

Alton Ill. March 23rd 1881

Dear Mrs. Fined,

Soon o'clock, & all fine
in bed - now is my leisure, & time
for rest. I will take a portion of the
time for you, & the remainder to
"darn stockings". I rejoiced to hear
from you in Brooklyn. I knew
you would like it after you were
settled. How glad I should have
been if we too had found our home
in that city, near you. We seem
borned downed to live away
from our best friends, possibly when
we are older, & the children somewhat
grown we will have a more "quiet &
peaceable" life - this is my great hope.
We stayed at aunt Hannah's until
Dec. 29th - When in a tremendous

snow storm we left for Ill. Mr. H-
coming on for us two days previous.
He - that is myself & the children
stopped at Corbelle - our route passing
that station - & Tom went on to be
here in Alton for Christmas. I stayed
nearly three weeks at Helen & had
the most lonely visit, we talked all
over the Warrington day & lots of young
Em - wishing me & her again that
Emma was on hand, It made me
feel quite youthful to be there. (after
the children retired) & Mary Davis &
I made molasses candy & popped corn &c.
James health is only comfortable with
great complacency, I really do not think
he can live but a few years. Helen is
better than ever, excepting poor sight,
I often think of God's Comforting
Mother when Helen used to be home
so miserable, 'Oh! Mother don't worry
about Helen she will bury us all &
& indeed both he & Mother gone

Mr. Haskins came for us back to
Corbelle, & here we are in Alton
Ill. a city of ten thousand or over,
twenty five miles above St. Louis on
the Mississippi River, a town
not to be despised, but too rugged &
ragged & made up of bluffs for
anything. It is a very old town,
& brags of the days when St. Louis
used to be known as "a small town
on the M. R. just below Alton. Here
is an old church - whose roof & spire &
bell blew off some ten years ago, the
roof replaced & nothing else. It is at
once the ugliest, & most dilapidated
glorious church I ever entered. There is
one new thing about the church here
a new diocese (Springfield) & a new
Bishop (Leybourne). There are eighty counties
in the diocese, & thirty counties with
no clergymen of our church. Tom has
this parish, & missionary jurisdiction
over this Co. Madison, which has a

... - - - - - want she?

much larger number of inhabitants -
than the whole Ter. of Montana.

I can't say I was aching to
come out again, but still it
seemed best. I have been more
lonely than I was ever in Utah.

We are boarding, terribly crowded
in two rooms & two trunks. I have
supposed ourselves sure of a
house several times & something
has prevented our securing it. I feel
sure that I shall be contented
when once settled, & with my own
things around me, & Bessie home
again. The people here are kind
& cordial, you are welcome to all
they enjoy. I think my churchmen.

They only need a little attention.
The Presbyterians are very strong here,
Alton being the Cathedral city of one
of their divisions - here is their
Cathedral & Bp's house 120 rooms, (we
ought to rent a few) & two schools, with nuns

& sisters of every degree, white - brown &
black &c. &c. It rather aggravates me to see
them so prosperous. I have had
lots of kind letters from G. L. C. L. W.
& told Tom I shall require a private
secretary if he changes his parish much
often. The M. Evans friends still pour
my heart, I just love them & M. Evans
more than all the world besides &
I am determined to be happily if
I can't live there. I used to think it
was very foolish to be carried all over
to be married - but after reading the
Bible more closely, find I was wrong.
it is right & proper to be married
with ones kinred, Abraham & Sarah
&c. &c. for instance.

How funny it is that you came so near
"Miss Bell" I would like to see her
very much, & wish you would
give her my kindest remembrance.
& Mrs. Penchik too, she is the woman
who had so many children isn't she?

I don't say she had not 'after all as
many as I. My children are well
& growing very fast. Mary will be
clever in June, Tom says she ought
to have been named Emma Fried.
& surely she is like her, Jane is so
entirely different, both the boys are
devoted to Jane, can't play half an
hour without her. Sam is the best
of the whole family, just like Tom
every way, but Ruby is the odd one.

Thomas being but fifteen months old
is scarcely more than a baby, & I
do wish we lived within visiting
distance - I want the children to know
my old friends & my friends them.

Of course I know there are greater
trials, but the cross of my life has
been change change. Why I am
so tired of it, I cannot tell you. It is
demoralizing. I often think of the
Palmer & Stetson, year in & out the
same. I believe I should be happy.

To remember me to Anna Palmer &
all of them. I am sorry your Aunt
is so disgraced living in Brooklyn.
I am sure I can sympathize with
her, I wish Emma was here, but
fear she never will come, it is
a charming trip from New York
without change from N.Y. to Alton junction.
Father says he is coming in July &
tell Emma to accompany him.

To write me occasionally. I am
kept alive by letters. My St. Albans
friends are making all the
childrens summer wardrobe, and
that lovely. Tom is well & never
was so busy. You would think he
never was away when she, or saw
anything else, or knew anything else,
but Alton, diocese of Springfield I'll

Farewell now for the "stockings"
Love to all

Francis

