

Omaha May 26th 1862

My Dear Sister

I received your letter about two weeks since and having just written or being about to reply to Joss I thought I would delay yours so that there should not be too much of the same thing at the same time. I am well and am at work, am in good spirits generally, but now and then a dream of home comes over me, and makes me rather lonesome. I am glad you was pleased with my description of the Young Ladies. I feared after I had written that I might have been severe, or trifling, and I do not desire to be so. neither do I wish to expose the follies or rail at the weakness of any one, much less those who are my sisters in the Church, those whom I believe are struggling, (against the flesh and in weakness,) to enter the strait gate, and now my sister upon this point. I wish to say a few words. Young people who are trying to live for heaven, have more pleasure in their associations together than those of the world have, ^{humanity, social and} when love, peace, and joy, reign in the breast, all these ties and relations become stronger and dearer, there is more sympathy and appreciation among them, there is a restraining influence emanating from each to each which in worldly society is not felt, and it is not only a negative but a positive one, that is each one expects not only that each shall cease from evil but that they learn to do well, that they use their endeavors to elevate and benefit each other, and though they may not be angels though they be frail, and not as right at all

times though people may judge them harshly
and condemn them, yet their Father watches
over them and there are thousands of checks,
helps, and influences, brought to bear upon them
of which the world knows nothing. The angel of
Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him
and how often have I seen this verified lately,
and I am ^{as} well satisfied of the special watchfulness
of God over his children as I am that I exist,
I have felt it myself and seen it in others and
sometimes I think that I have so much to be
grateful for, it is my duty to praise Him day
and night and night and day, goodness and mercy
have followed me and I have not deserved it, I
am unworthy; it is all of grace that I stand
and am alive, that I have health, friends, ^{and relations} to love
me and more than all, that I have peace in my
soul, ^{now} and hope for the future through Him who
has loved me. Do you wonder then that my
associations and companions have been pleasant
this winter, and not only pleasant but profitable
and I believe it has been so with us all, we
have quite a circle of young folks in our Church
near 20 when all together, besides others who
attend but are not members.

Our Choir has been discontinued during the
warm weather, and that reminds me that
you wanted a description of the male portion
of it, well I'll try. Mr. Burns is leader,
^{25 years of age, is engaged to a young lady in St. Jo}
Came from St. Jo about a year since, was until
recently a clerk in a China store at \$500 pr year
has since been received as a partner. Black hair
eyes dark, dark complexion, about my height
but not so heavy. Voice (for anything but ^{well})
about as good as Sam Mendell's, but he

had energy and self confidence and taken all together is or has been a good leader, although self will is predominant in his disposition, to the extent of making him disagreeable at times there is much about to admire.

Charley Pancel is next in order, ^{23 years old} (his) Tall light hair and complexion, ^{rather thin} and about the same build and no mistake, like Bill Clark, sings when he pleases, used to be a Carpenter, last year was clerk in a store, which ruined him that is it unfitted him for active employment by making him a little proud and lazy so that when he was discharged about 2 months ago, he didn't like to work and has only lately got at it, he is a clever fellow & accommodating and like some others spends his money before he gets it, his deary started to California last week, (that is Miss Dooney) Next comes Peter Stewart, 26 years old one inch and a half taller than myself light hair and complexion blue eyes, is a Baker has a shop with a partner and is doing a good business, making money is rather quiet especially among the girls so much so that while they all respect him highly, none of them like his society, sings Bass but not much, and as it is now my turn to step on the Carpet, I will let you imagine what I am, for fear that I might not do myself justice, I believe I have teased the girls about in a satisfactory manner and lecture them perhaps rather severely, sometimes for I acknowledge my tongue sometimes gets the start of me, nevertheless I think I am on pretty good terms generally speaking (if not particularly) with all of them, and now let me tell a bit of my experience, I have found

that girls like to be contrived and treated with
sincerity. more than they do to be always flattered
and fawned upon

I thought of the Slickaway meeting, and should
like to attend one of them again and hope I shall
one day, I think I could enjoy such a meeting now
I do wish that you were changed to think so too
Why do you delay, when you are losing so much, you
have realized the vanity, ^{of earthly things to a certain extent} and that they fail to satisfy
(even when attained) the thirsting of the soul, you
are convinced that Religion is what you need, (and
what every one needs) I hope you are satisfied that
the Christian life is not dull and cheerless but
that ^{it} is love, peace and joy, though many things
must be denied yet there is so sweet a reward
for any such sacrifice, that sometimes the soul almost
desires to deny more. My sister you will never
be happy until you love God, I pray that you
may have grace so to do, Oh that He would in
his goodness and power turn you unto Him
now while I write I feel my weakness, the utter
insufficiency of any words of mine, ^{to make you} without his blessing
and yet I believe that He is God over all and with
all things well and I intend to keep asking him
to bring you to Himself and not only you but
Mother and Jo also, which may be granted soon
for his name and mercy's sake is the prayer of

Your Brother
John B. Wisnall

Love to Mother and Jo