

9<sup>TH</sup> December 1861  
Naples (Illinois)

My Dear Mrs Green,

Being at home on a visit Pa desired me to write you a few lines he has not as yet received an answer to his last letter and he feels very anxious indeed in regard to Mr. Green's health he was so feeble when you last wrote. He bids me tell you they have been making a map of our County, each resident that wished by paying a certain sum of money had his dwelling engraved on the map, Pa had his also several wood cuts struck off at the same time, thinking perhaps you would like a birds eye view of our home we herewith send you one of the cuts.

The house is very good indeed but the scenery around is not perfect by any means, the carriage at the front door looks to us sadly out of place as our grass plot is several feet above the level of the road, as is entered only by steps, we have also some very handsome trees in the yard that are not given at all in the picture, yet the likeness is sufficiently good to give you an idea of our delightful home. How much I wish you all could stand with you on our front porch and gaze over our beautiful prairies to the hills away off into the dim distance, and as the eye takes in so any pleasant homes scattered here and there over our Country, that a few months ago were rejoicing in health and happiness, how heartrending is it to think that now they are now desolate perhaps forever, by the awful hand of war. Our Country is still in a very unsettled condition because of this rebellion, we cannot yet see when it is to end there have been several battles fought, we are expecting another soon at Columbus, Kentucky. God grant the victory may be give to the right. We the federal union have now in the field six hundred thousand volunteers, we have had no fighting in this state. Missouri, Virginia and Kentucky are our principal battle grounds. Some think the war will be over by next spring but I fear it will not.

Times here are very hard especially so for farmers. There does not seem to be any money in the country, grain and other articles of produce bring a very small price. Pa says tell Mr Green he has grown heavier since he came from England, he weighs very nearly two hundred and forty pounds.

Since I last wrote I have changed my name and house. I am now living in Bloomington in this state, a pleasant little city of about ten thousand inhabitants. I thank you for your kind wishes ('in your last letter to Pa) for my happiness. I have a dear little boy of a year and a half, that I think pretty, but what fond mother does not think so of her child. I must close my letter, with much love to you all. Pa says will you please answer immediately, and let him know how Mr Green's health is he is very anxious indeed and now good bye may we all meet where partings never come, is the wish of your friend

Belle