

Gossip

Camden, Jan. 22 1870

Dear Willard, Your kind and welcome letter of October 22 came duly to and and like all those received from you in past years gave me more real pleasure than any other earthly thing has ever had the powere to bestow. I would have replied to it before this but waited for suitable weather to go down to Camden and have my likeness taken for you I went accordingly the first pleasant day, but took cold on the way and was not able to go but during my stay of two weeks with Ellen Pollinger who is certainly one among the noblest of women. She has four children--Olivia about the age of your daughter of that name, McDonough the second child now in Kansas, Rees and Frank the two youngest are at school in Camden. Olivia Carroll seems to be again enjoying society though for several years after the death of Wm. Carroll she lived in almost entire seclusion. Her income amounts to sixhundred dollars a year. She has of late become an active member of the Universalist church. A beautiful church of the denomination is just finished in Camden. It stands opposite her dwelling and adds greatly to the appearance of the street. Owing to the irregularity of the mails I received no late letters from Kansas. All were wll at last accounts. Victor, Dectur and Frank had sold their beef stock at sixty dollars per head and bought another herd. Wilson P? and Jacob Campbell are in the same line of business, also Andrew Port who married Priscilla Gregmille and his brother James who were little boys when you went away. I will now proceed to answer those inquiries about your old acquaintances. Saamuel Mitchell has been twice married, his first wife was Maria Walters, dead now twenty year. He has one child living. He resides in Dayton and is looking venerable with his white hair. Sam Elmhode who married Jane Mitchell has been many years a widower and also looks a very old man. Harry edison's wife Lucy Mitchell has been dead thirteen years. He married a second wife from who he spearated. He resides in Illinois. George Jones has been a widower twelve years, lives in Camden, has three sons all grown, lost one in the war. Mary Mitchell married a Mr. Muchnen Methodist minister twenty three years ago, was left a poor widow with two children woon after married John March her brother-in-law, now living in Muncie, President <sup>of the</sup> ~~of the~~ bank. Her sister Ann married C. Walker of Camden has been a widow a number of years, has three children grown, resides in Logansport, Indiana. Sam Gray still lives in Reily, universally known as a dishones man, in his

way he has managed to make a fortune, has the same ridiculous gestures, squinting and shrugging his shoulders which he tries to cover with the cloak of religion or more properly speaking his dishonest deeds. I came nearer despising that man than any other living creature because of the wrongs you sustained at his hands which I was powerless to redress. My heart still aches when I recall to mind, but I know that you in your conscious innocence and unsuspecting and misplaced confidence whatever your circumstances may chance to possess an inward happiness to which he with his ill gotten wealth must ever be a stranger.

fragment from his Mother