

Merrimack, Sauk Co., Wis., May 23, 1858

Dear Mother:

... When I think how things are at home, I begin to wish I was there once more enjoying myself with you, and I anticipate I shall be before New Year's if I get what is owing to me at Keokuk, and I do not doubt but that I shall as soon as it becomes due which is in Nov. And again I expect to earn enough before that time to pay for my passage to Boston.

I expect to have work now all summer, although I do not know as I shall work here. I some expect to go to work for a man putting in a large flouring mill. However, they will not be ready for me before the middle of June. They have got the mill started here, and I am for the present running the muley saw mill. Commenced yesterday. I expect they would like to hire me all summer, but I think I can do better if I can get to work on this flouring mill....

I have planted Maynard's garden and got up quite a little pile of wood for him. We get along here very well. It does not cost much for flour & potatoes and other provisions to live on that is raised about here, but sugar & molasses is high. Flour remains at 3 doll. per barrel; potatoes are plenty at 12 cts. a bushel, butter 11 cts. a pound....

You speak of the revival in the church at Templeton. I am glad to hear if the folks there are getting to be any better. I think as a general thing there are more that get religion that there is that get true Christianity. Henry Ward Beecher says that the first thing he does when people join his church is to turn them out of religion into Christianity, and I am about of his opinion as to getting religion. I think people ought to be less religious and more Christianlike....

Maynard & Harriet have got a pretty smart girl, but I presume they will spoil her makeing such a pet of her. If she is not the mistress of the house soon, I will be mistaken....

With much love your son,

J. O. Partridge