

gain knowledge without applying ^{ing} herself
to study. As there are so many new
inventions now I think that there
might be something invented where
by knowledge could be made to go
by steam.

I hear that the scarlet fever
is very prevalent in New York. You
have heard me often speak of my
cousin Martha. The people say that she
has a consumption. She is now in
Milford Conn. but I fear that country
air will do her no good. She has
four children, the oldest is but six.
What a dreadful thing it would be
for those little dears to be bereft of a
mother. However we will hope for
better things or rather ~~we~~ will desire
for I fear there is but little if any hope
remaining. Dear Margaret I must close
this letter and I beg that you will
answer this soon. May dear Margaret
I wish to write something to you but
I scarcely dare. I know at least I hope
that you will not be offended at the

"Real absolute want of time is my excuse" therefore
I am free. Even while I am now writing I ought to be poring
over a composition. I think of that Margaret and accuse me not
of laying your letter unheeded by or of forgetting old friends
while in the society of new ones. Listen to me for a moment.
Last week I received a letter from Helen (the first that has
reached me this term) reproaching me for much the same
thing that you did. Thursday evening last I received one from
you dear girl and as you very well know what it contained
it would be unnecessary for me to repeat it. This morning
one from my aunt was brought me in answer to one of
mine written not quite a week since. She said that I had
been a very naughty girl because I had not answered
hers sooner. What do you think of all this? For my part
I think that there is some palliation for me, for I treat all

liberty which I am about to take. I think that our long tried friendship might warrant it. Whenever you see any fault in me and know that I have many

like — Now Margaret I wish you to tell me very soon whether you intend to come to Hartford or not. I wrote you in my last that I would let you know in time, if it were probable that you could come to Mr. Bracci's instead of going to a hotel. I am sorry now to inform you that there are three young ladies here who intend staying the remainder of the term. All the beds in the house are occupied. I told the girls a few days since that it would be very convenient if I could have one of our rooms transported here, for I presume that they are not all occupied. We had some serious forebodings the first of this week, that we should be obliged before a long period of time had elapsed to go to roost in the great elm tree before our window or in one of the cherry trees. And we thought too, that upon a pinch we might lodge in the hen-coop or to go a little farther in a certain place back of the hen-coop. Don't tell any body what I write, will you? Just to think "lovey dovey" how soon I shall be at home. A few more suns will rise and set, then you will see a "gale" face "what you have seen afore". "List to think out". How shall I find Margaret? The same as ever I suppose, not the same either, for I know and she knows that she has altered. How do you like your new residence? Is it suited in every respect to your taste? But residence is not of much consequence. The society of those who are near and dear to you is of the greatest value. I heard of a circumstance yesterday which I know is not very proper to write, but it affected me so much that I really believe I must write about it. I presume that no one

wish you to tell me of it; but to inform you that you know dear the last letter. I have written you have placed a double little to Mr. Bracci's name.

will have the curiosity to break open this letter. If they do they will I hope be edified. Now for the story.

There is a very pretty girl living here in Hartford, but sixteen years of age. She was engaged to a man but not a gentleman. She was published last Sunday and thought she was, but a few days since she received a letter from him saying that he did not love her and that he would not have her. She is in a most deplorable condition having allowed him to ruin her. She is likely to become a mother in four or five months at the latest. He has gone off and she has endeavoured to put an end to her life. Do you not think it is a terrible affair? I really do not know. She attempted to kill herself, for I should think that nothing but the fear of a future would prevent one in her situation from so doing.

"Rain I guess it has rained if it rains one day it rains two and if it rains two it rains all the time except a little time that it does not".

And can it be that my school days are nearly over? Oh that I knew something. Leaving school for, is that I had not improved my time as I ought. To think of the many wasted hours. You doubtless remember how we were accustomed to spend our days; for at least many of them. Would that I could recall them. And yet would I behave any better? I do not wish to go to school any more at present for I am tired of it, but I do wish that I could

Dear Margaret

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Miss Margaret M. Sands
171 West St.
New York
City

