

John E. Looney

Monticello Feb. 19, 1870.

Dear Sister Lizzy:

Your letter came to hand last night, and it was the first ray of light that I have had for some time, and I hope it may prove the precursor of a perfect day, although I cannot quite see my way out yet. Of one thing I am certain, and have been for a long time, and that is that I am in a false position in the world. I have no doubt that forming, like marriage, is honorable, but in both cases there needs to be a true affinity to make it agreeable. This word affinity

has been much abused, but
still it has a true significance
when rightly used. But hold
on. I did not mean to write
an essay, but to answer your
letter.

As to the amount of money
to be raised. I think that I can
raise it by giving me a little
time. I suppose that I have
\$7000 worth of property free of
all incumbrance if I could
only raise the money on it,
I think that I have a good
prospect of selling the farm
this Spring, and I shall sell
my personal property, but
shall have to do it on time
as it is impossible to get
money at present here.
But I may as well sell for
I am losing money every

day that I stay here
and have been ever since
I came home. I have done
and will do my duty towards
the children, but they must begin
to look out for themselves a little.
Many will get married this spring
I suppose. Dany wants to go
west, so that I shall be left
alone. I will provide a home
for Ada as long as she needs
one while I live.

I think there is no doubt
but that I can raise the ne-
cessary amount of money
by the first of May, and will
do it sooner if possible. The
sooner I leave here the better
I shall like it, although I shall
have some pleasant memories
behind me, and also some
pleasant anticipations.

for the future which I hope
to yet see fulfilled.

I have a good deal of business
to settle up here and it will
take some little time, but if
the first of May will do to get
the money, I will have it if it
is a possible thing, and will go
with it myself, I will perhaps
before I have a friend in the
East who is working for me
and he says that he does not de-
spair of an office yet, but if
he does get one for me it need
make no difference with this
other arrangement.

As to the board, I shall have no one
with me this summer, I do not expect,
but (Deo volente) I hope to next fall,
for I feel more and more the truth
of the Scripture, 'It is not good for
man to be alone'; You have some

idea of what loneliness is,
and although many might
think by my reserved manner,
that I preferred to be alone
yet I think you know me better,
And besides, I think I have
had this winter new revelations
of the duties of life, and new
ideas as to what constitutes do-
mestic happiness. I do not know
but it would be more proper
to say that these faculties have
lain dormant in the heart
and just been warmed into
activity. This is for yourself
alone, I hope to see you this
spring, and perhaps I may
tell you more, but perhaps
not. It will depend on the
spirit in which it is received
Of one thing I can assure
you, and that is that I have

been unutterably lonely
this winter. Especially at times,
and it is at just such times
that I need some one to speak
comfortably to me.

I speak freely to you for I
think you will not misjudge
me. Whatever the future may
have in store for me, I shall
not easily forget the past.

If the first of May will suit
all around, with God's blessing
on my efforts, I will be with
Charlie, and I am in hopes
before.

Write soon, and love
to all. Tell Ada to keep up a stout
heart. "Trust in the Lord and do
good" and verily thou shalt be fed

Yours aff Bro
John B. Lovejoy

Brother John
1870

Monticello, Apr. 28, 1870

Dear Sister Lizzy:

I suppose that I
am owing you a letter, and as
I am not specially busy just
now, I thought that I would write
you a few lines, in answer to your
last. I have just read it again
and give you credit for the best
intentions, and therefore my feelings
were not hurt in the least. I have
thought of all the contingencies
you speak of except the children
and that is something that
no one can calculate upon
with certainty, and I am
willing in that matter to
follow the admonition of the
Scripture "Sufficient unto

the day xcc. I do not believe
that I have allowed my fancy
to guide me at all. I am not
apt to let my fancy run away
with me. I believe that I have
been guided in this matter
just as Isaac and Jacob were
guided, and I believe that we
are just calculated to make
each other happy and that
no other one would make me
so whether old or young. And
believing this you know me
well enough to know that it will
require strong reasons to turn
me. The children all say they
will be satisfied if I am. They
never would look upon any one
as a mother, and they will
soon, probably have places
of their own. It is not for the
sake of getting a woman
that I chose Joanna but be-

cause I thought she was just
the one suited to me and would
have a good influence over me,
she has had a good influence
over me already, and been the
means of making me
a better man, and inducing
me to feel better and act better.
You know the constitutional
low spirits of the family. Well,
this had well nigh got the mastery
of me at times, and I had neg-
lected many duties, but when
she was here last winter, this
evil spirit was always driven
away by her conversation and
presence. And I felt that she
was just such a help meet as I
needed. And if the Lord spans
us to be married I have no
doubt, but that we shall be happy
together.

Ada got home all right

and has been kicking up her
heels like a young colt just out
to pasture. She has improved
a good deal. They were all glad
to see her and show it by teasing
her without mercy. She has
written to you I believe.

I am still in hopes of getting
out, but have not yet heard
from my Eastern man. I have
just written to him. I will
go and see you just as soon
as I sell, and perhaps before.

They are busy getting ready
for the wedding. I hope with
you, that Mary will be happy.
If I had as much confidence
in her choice, as I have in my
own, I should have no doubt.

Love to all.

Yr aff fond
John & Louisa