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D-329 2:45: Transcription of Letter from Elizabeth Lewis to John B. Lewis, December 6, 1847

This transcription contains language contemporaneous of the time and is being presented as part of a historical record. Please note that the transcription has not been reviewed for final editing.

Libby Bodwell to John Lewis Farmington Conn. to Schuylerville N.Y.

Farmington Dec 6, 1847 Monday eve

My Own Dearest John

I received your dear letter Saturday morning, which I had been looking for some time I am busy enough though not hurried at all. A plenty of time to do all I wish. Louisa & Jane Whitman spent an evening here a short time since. L. said she had heard that we were to be married soon, but she did not see many signs about it now. I suppose I must tell my husband what I am about. I have made two dresses and am now at work on the dress. It is drab Aplaca embroidered. Will that do for a travelling dress? After that is finished, I have very little else to do except (as I tell Caty) to put my hands into the dough. Before I forget it I must give a message from Jane, Sarah has been knitting some stocking for Lewis and Jane would like the others a bit larger. Jane is very comfortable indeed and the little one grows considerably. He has James forehead & nose and your mouth. I wonder if he will love to kiss as well as you do. J says he is to be a minister. you will I presume be very much surprised to hear of the death of Frank Whitman. He died of Typhus fever on Sunday. The corpse was brought here Tuesday, and buried Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Johnny do you remember Molly Pratt (as she is generally called)? She joined the church yesterday, almost ninety years of age. It will very soon be January and then I shall look for your dearest one. In your next letter will you write the time you can come. I shall have to make arrangements about cake accordingly. I send you W. H. W.'s cards which I like very much. If they were a trifle small I should like them as well. I have counted as nearly as I can those whom I should wish to send cake to, and think seventy-five of each (Mr & Mrs) will be sufficient. You wish to know what kind of vest to wear. I am not in the habit of choosing for Gentleman, but think that a black satin would look better for a cold winter morning that a white one. I am much obliged to you for thinking of the cards. Jane hopes that you will bring Reed with you. She would like to have him come very much. I do not know anything about Charlie's calculations but will tell him what you wrote as soon as I have an opportunity. About the furniture, you need not get anything except a stove. Jane has a pretty little Sheet iron one, air tight which costs about \$4.00 and I have seen a cast iron one quite small but very pretty for six dollars. Get one to suit yourself dear John and I shall be perfectly satisfied. I do not think it best to get any carpets until spring, I can have the one that was on our south front room, and I shall have a good many things, had I not better make out a box, and send on by the cars? I am glad the business of your store keeps you busy and that you are doing so well. Caty says tell John "I do not know how to spare

my dear". That is my name with here as I always sit by her when we read (evenings) with my arm around her waist. You say I may order now. Johnny, I wish I could break myself of that habit. I have thought of it a great many times, that if I was not more careful it might make for me many unhappy moments. It is natural for me to speak quick. I hardly know when to do or not, but I think we can get along happily together when we love each other so well, if we are only careful. Oh Dearest John Im sure I would not exchange you for John Deming (providing I could have him) or any other one either. If I was his wife and cared a fig for him I should cry my eyes out. He is a perfect torment, always teasing Cate but it is well she is not easily teased. Write me as soon as you can my dear husband and let me know what time you will be here and I will be all ready to be your bride. You ask me what kind of vest to wear so I shall ask you what kind of a hat shall I get. I have been trying to think of something pretty & now you just think for me will you? Every two or three days Juliet Laymore pops into my room without knocking & I know it is for nothing else only to see what I am doing, so I keep my door locked now and no one can get in until I have put my work out of the way. It is almost 11 o'clock and Aunt C is on the sofa half asleep. She and Caty send respects. They have talked the matter all over. What a vacancy it will make at the warm talks to day. It is just a year since the singing fest. Last Thursday at preparatory lecture there was once member of the Societies choice present, and Dr Porter called upon Mr Williams to lead in singing. He did so and the singing was done by members of Associated Choice. I have not heard of to days proceedings yet but presume I shall soon enough. I have written a real long letter for me and now I must close it, so good night dearest. One kiss and then good night as you used to say.

From your own Elisabeth