

Tuesday Dec 12th / 1876

Brother William

Before you left New York
you wrote me "to tell you of any matters
of interest relative to myself or family"
and this is the first opportunity I have
had of doing so, and in remembrance
of your past kindness, and the reason
I have had to feel you have an interest
in my welfare I will plainly tell you
of my present situation. The unpleasantness
of which I know you will
fully appreciate. I have not had any
money since the 1st of October which
paid my September bills, leaving me with
two months bills, and the winter coal

bill unpaid, and I am without one dollar. I am desirous to lessen my ^{burden} but do not see how I can do so while I am in this ^{financial} ~~financial~~ ^{expensive} ~~expensive~~ ^{expensive} - have spoken to Mr Fairchild to sell the house to the best advantage. He told me he thought he could do better between now and Spring than to hurry the sale ~~at the present time~~ ^{when all things are in such a depressed} ^{fearfully} state. Now the summing up of the whole matter is - Will you please write and tell me - whether you will continue the allowance until I can conform my living to my means however small they may be - and whether you approve of the course I have taken regarding the sale of the house. My home is very dear to me yet I am anxious to do whatever is for the best while family pride causes me to shrink from a public exposure of our situation, &c.

sacrifice of the little means we will
have left to depend upon. ^{you are often} XXXXX
The subject of my thoughts & prayers
~~of the year~~, and I am not unmindful
of all your trials, and am sure to add
to their weight by even naming my
troubles. I ~~had~~ ~~had~~ ~~claim~~ ~~upon~~
you but what can I do. ^{perhaps soon be} I am greatly
troubled and although I know I
have no claim upon you - can only
look to you for the needed relief. "We
are born but not bound" - and it may
be I will yet have an opportunity to
make some return.

With much love

Sister Margaret.

Please destroy this letter and let it
be strictly confidential I have not
shown it to Richard.

