

Mary Tillotson to sister

Vineland, New Jersey, 12 April 186[6].

Autograph letter, 2 pages.

Vineland, N.J.

Apr. 12th 186[6]

Dear Sister,

Yours came last eve, & I conclude if you resolve to come here to spend next winter you ought to know it soon, hence will write now. Am very glad to hear from you—had been wondering if I must write you again, & tell you so. Tho' I visit you in spirit—& often seem to know just how it is with you, [*inserted*: & all the rest of our folks,] my seemings are not quite clear enough to answer for all communications. Glad to hear from mother & father, George & Nelson. Edwin had written that George had another son, but I dont know yet as that is all they have had since losing little Lucy. Please tell me. I promised Libby I'd write her, but have waited for my photograph to send. I've had it taken, or others have had it, but I was feeling so poorly that it was only true to my worst moods. Am feeling tolerably well now, & perhaps ought to get it ere I do much gardening & break down again. The brea[*inserted*: king] in of spring brought me partially to life, & I've been out & set my yard, walks, flower beds &c. in order. They look well: have got in some flowers roots—set 5 weeping willow sprouts, a few shrubs &c. The garden is ploughed, stumps out, roots pretty well out, & one hundred strawberr[*struck*: ies][*inserted*: y] plants set,—mean to set several hundred, some raspber[*inserted*: ries] & black berries, & a few grapes & dwarf pear & peaches, but they are costly & cant get many. You'd be surprised to look at my place & know that it was bought wild last Oct. Should not think of asking less than 2000 for it. The settlement is going on fast as ever, & [*illegible*] generally hoping for permanent prosperity: but some come with little means, managed poorly, & get discourage. If I had bought when I first came, should have saved, or made, hundreds. [2] Most of the lecturers who come here, like it so well, that they settle. no end to reformers—the best speakers—& so many good entertainments, (something every night) that I cant go to a tenth of them. I think there will be a good theatre ere many years. We've a "woman's right union" & you may believe we talk large things. Very many are in principle dress reformers, & dress right at home, & are beginning to feel that they shall go out in it soon. The Union are going to send representatives to the Womans Right Convention in N.Y. May 10th, & open correspondence with Mrs. Stanton, Lucy Stone &c

We are discussing the right of suffrage in earnest. But maybe you dont care to hear this, & Ill turn to business. Prices, especially dry goods have fallen much, provisions none to mention. Rent high as ever. One village lot is \$150, & getting improved ready to plant brings it to 200. I think you will want but one lot, unless, as I did, you take a corner, hoping to sell the corner part for a store. Building ma-[*inserted: terial*] high as ever,—has raised lately—men who keep lumber yards con-[*inserted: sult*] together; but the builders have a way of getting as cheap as a year ago. They make out a bill of what they want, send it to a dealer in Camden, & he sends it down; the freight is not great. My first-door neighbor is a builder, & I think as honest as any, I just talked with him. He says the best way for you would be to hire a build[*inserted: e*]r by the day, have him get your material & the under hands; yet if you preferred it, could hire by the job. Now I'll tell you what looks to me the best way for you, if you really wish to come (which looks clear-) come right along in May (& I guess Edwin & Anne will come to the state convention, May 24th) & buy your lot, engage your bu-[*inserted: ilder*] to have a house ready in the fall; then, go back, sell out, pack up, & [*illegible*] in to your own place, & spend nothing in rent. Meanwhile draw the plan of house, & know what you want, near as possible. During summer dry fruit to bring for the first year, & bring currant sprouts to set out, & other things, grape cuttings, & berries for instance. Bring what you want; as to furniture, you can see, when coming first whether tis best to bring much.

Notes: