hard to end her letter when she is pouring out her soul to him
- **Argyle Cottage, Nov 22^d, 1850 [1st]**
 - says she's keeping constantly busy so she won't miss him so much
 - tells of Father's butchering
 - mentions the sinking of the Republic and asks him to take his preserver with him if he goes to work it
 - receives packages from Sue and Sister Cate
 - receives skirts, aprons, and a double wrapper from Mrs. Mc—
 - Kit and Virginia send infant socks
 - tells of writing a letter for Eliza on a scrap of paper of the child's own choosing, the letter still enclosed asks him for a rocking horse and a nice dress
- **Argyle Cottage, Nov. 22^d 1850 [2nd]**
 - reflects as it is her 29th birthday on her mother and the suffering she went through in giving birth
 - thinks he has probably forgotten her birthday because he is so busy with work, but hopes he has gained a valuable contract for the Republic, and wonders about his business dealings

- cautions him not to steer his own boat, especially on the Mississippi, but to endure the expense of hiring an experienced pilot
- expounds upon her reasons for always being so cautious, because she love him so much
- asks him to entrust their letters to Sue or Cate so that they will not be lost or read as might happen if he took them with him on the boat, also asks him to leave his watch, though not as important
- tells him about Eliza cracking and eating nuts and then cleaning up after herself
- resumed Monday morning and explains why she did not finish Sunday as planned
- resolves not to await letters so hopefully because the mails are so bad and she is often disappointed
- explains that because she has not wit herself she cannot recount Eliza's humorous sayings, but does give an account of caring for her daily needs
- describes all the work she has been doing and asks him if she is a wife worth having
- asks if he sent the things she asked for and about how he arranged his room (advising him on the matter)
- responds to his request that she write this winter, by giving her reasons for declining
- gives the news of the Cottage
- remarks about hating to close her letter [even though it is 6 ½ pages long]
- **Argyle Cottage, Dec. 5th 1850**
 - longs to able to together sort out their beliefs about religion [she being more devout than he]
 - explains her interest in his business because it determines the length of their separation and because of her pride in him
 - almost wishes she hadn't left Paducah so that she could be close to him, but knows that being at the Cottage is cheaper and hopes they can save to buy a home sooner
 - gives an account of her health, including that she soon expects back trouble
 - explains her counting the days of their separation totaling 93
 - talks about her beginning to keep an account of her and Eliza's expenses
 - discusses her hopes he will adjust his life insurance policy to make his children equal heirs to her

- tells of Eliza's fondness of her smart new bonnet and clothes and her confusion about the baby things they have started collecting
- **Argyle Cottage, Dec 8th, 1850**
 - [includes a scrap of paper with scribbles from Eliza]
 - relates a bad accident in which Father fell from and was run over by the wagon hauling wood
 - treated him with calomel, opium, liniment, and warm hops
 - thinks the boy boarding with them will work as well as if supervised because he is so faithful
 - describes her continuing poor health
 - talks about the winter weather as being mild
 - reflects how going hunting with him changed her feelings about firearms and the sport
 - wishes for a letter, he has been gone 22 days, and hopes he still has time to think of love
 - complains of pain in her lower back and pubis bone
 - admits she has not carried out her intention to study, but will if he says she should
- **Argyle Cottage, Dec. 15th, 1850**
 - looks forward to seeing him in exactly two months
 - describes Father's slowly mending health
 - congratulates his on his current success
 - gives him news received in a letter from Sue, the Doctor is leaving the school which disappointed him and is going to "make a bold strike for a name in surgery" while Sue, without his knowledge, is taking in sewing for money
 - tells of Eliza's appearance and her learning her ABCs as he encouraged
 - worries because the motion is less than she expected that she is not as far along as she thought or that she may lose the baby
 - explains that she must close because writing has left her suffering and exhausted
- **Argyle Cottage, Dec. 22st, 1850**
 - talks about her terrible weak spell that forced her to take a nap, but now she feels refreshed and will attempt to write though fearing relapse
 - guesses at how his business is going
 - worries about him working too hard or being disappointed with his work
 - regrets the Misses Gilruth[s] will now not be joining them for Christmas

- asks which route he will be taking when he comes
- resumes Monday reporting that Father is nearly recovered
- asks him to write to Mother and Father if he can find leisure to do so
- tells of her dreaming of him
- relates Eliza's mastery of the ABCs and continuing study under the tutelage of Father
- wishes he could be there for Christmas to fill Eliza's stocking and then watch her discover its treasure
- encloses a note from Eliza [still together]
- **Argyle Cottage, Dec 29th, 1850**
 - has continued in poor health but keeps her spirits up by thinking of his arrival and not the great trial to come afterward
 - hasn't received a letter for a while and wonders where he is
 - bemoans their long absences especially because she is pregnant and needs his kindnesses and support
 - stops because she is sick and resumes Monday morning explaining although she is weak and suffering in both mind and body it is to be expected for a woman in her situation
 - warns him not to come up on the Illinois side because the ice is not safe to cross and asks him to travel with cholera medicine
 - [enclosed still is a letter she wrote down for Eliza]
- **From my wife 1851 & 2**
 - **Argyle Cottage, Jan 5th, 1851**
 - thanks him for his glowing praise of her in his last letter
 - explains that she is irritable because of her pregnancy and his absence, treating Mother poorly although she is sorry for it
 - thanks him for his unwavering faithfulness
 - talks about his salvage business
 - tells him how acutely Eliza misses him, even though her letters are usually requests for presents
 - gives specific instructions on some of the goods she has sent for (the list is no longer enclosed)
 - tells of everyone's health including her plain diet in attempts to soothe her irritable stomach
 - **Argyle Cottage, Jan 19th, 1851**
 - [enclosed still is a scribbled note from Eliza]

- talks about the sudden cold spell they have experienced
- is glad that the hired girl is recovering from illness because taking up the slack interfered with the sewing Martha hoped to finish before she gives birth
- worries that she may have miscalculated her due date and asks him to calculate it himself to decide when to come up in order to be there for the birth
- worries about his journey to come up
- news of Eliza and Mother, and that a pregnant woman in Le Clair died of dysentery
- looks forward to sitting on his lap and whispering words of love to him
- **Argyle Cottage, Jan. 26th, 1851**
 - hopes he will come up as previously scheduled
 - gives details of her count and Mother's on when she should be due
 - replies to the news of his last letter
 - updates him on how everyone is
 - asks him not to bring any presents except the things she has asked for
 - closing thoughts of love
- **Argyle Cottage, March 18th, 1851**
 - cannot bear to let anyone write for her although she is not very well because the baby has had a bad cold
 - is sad to find that his leaving them all in sickness did not profit him as much as he had hoped
 - plans to go to Saint Louis the first week of April with baby Martha and Mother, hopes his business will not make him leave before they get there
 - enquires after news in St. Louis
- **Argyle, March 25th, 1851**
 - apologizes for keeping him in suspense about baby Martha's health and their departure date, still unclear
 - disagrees with his claim that he loves her more than she him
 - talks about her health, Sue's health, and preparations for their trip to New Orleans
- **Argyle Cottage, Sunday, 3. P.M. 1851 [July]**
 - relays the illness of Frank, Dr. Stevens, and Mother
 - wonders if he misses her as much as she does him
 - tells of all the family there, 19 in all
 - asks him to take care of his health and come as soon as possible

- worries that he doesn't respect her as much as he used to, hopes they can overlook each others' faults
- messages to friends where he is
- **Argyle Cottage, August 2^d, 1851**
 - writes even though she hopes he will be on his way before this reaches him
 - is puzzled that he forwarded letters to her from others without even adding a line of his own
 - tells him of their beautiful smiling daughters
 - describes the Doctor's poor health, suffering with nervous debility
 - daydreams about the possibility of them settling down in the neighborhood
 - closing news and love
- **Argyle Cottage, Oct 22^d, 1851**
 - reminisces about it being 6 years and a day since they were wed and proposes that if they ever settle down they should make it a celebration for them and their children
 - misses him and fights against remembering her bitter loneliness of last year
 - gives an account of the farm and how it is doing as well as news of some land he owns and their children
- **Argyle Cottage, Nov 1st, 1851**
 - anxiously awaits a letter from him, but must apologize herself for letting minor things keep her from writing
 - gives details of a land deal with a friend and potential business partner Mr. McGregor
 - writes the news at the Cottage
 - hopes that he can come visit
 - determines not to go back to St. Louis until she knows he is there, unless Virginia postpones her wedding for Martha to come attend
- **Argyle, Cottage, May 30th, 1852**
 - [7 page letter, two leaflets]
 - bemoans having to communicate by the "cold and silent medium" of letters
 - writes of her enjoyment of life in spite of being apart
 - believes that Mother's health may be restored
 - tells about their daughters' health and personalities
 - relates her new interest in country life, especially poultry raising and gardening
 - is disappointed when someone brings the mail and there is no letter for her

- resumes Monday, describes her preference to work on wash day rather than go riding with the rest of the family
- receives his letter joyfully and responds to its news
- tells of Mother's wish for Father to go to Indiana soon rather than wait for fall and asks James to help raise money for this and to ease Father's debts so that he won't try to rent out the house this winter
- closing wishes for him to come visit
- **Argyle Cottage, June 5th, 1852**
 - receives his letter and is pleased but wishes he would delay his approaching visit if it meant he could stay longer
 - gives the news of the Cottage
 - looks forward to establishing their own home in Iowa
 - asks him to get several articles of clothing for them
 - asks him to pass on her love to their extended family
- **Argyle Cottage, July 1st, 1852**
 - recounts her and Mother's improving health
 - tells of their daughters' behavior
 - details the damage a terrible storm caused
 - passes on Mother's request for wallpaper as well as some requests of her own
 - hopes that he will accompany Mama up soon
 - gives news and asks questions
- **Argyle Cottage, July 4th, 1852**
 - writes to him and no one else because she is too sad
 - if he only knew how depressed she was he would come for a long visit
 - describes Mother's failing health
 - tells him about buying three calves
 - tells him about household matters
 - promises copies of two poems she has written
 - resumes Monday afternoon after receiving his letter and responds to its concerns
 - updates on her and Mother's suffering health
 - comments about maintaining their household
- **Lexington, Sep 27th, 1852**
 - tells of her fondness for the family she is visiting
 - hopes she can see him soon, she misses him terribly
 - asks after Eliza and tells him how Mattie is
- **Lexington, Oct 6th, 1852**

- worries about taking Fanny back to St. Louis with them at this time because of her delicate health and the risk of malaria
 - updates him on her and Mattie's health
 - is thankful for he and Eliza's health and looks forward to seeing him soon
- **Miscellany**
 - **From James to Martha**
 - **[undated early letter from James to Martha]**
 - writes for his mother in response to the letter written to her by Martha and Sarah
 - thanks them for sending flower seed and flowers, muses on the beauty they will add to the glorious Iowa plains
 - comments on her claim that her letters are better than fair letters
 - disagrees with her fear that he would not appreciate it if she tried to describe nature for him
 - wonders about her silence on her views of marriage
 - reiterates his mother's love for her and extends her invitation for Martha and/or Sue to come visit with Sarah
 - teases her about not signing her last letter with a name
 - **From Martha to James**
 - **[Undated early letter, 1844?]**
 - regrets that Sally won't be making a journey with him
 - claims that her letter is better than a Fair letter and states he arguments for the claim
 - muses about what subject to take up
 - defend her ability to take up the subject of science, but doesn't
 - decides against speaking on the wonders of nature
 - also decides against writing her views of marriage although she does do this tentatively and then prays blessings on the woman he will choose to be his wife
 - **[Undated note sent with cakes]**
 - tells him that the larger cake is for the Doctor and the smaller ones are for him, and the collar is Mrs. Fife's
 - **From Martha to Eliza**
 - **Padneah, June 7th, 1850**
 - tells her to write her parents and be especially nice to Frank while his father is gone
 - tells her that she has almost finished a white dress for her and tells her to ask Grand-ma if she wants her to make a bonnet too

- is sorry she has had the chills and tells her to take what Grand-ma gives her

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