


Dear "Aunt Lollie" - How we would love to see you, and are disappointed not to while you are so near. I long to see you for just a little while, and am so homesick also to see Willie, and Mary, and Ellen, and little Evelyn - this is really about all I have to say to you this evening, as Mary will meet you in New York tomorrow, and real sorry that Mother or Aunt Ellen do not feel like going perhaps tho Aunt Ellen may change her mind if it clears off lovely in the morning. I have often thought of your suggestion of painting some little Christmas gifts for sale, but money is a scarce article - and I dont wish nor intend to get any such thing on credit, it is too fatiguing to be in debt. So you see they are not likely to get done - I hope to begin Joe's plac - this week or next - then if we can make quick time, he shall have it as he desires by Christmas. Am doing a Plac. with that sweet little girl "Sweet Simplicity" - of which you have a photo - and

cousin Sara gave to Aunt Ellen, the one from which yesterday I began mine - Jane Seymour too is one of my favorite beauties, and that would make a beautiful study in a soft painting of grey and white. The pearls which are her ornaments, with the  would be very pretty in raised white enamel - Will you go to see Mrs. Walters while you are in Brooklyn, if you do so, give her our love, we would like to see her. Hope you and Mary will enjoy your little visit together. Cousin Praline went the last time to a dress-maker very far up town - above the hundreds somewhere - where some of the Astors used to own considerable property, and probably do now. Cousin Sara Warner expects to come here for a visit soon, she writes of Kate Traydell & Fred - the latter has been quite ill with pneumonia. The Warner family were here today for dinner, I never have seen them appear so well - Aunt Ellen let me make a lovely dessert, also a cake, for today - The cake was a coconut iced one in layers. The dessert was

beaten cream with white of eggs over cake - & was every one thought very nice. It is the second dessert I have made up here for some years - and it pleased me that it was satisfactory - Hope you will enjoy the wedding, will the children go? Did they enjoy their birthday? We hear happy news from Carrie, who is enjoying considerable society this winter, one very elegant reception, for that wealthy and Lord Miss Williams of whom we have often heard - three hundred guests. She wrote also with enthusiasm of the Sabbath School Convention she has recently attended. Carrie is decidedly energetic, and seems to be very fully occupied, and have a great many friends. We all feel a trifle sleepy and stupid this evening, after a Turkey dinner, and nothing of outside interest to wake us up since - Aunt Ellen has just come in the library, and is now taking out the checks ^{whose name is Anna & she is such a nice girl} board for the girl, and the boy - about 12 or 14 years of age - to play a game, isn't she kind. Uncle Selden is asleep on the lounge but has

just now waked up and asked me the time,
and handed me his watch, which is a little
silver one he carries while his is being repaired -
and is thirteen minutes faster than the Library
clock. Goodnight dear sister - You will be sorry
to hear that Mr. Chas. Pretn has been indis-
posed since last Monday. they are good kind
people, and I am very sorry - to hear it. At home
we are much as usual. Love

Mrs. Wm H. Belden,

Care of Mrs. E. J. Lukens -
New York City -