

Bethel, Larkspur Europe,  
Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> 1879-

My beloved Mamma-

(Ohue I say Mamma please understand the accent is on the last syllable) This evening I was the happy recipient of some letters & a paper. My letters were from you, sister Mary - a note from Julie, letter from Mary Cooper, Curtis Doud, Lou Mattes, Mrs Morcross of Braukville, & a Washington Star from Geo Humphrey. If you knew how glad we were to get the Star I think you would be tempted to send us one quite often, also Belvedere Appollo, because we don't take either of these & every once in a while there is something about home in them, I think it was in my last letter to you that I told you I did not correspond with any gentlemen neither do I, but I got such a nice letter from C. Doud that I am very strongly tempted to answer it, for he told me so much Scranton news, I really believe I intended to tell just now came to my

mind my unfailling & well beloved adage  
shall I tell it you? "Young people  
think old people are fools", old people  
know young ones to be." This led me  
to say to my too well loved friend Carrie,  
You better wait till your Mother  
decides in favor of your whims,

Now I am going to try an answer your  
questions about the babies, They are I think  
most folks say quite small, a good size,  
they have perfect shaped heads, blue  
eyes, light hair, light eye lashes, no eye  
brows, perfectly beautiful noses, not turn  
up, small mouths, fair skin, pretty ears,  
pretty hands, a thumb not like their  
Mothers — or Grand mothers — They are  
not very fat but are improving all the  
time, the youngest one is the best, but  
I don't believe either of them are as good  
as their Aunt Carrie was when she was  
a baby, Ellie is very fond of them, the  
same may be said of William, as to  
me, I am perfectly surprised that I  
could have grown so fond of little babies  
in so short a time, I can see that it  
is going to be hard for me not to be

fonder of the youngest one than the  
other, for already I am much more  
devoted to little Ellen than I am to  
Mary. I am afraid I am won by  
beauty, for I certainly think Ellen is  
much the prettiest of the two, though  
sometimes I am not able to tell them  
apart, of course there is lots to be done in  
this house, more than otherwise because  
the babies had the impudence to come  
before me more in the least settled, than  
our house is so small that we cannot  
ever be settled because we must keep  
moving things from place to place to  
find where is the best situation for  
them, One corner of the house has sunk  
so much that all the heavy pieces of  
furniture have had to be moved to  
the other side of the house — which only  
means that they had to be moved from  
one side of the room to the other, I  
would make a drawing of our house,  
but I think Ellie did so some time  
since & sent it to you, We have no  
Turkish dishes on our table, William  
hates them, Ellie can't eat them, & I don't

Care about them -

Sunday: Jan 28 - 10-10 o'clock P.M. At the last stage of this letter if I remember rightly sleepiness overcame me & since then I positively have not had time to write except late at night, & I have so much to say to you - Dear, dear! I know I shall fall asleep before I say half. I am afraid you will be suffering for a letter before this reaches you, Of course the first thing you want to know is how Ellie & the babies are progressing - Ellie has taken cold and has been suffering a good deal today, but feels some better this evening, The worst of it is there is no earthly way to prevent taking cold in this house, It is really not much better than living in a corn crib, Two babies are a great care, Of course they keep Ellie miserable much longer than if there was only one, Poor child it is awfully hard for her, Mrs Rooks is still with us & is going to stay for another week, when she goes I am sure I don't know what we are to do, I don't have any time to study, neither does William, we will not have time to eat or sleep after Mrs Rooks leaves us, by way of recreation William & I propose to

Remember all, Please give love to Father, dear Mother,  
I deep ever to ever so much for your own darling self  
from your affectionate daughter Caroline.

sit up tonight & wait for burglars, & also we  
expect our house to go down, or rather to  
fall tonight, & we would like to get around in  
time to grab Ellie - Ellen & Mary out of the  
falling shingles & tiles. The babies Mary &  
Ellen are getting along very nicely. Mary  
the oldest spends a good part of the day &  
night crying, or at least screaming. She is  
an awfully impatient baby, she is so unlike  
Ellen, who is ~~a~~ good baby I think, she hardly  
ever cry more than an hour or two a day.  
Ellie can hardly wait for the children to be  
old enough to have their pictures taken to  
send to their grand parents. The babies have  
never been weighed. On Christmas Eve we  
hung up their socks. Mary got a rattle &  
some silver - (a tin Peasblossom wine from  
Mrs Rorkes) Ellen got the same & Ellie's  
coral necklace. Christmas day was quite a  
success with us, I dreaded it very much, but  
when the time came it was not altogether bad.  
Ellie came out to breakfast, we did not hang up  
our stockings, but had our gifts under our  
plates. Dr Byington gave me a Bulgarian Testament,  
William gave me a French book, "De Paris & Constantinople"  
Ellie gave me a pretty handkerchief, & they gave me

Sina's cards & candy. I gave Ellie a comb  
brush, & William a shaving case, also cards to them  
both, We had a very nice dinner, but Oh!  
how we did wish for some of our folks to be  
here, or me there, For dinner we had a  
turkey - turneps - potatoes - onions - apple  
sauce - coffee - figs dates - nuts & helvar -  
In the evening I went by invitation to Mr  
Fathralls to a party, we played games & had  
a very pleasant time till twelve o'clock,  
At all the gatherings here of whatever sort  
these English have tea & cake - so tea &  
cake we had that evening about nine o'clock,  
about half past eleven we had, wine, cake,  
& fruit, The wine of course I did not touch,  
This evening I have been to my singing class -  
Mr Dutten is a splendid teacher, I would  
so much like to take music lessons, I could  
practice just three or four doors away  
from our house, It really is a grand  
chance, if I could only take it, I must  
tell you what great friends Mr Dutten's  
wife & I are, From the first time we met  
we admired each other, She is German, she  
says if I will only come to see her she will  
help me to learn German, Of course I cannot

go there tho' till she calls here, & she is not  
well enough to call at present, & before this  
the babies were too young to allow guests,  
I must tell you a compliment Mr Dutten  
gave me this evening. & I tell you what it  
is I prize a compliment from him, He said  
to me - "Miss Strouton you have a very very  
good voice, you sing the high notes well,  
If you will only come every time to the  
singing you will be one of the best voices"  
The class number about forty. Was that  
not a compliment? Mr Dutten plays  
magnificently - Oh! You should have heard  
him play this evening, he was at the end  
of our practicing to have a concert I believe,  
Thus far we are learning two German songs,  
a selection from Mendelssohn's "Elijah" - "Yet  
doth the Lord see it not" - also Mendelssohn's  
"All ye that ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> united unto the Lord" - from Lobyesung  
Every thing that Mr Dutten plays, sings, or  
teaches is classic, he despises silly music,  
Now since I have sounded the praises of  
my German friend sufficiently I shall begin  
to talk about the babies. They are lovely.  
Ellen is my pet, because she is so much more  
gentle, When Mary wants any thing she shrieks

At the top of her lungs till she gets it, & alas,  
she wants something a great part of the time,  
Both the babies are pretty but Ellen is ex-  
quisitely beautiful, she has such a beautiful  
complexion, Here it is half past twelve &  
I really must write some letters to send  
tomorrow morning - I do want to write to  
Sister Mary - Jennie, Lulu, Josie, Father,  
aunt Ellen & uncle Eugene, beside to Emily  
Reel, Julia Sheppard, Ella Broadhead & a lot  
of other people whom I owe letters to, It is  
really impossible to have time to write  
in this house, Before closing I want to tell  
you that Ellie is very much better today,  
she has felt real well, though of course not  
strong, William is very kind to Ellie & to  
me, On Christmas morning he kissed me, the  
only time since before we left America,  
I think that made the fifth time altogether,  
in our lives, we left our childish fighting in  
America, we now amuse ourselves from morning  
till night to minding the babies, Oh dear!  
Dear! Dear! I have so much to say to you,  
& I do want to see you so awfully - Is  
writing not a vexation when one wants to  
talk a lot? Then too there are a lot of

things that I don't want to write, all I see is that I will  
have to wait till I see you & in the mean time try &