

Bridgeton N.J. May 31 1888

Dear nanna how are you  
I am well it is raining now  
hard we did not go to school  
til late because granddad  
not think it was best and  
then she said she thought it  
would clear off we did not go  
at recess but went up stairs.  
Ellen L. Belden.

Bridgeton N.J. May 31 1888

Dear nanna how are you  
I send you my love we are  
practicing for the entertain-  
ment at school & Ellen is  
in the drill today in Jennie's  
place. Ellen and I send our love  
Mary Belden

When parents on  
trip to Sweden conference

Bridgeton May 30 1888

My dear Ellie,  
It is nearly ten o'clock  
and I am expecting Anne in very  
minute, but thought I would at  
least commence a letter to you.  
The children are all getting along  
nicely. They were all in quite a  
state of excitement about the para-  
dise <sup>to day</sup> Lily Allen came for M & Ellen  
as she thought they would have  
a better chance to see, so they  
went up Willie & Eva were  
near the fence when they heard  
the band. The latter ran down  
& I held her when a good view  
of the procession, but Willie  
kept wanting to get nearer but  
remembering "Charlie Ross" I kept  
an eye on him, and afterwards  
he was carrying a stick across  
his shoulder or hiding it, for a  
horse. They both seemed very happy

Mary & Ellen also had a good time  
Anne went up the street but  
got back in time to get supper  
She is getting along very nicely.  
I do hope she will stay with you  
for I consider her a very good  
girl for these present times;  
Miss Fiskian & her sister called  
this P.M. and brought a slave  
of Eva's to measure. I have let  
the children put on their  
summer clothes, but poor Will  
I don't know what he is going to do  
he has on cotton stockings & to-  
morrow I will give him a light  
cinder skirt. I was very much  
disappointed not to find the  
arrival of the "City of Nebraska"  
but hope to tomorrow. There has  
been such terrible storms in  
our Western States that it made  
me a little anxious, but tomorrow  
may bring news and you may  
out of the region of storms.

Thursday morn. Anne did not  
come home last night - said she had  
to go to her mother who was sick, which  
excuse I took very graciously for when  
you came she did not put a appearance  
I began to feel anxious, M & E went  
to school this morn. She I hesitated  
about letting them as they both  
seem to have some colds, but seem  
to feel very well. Willy & Eva are  
now having a jolly time I asked  
them what I should tell you  
Willy says tell Papa & Mamma  
we are simple & Eva seems  
it, It has been raining this morn  
but it now looks like clearing,  
12 o'clock. Mail just arrived & a  
note from your good Cousin  
Mr. Magin telling me of the  
arrival of the S of N. Though  
there is no report in the Tribune  
Also a letter from Uncle Ruben  
who is confined to the home  
with dumbago. With love  
affectionately Mother.