

Chester [ed. there is a Chester, IL very near Sparta]

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1889

Dear sister,

Feeling somewhat better will write you a short letter and hope you will answer soon. I have been able to enjoy life more, since I came here, than any time during my sickness but will not attempt to describe the reasons. But oh, what a relief this tonic, given me by Dr. McKenzie, has been to me. Anna Shaw is nowhere compared to him. I am weak, the chills have not forgotten me, but I hope strongly to conquer in time. Am very weak sometimes, and it will be some time before I get two or three blocks, but you know I will push the matter as soon as I think I can make it. Now, about your coming, I must have some male person for some time yet it may be necessary for all the time, someone must bathe me and do work that a woman could not do. Yet I am concerned about his being idle – it is bad for anyone.

Frank has had trouble, since we came, with Lizzie - did he write you about it. The matter is now smoothed over and things are running all right so I will say nothing further. I fear you might not get along here but I hope, if you come, you will not hear any [illegible]. If I get strong enough to do without Frank you are to be with me but as it is I think matters are just right. I would however like to see you enjoying this nice place but I presume you will not let the summer go without some country air.

I hope you both find some relief since you started boarding and trust Mr. A [ed. her husband, Hobart Ayres] is stronger in health. Tell me all your places where you write and what Mr. A intends to do. About selling the land I am willing and wrote Mrs. Farnan [ed. their step mother, Henrietta Gass Farnan. They are all in litigation with the tenant of the Sparta property, William Borders] that we would take \$1200.00 for the us entire business. Are you willing to sell at this price. Frank made Borders an offer of \$1000.00 on the land which I think was a mistake. There is one thing you must make up your mind to and that is if you deal with Mrs. Farnan and either make or accept an offer from her you must stick to your word and not hold off and write Borders if he will give 10 or \$15 more. You understand me I think and Frank and I are willing to do according to the way I have written. I have a letter from her and she says she is willing to buy if we do not ask too much and she says she does not want to go to the trouble of making an agreement and raise the money and have us go back on our word. So, if she agrees to buy at the figure I mentioned and if that is a fair price for the land, I, for one, shall not go back on my word. So, give us your word and instructions at once for the sooner we dispose of the matter the better for all concerned.

The weather here is just fine but other but rather unsettled yet and it is somewhat cool. Where did you hear from aunt [illegible, Heinemann?]? Aunt Mary writes that I shall be very welcome when I come to Burlington. I had better stay here for some time. I [illegible] not will do any better. Give my love to all friends who ask for me and you and Mr. A may accept a share also.

Bro. Dave