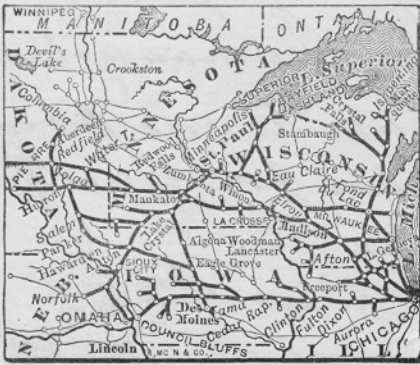




Chicago & North Western Railway Co.

Cent Junction Station, April 2 1885

Dear Sister Lizzie

It took Pharaohs butler a year to remember his fault, but I don't think it is quite that length of time since I wrote to you. Like the woman who told her experience, "I know I am a poor wormy cuss" but hope to do better in future. You remember the old clerk in China whose uniform speech was "It has been even long years since there has been a reformation in this place, and how can we live at this poor dying rate?" I hope to reform sooner than that, but like your name sake Sister Hammond: "Sometimes it seems as though folk oppressed". I gave the Moon article a casual reading, but have little faith in the speculations of these scientists. I never took any stock in the theories that the world has been millions of years since it started to grow. The bible says God made all things in six days, and rested the seventh. I believe this and therefore cannot believe the other. I don't think Mother would have subscribed any such belief and I would rather hold to her belief

than to that of Lyndal or Buckley or any other
writer on "Science falsely so called". It is human nature
to try to climb up some other way than the one pro-
vided. There is old fashioned doctrine for you
and it will stand, and will do to tie to.

Your Princeton news was the first that I
have heard for a long time. None of them ever
write to me; and you know me well enough to
be assured that I do not write to them.

Joanna and the children start
next week for Nebraska. I don't know how
long they will stay. We are trying to hold a
homestead there, but how it will end is to be
determined yet. I cannot go without giving
up my place, and it is no use going without
something to go with.

I do not think of anything
more that would be interesting or edifying
Write as often as you can

We are as well as usual
All send love

Yrs off hrs
John E. Lovjoy.

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY.

Greter Junction STATE OF Iowa Oct 20 1885

Dear Sister Lizzie:

By your last letter I was glad to find, that like Pharaoh's butler, you remembered your faults, and that conviction was followed by repentance. As to forgiveness I think we both need that as far as letter writing is concerned for we do not exercise the gift very often, so you may consider old scores all wiped out and begin a new leaf. In my former periods of my life it was not much of a task to write a letter, and is not very hard yet when I get fairly at it, but that thief procrastination steals away any time and so the days and months pass and my letters remain hidden and the world loses valuable thoughts! And now for some of your questions. Does prohibition prohibit in Iowa? Most emphatically. No. In some counties where public sentiment is largely in favor of it, I have no doubt that the public sale of liquor is done away with. That is the case to a great extent in this county. But while public drinking is stopped private drinking has increased, and I believe there is more liquor

drank in this county than before the law was passed
In all the large towns and cities and in all the counties
bordering on the Mississippi. there is no pretense of enforcing
the law. I have no faith in it. I cannot give all my
reasons in a letter. I hate the liquor business as heartily as
any one can, but I have no idea that men can be made
moral by legislative enactments. When people stop drinking
then the selling will stop. And when you convince a person
that it is wrong to drink, he will stop it. There is power
enough in the Christian Church to banish ^{all the} ~~every~~ saloons
to ~~their~~ their natural home the infernal regions. if it
would apply that power in the right direction, but it
will never be done by women marching through the
streets, and praying on the corners like the Pharisees.
What do I think of Cleveland? I think he is making
a good President, and that the country will be better
for having him there, although I do not look for a
political millennium for several years yet.

I hope the book will prove a success. Perhaps I could
furnish a short chapter by ~~for~~ ^{writing} the episode of
Joseph going into Egypt as related by old Dr.
Stevens. But my sheet is nearly full.

All well and all cord love

Yr aff Bro. John E. Longfay



Chicago & North-Western RAILWAY CO.



Center Junction STATION, Nov 23 1885

Dear Sister Lizzie:

Your letter at hand and as I am not very busy now and may be hereafter. I answer it sooner than customary and will proceed to business at once. I consulted Joanna the wife of John and not of Cleophas, as to the sick dress, and was told that anything that you think suitable to make over for girls or boys will be very acceptable from you although it might not be from every one. It sometimes becomes necessary to take "Old Eli's old great coat, to make young Eli a new great coat" and this holds good for both genders, so that nothing will come amiss that Providence may place in your hands to distribute. If any thing should be sent in a box it will cost less by freight and if directed to me will

Come all right on the C & NW Ry.
and I can pay the charges here.
I dont recollect of your saying anything
about the Centuary. It was very acceptable
whenever coming, but the Oct. one did not
get along yet. I dont think much of
the Bostonians. I cannot see any reason
to point to it, and to use an inelegant expression
I dont see what the author is trying to get
through him. I much prefer Uncle Remus
and Rer. Rabbit.

I suppose no one thinks more
of the Republican party as it was under
Lincoln than I do, but at the present time
I shudder is written all over it. The reason
it has fallen from grace here is because
it tries to occupy two positions which will
not coalesce. The politicians of the party took
up prohibition because they saw that it was
the only hope of their continuance in power,
but they make no effort to enforce it and
thus disgust the honest portion of the party
and they stand at home.

As to my claim in Nebraska, I do not
know how it will come out. I cannot leave my
place here to live on it without means. I presume
the folks will go on to it again in the spring, but
what the final result will be is hard to tell.

All send much love
Yr aff. Bro John E. Ludwig