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St. Louis, March 16th 73

Dear Walt,

I have been wishing to write you for some days, but I have been away so much lately that it did seem as if I never would get time.

Dear Walt, I wrote mothers a long, long letter giving as near as I could the particulars about dear Mattie's death. I hope and suppose that the real is to prevent that it's not necessary therefore for me to re-tell it.

Dear Walt, this has been and is a heavy blow to me. I was so much with her and we were so in each others confidence that it leaves me very lonely.
I want to tell you about how Mr. and Mrs. Buckley are doing. They are all doing very well at the school for girls. Mrs. Buckley is a dear friend of Mother’s, she is a very kind lady. She is taking good care of the children and they are doing very well.

I am sorry to hear that Father is not well. I hope you will get better soon. He is quite ill and feels very weak. I wish you were able to come and see us soon.

Jefferoses is quite a nice place. I have been down there a few times and it is very nice. It is a place where no one can be bad. I hope you will come and visit us soon.

I heard from Millwood today. I was very glad to hear from them. They are all well and very kind. I hope you will be able to see them soon.
When you can Dear
Walt write to me, you
must not accuse me of
not thinking of you. I have often
thought how I would like
to see you, and if I can so
arrange my work shall
come on to do so.

A few days before her
death Mattie talked a great
deal about you and Mattie
she wanted to see you both
once more at one time
though she thought she
would be free from her pains
soon if you came bolder
and I hope you will be
able to come out and see
me soon—do you not think
it is more doable now?