

believe it will be better for you.  
Artificial light is bad for  
the eyes. - I don't know

that it is very convenient - ad-  
vising you to take up the habit  
of early hours, when I know you  
often sit up to write to me, & I  
have so well to receive your letters.

I suppose you feel guilty to  
write me in the day time, but  
you have to sleep in the day time,  
- in the morning, I mean, - so  
where the difference? -

What a lecture this is! - Aren't  
you frightened about your future  
prospects? -

You would not be human, if  
I suppose, if your mind's a little  
distracted just at this time, but  
I am sure you will be helped  
not to be so much so, that it will  
be an injury to your people. For  
you do earnestly desire their best  
good. - Willie, my dear, is a rather  
hard of advice, - I don't think much



Edford M. L.

Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> 1879.

My dearest Willie, -

Today, I have

been writing to some of my  
old friends & schoolmates, whom  
I have neglected so dreadfully  
for a long time. I began to  
realize that they might feel  
hurt if I should be named  
without their even showing of  
my engagement. I'm much  
easier it is to write when one is  
in practice! - Just as if I  
could keep on writing letters  
warm, indefinitely, - but I can't,  
my dear, - I must have a little

pity on your eyes. -

I got your letter late this afternoon, & I suppose you got mine late too, if at all.

If I had known that the train was three hours behind time, I need not have hurried to send it down. Prout's this a grand snowstorm! - taking it as a snowstorm, & not as the means of keeping you from me. -

I took a sleighride this afternoon, - part of it was in breaking paths, & the snow was very deep & dry. I went down home, & took Mother to the the prayer meeting, which was at Mrs. Brigham's. - There were 5 ladies & 2 children there, which was doing pretty well, considering the day, & the roads.

That was a terrible list of A's you gave me, - an awful affliction, - If I were in your place, I would know directly what was the chief cause, - viz. late & irregular hours. -


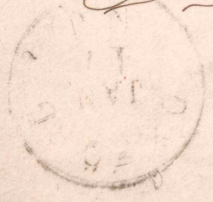
That means on me quicker than any thing else, - & it may on you, more than you are aware.

I think if you go to bed earlier, & rise earlier in the morning, you will accomplish more, and with less strain upon your system. Of course, it will take a while to get in the way of it, but I believe it will pay in the end, to make the effort.

I do wonder if we will keep early hours in the new house? I am sure I want to, for it makes house-keeping & every thing much easier, - & besides that, I

about yourself, at any rate, -  
 Now, I am afraid you will  
 think you write too much to  
 me about yourself. - You don't.  
 It is a subject in which I  
 am very much interested, -  
 but after you have unburdened  
 yourself, think no more about it.  
 You remember Mr. Southey's  
 sermon to the fishes? -  
 "The sermon thus ended,  
 Each turned & decended;  
 The fish went on stealing,  
 The eels went on eating;  
 Much delighted were they,"  
 "But preached the old way."  
 I was thinking tomorrow would  
 be Saturday, & so was trying  
 to spin out a longer letter, than

Ellie - \*  
 Recd 4 pms. Fri. Jan. 17, 1879.  
 Date 16? Nov. 15?  
 Rev. William G. W. Alden  
 Leicester  
 Cambridge

for common days, - but I remember  
you that it nothing but Friday  
Commonplace, ordinary Friday.  
So I will make haste to sign  
myself, with love, & a good  
night kiss, - Ever Affectionately  
Your Ellie, -  
Don't forget the song, - When you come, we will  
talk over the chance.

