

Portland Aug 28th 1879

Rev. Horace Lyman -

My Dear friend.

Perhaps
a short letter will be more acceptable
than a longer silence - I am sorry
to have kept you waiting so long since
the receipt of yours of the 21st - You
were right in supposing that I was
waiting to hear first from you as I
felt a hesitancy in addressing you
first on this much vexed question.
If in saying that I would write to
you, I had in mind that our interview
had been so interrupted that we should
necessarily have to ^{write} in order to come to
an understanding - Since receiving
yours (immediately afterwards) I was
called to Mrs Harlow's to attend her

in confinement & have worse till
this evening, give her all the spare
time I possibly could. She has an
other son, making her family 6 in
number. And now that I find
myself without an excuse to

to put off any longer a matter
that has weighed heavily on my
mind for a long long time, I am
still at a loss to know just what
to say. I know that I can not as
you desire me to say my hand in
yours in "cheerful quiet trust". I know
that it takes a great deal of love to
cover all the trials & struggles & disap-
-pointments that come to us in
married life. & I feel that I can
trust you for everything almost still
I am holding back, afraid that I
shall make a mistake. Way down
& back of everything, all your patience
with-me, all the good influences
that I feel would come to me

with you, your kind & loving heart
oh I feel that it would indeed be
a delight to rest calmly & contentedly
in your loving care. I am so tired
of this lonely half living. And I long
"To drop the gally straining oar
And pass in summer heat & calm
The lap of some enchanted shore
Of blossom & of balm."

I think my doubts & fears as
to the propriety of reconsidering
this matter between us, arise from
the thought that you already
have upon your hands about all
the care you are equal to, I do not
doubt ^{with} that you would make all
the effort you could; but I could
not see you work & worry &
not be helping you all I could
I often used to wonder how you
could do so much for your family
And there was a time when you
filled my whole idea of a

Married Man, supporting in your
strong Manly Arms wife & children
Now my feeling is to be thus con-
for, as though I were not strong &
able to take care of myself, I would
like to know how a wife feels
that does not have to rack her
brain constantly to know where
the bread & butter is coming from
beside attending to the wants of her
husband & family - I lay these
thoughts before you as nearly as
I can give you my mind on these
various points, I have so little time
this evening & feel so worn I must
beg you to excuse me from writing
further now - I hope to hear
from you as soon as con-
venient until then

I remain Yours Truly
Sarah L. Heman.