Redick, August 12th, 1847

My esteemed friend,

After long interruptions, I find myself again in a far-off land, and gradually your welcome letter & its contents begin to press into my mind. As I read it, my heart swelled with the gladness you describe, but it was not until I reached the last line that I realized the full extent of your kind intentions and the deep meaning of your words. I could not help but feel a sense of gratitude and warmth.

Sincerely,

Since you have been kind enough to send me your last letter, I should have responded to it. However, the time passed, and it was not until last week that I found your letter waiting for me. I am deeply thankful for your continued interest in me and for the warmth and kindness you have shown.

I suppose your last letter was a surprise. But I am glad to hear from you, and I hope you are well.

Yours sincerely,

If I have neglected to write to you in the past, I hope you will understand. I have been busy, and I am just now catching up on my correspondence. I hope this letter finds you well and that your health is good.

With sincere regards,

[Signature]
I think when I write to you our school was just closing, & we began to prepare for our exhibition, which passed off very pleasant & satisfactorily, & occupied one day & one night. The music was grand & the compositions and declamations were well composed & well spoken, our Principle offered a prize to the one that would read as I speak the best piece, but choose a committee of ten to decide for us, and they choose three of our pieces & could not decide which was the best, they are in a sad dilemma. I am one of the three that are chosen, a gentleman & another young lad, the body subject was "Meeting & Parting," I wish you could have heard it, it drew tears from all eyes, and would have melted the coldest heart. The gentleman subject was, "The last attribute of the soul," my subject was "The outward & the inward life," did you ever write upon it, don't you think it a noble theme, I did not do it justice and offered to give up any claim to the prize. Ent the day my claim is as strong as any.
After school closed my Aunt & myself started for a visit to the sea side for my health but did not get there as we called on Vermont to visit some friends and the weather became very warm & so we concluded to spend our time among the hills of New England, & I lead my gang of pleasant rambling among the flowers & earth old trees that grew in wild natural merriance upon the green sides of the mountains. I used often to climb the high hill before sunset & see the sun as it rose in its golden beauty shedding over earth its light & warmth and checking the heart of man. "Oh what a beautiful place is earth," how many among objects of done & interest there are, that take our attention from all that is evil, and direct our minds to the great Source from whence all these blessings flow, I could not stand & view nature spread out before me in all the beauty & gladness of her summer joys, and not feel my heart expand with gratitude, & exclaim with Walt, the poet—
If this is all of life, Lord be enough.

Oh God! I thank thee that I live.

I hope you are well Edward & happy in your Western home upon the wide spreading prairies, what delightful walks you must take. Searching for plants, I'm glad you are reading Botany, it's my favorite study & I think it is very beneficial for us to live among the flowers and the bees. The alphabet of the angels is the sweet song from every plain & hill. Would that I might remove up their silent teaching. I am at home at present, I shall not go into school until winter, if I stay in New York I think some of coming west but have not decided yet. I'm very anxious to see my dear brother, cousin Emma is teaching in our district. She spent last evening with me & sends her regards to you. If you write soon don't think I will get very reading for you cannot write too long a letter if you try. Good night & drop a pleasant dream is the wish of your friend

Sincerely

Don't wait long before you write