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**D-329 2:53: Transcription of Letter from Catherine Bement to Elizabeth Lewis, circa 1850
October-December**

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.

Kate Bement to Libby Lewis, Staten Island to Farmington, Ct

Probably Winter 1849 or Spring 1850

My Dear Libby

We received your kind letter last week and I really felt inclined to answer it directly but from some cause I have not been visited by old Morpheus as usual evenings, & I have scurried til ten o'clock & after any night and during the day I have not had a moments time to lose. I almost fancy myself sometimes a locomotive. I get up at dawn of day and yet I find myself at night going at the same velocity. Aunt Julia has left and I do miss her very much, she was only with me about 3 weeks, & during that time she knit the children two pr. of yarn stocking, which I appreciate I can assure you. Laura Howland spent one night with me, our tongues were as busy as possible all the time & I did not get half through asking questions. Sarah M Loves is a going to be married to one of those everlasting Motts in Morain. Bill Vandormark is married to that stuttering child, to Woodruff's daughter. I guess between you and I & the "town pump" Louise has a real "bonified beau". In fact I know it, but that is none of our business, so "Mum" if you please. Not a lisp only to Jane. The man is question is fine looking & quite intelligent and gentlemanly in every respect, I think she is getting a bargain. Sarah was perfectly well when she left "Coming events, daily expected. O Lib dont express one doubt about your being here, I cannot possibly have it, Ann is here to be sure, but she is no more what I left her, than the stars are like the moon, there arent a pin to choose any way, between them I was provoked as well as surprised at the treatment Jane received from B and Mary that I came to the conclusion there was no confidence to be placed in one of them, I do not see how they dare cut up such a "dedo" Poor Jane! She always seems fated to have all sort of trouble in her domestic arrangements. I did feel great pleasure in thinking of her this winter as being in some warmer climate of some of her thousand cares. I am afraid however they have been added too instead of diminishing. O how happy I should be if I could have her here for one month. I am so lonely I could make her as comfortable as she could be at home, and she has Mother to take care of the baby and Mamy Hahan to mother the children & Virginia to humor Mrs Cowles Nora, this is dished up in exquisite style & Jane must without fail come. If you could only come to I would be in "Cat fits". Will said if you are his tother half you must obey him half of the time and he says you must come.

Aunt Clara I would not for the world say one word. that would render either of you uncomfortable, in any respect. I do sincerely pray that there may be some way provided for you to be relieved. I do not allow myself to think of the future. I should not hesitate about having Mother one moment but you know she can neither hear nor see & when there is so much trouble

I would not feel safe to get alone with her alone. I was very much disappointed at not seeing her & Virginia. I was confident they would come this way. Did Mother enjoy her visit/? and was she well? did she tarry long in Syracuse? Let me hear all the particulars, give my love to her. The girls arrived home from their jaunt on Friday, I have not yet seen them. I have been over to the other side and spent the day since my return from F. I never saw a person express more surprise, then Mrs B. when she discovered I had grown so large, she had not suspected that anything was wrong with me before she found us nicely fixed in the cottage, as you please & manifested a very strong wish that we were back There gain Mrs B also spoke of you, said that she did not know that she ever felt more sympathy for anyone that she had for you, in all your afflictions – dear little Johnny! I often think of him & his cunning little ways – Eddy never says his prayers without hesitating, when he asks God to help Aunt Libby Robby wears those little stockings and invariably when he puts them on exclaims “these are Jonny’s” May the Lord comfort your desolate heart is the sincere prayer of your affectionate sister. I know you cannot have any thing to cheer or comfort you dear Libby, this long dreary winter everything in nature is calculated to deepen our sadness, but this time you have another who can enter into your sorrows, John probably has received the melancholy news by000 this time. I can imagine what a shock it is to him, so unexpected. I shall write to him by the next steamer We were so glad to hear from him, Father B has seen several persons who were acquainted with the boys in C. who speak in the highest terms of them both in a moral & business character, one Gentleman a Mr Townsend brother of the mayor of Albany George carried his luggage down to the steamer gratis obligating him to go & see Father & tell him just how they were getting along, he said no one stood higher than the boys, they were steady, honest and paid strict attention to their own affairs. You need not say one word about Ann to either B. or Mary but I can tell you, I had nearly made myself sick, I will not trouble my head about the house affairs I can tell you. I have not done any sewing yet for the stranger. To-morrow I shall commence operations. I do wish I had someone that I could advise with about matters. I had that little petticoat of Mrs. B’s to finish but I think you have enough to do without the addition of my work –

My love to Mary H., say I should love to see her, she must be good to Jane and I will knit her a garter one of these days. I am positively, virtually going to write to Jane, just what I have written you now has infused me a spirit of “talking on paper”, which will soon spread itself before me in the form of a mammoth sheet. How do the chicken perform! It makes one less having Reed gone, upon the whole. I think it will be better for Lewis as that constant teasing made him much more irritable. That dear little baby, What a sweet thing. I hope Jane will be able to superintend the management of her children herself, it is such a priveledge. I must say I am astonished of Elijah’s choice from your description, did Jane have any connection with him? he called at the office, told Wm he was to leave that P. M., not one word about his being married or his visit to Farmingham, kiss dear little Henry for me, I wish I could have him with me. How does Mother get along with her sewing? I have made an entire new waste for that DeLane dress after your pattern and it fits to a T. I have yours safe. My love to all. We had most all of our chickens stolen the other night. I can tell you Jane’s vegetables were grand. I am living in hopes

one of these days she might get a cargo of thanks. My love to Aunt C., do write soon, I shall write to Bridgett soon. Don't say one word about Ann to either.

In haste Kate

Kate has so filed this that I cant put in a word edgeways, and I have not the time to read what she was written but I would say aye to you and Janes coming on now while the weather is so beautiful.

Wm