

Shilad 12<sup>th</sup> M, 8, 1841

Dear Cousin C

I was very glad on receiving thy letter to find that you were all well, and that thy children were doing well, for I have been anxiously waiting to hear from thee, since those wester<sup>n</sup> fires were raging to so great an extent, I was fearful they were where some of thy sons were settled, I am much obliged for Decator's likeness, it is the only one that I have of him, I have never had the pleasure of seeing him, I think it a good picture, and expect it looks like him, Sister said he looks like thee, does thee, think so, it has been a long time since I<sup>th</sup> has seen thee

the others that I have, I have  
seen all except Raymond, &  
and I think them all good  
likenesses - how very much I  
would like to see those of my  
two cousins that come had  
painted in Rowley, dear  
boys they were when I last  
saw them; & now angels in the  
spirit land, the last few years  
had been mark'd with sad events  
to thee and I, almost beyond the  
influence of our frail human  
nature - the Lord alone can grant  
us strength to bear our afflictions,  
his will be done,

The evening shady and fast  
approaching and I must draw  
to a close altho I have many  
things I would like to say if  
present with thee; with  
sincere love to thee and my  
cousins all from thy cousin  
(Lucy)

Please write often  
as thee can for I do  
so much like to hear  
from thee and them  
all of whom I feel a deep  
interest in, I have no cousins  
~~that~~ fully near to me

Did Willard get on to  
see thee last summer I  
think thee was expecting him  
when will come be located  
now he has graduated, we  
tho will think very inquisitive  
giving thee so many questions  
to answer,