

Steamboat Sultana Sab eve
[Sunday] Oct 27, 1850 Memphis Tenn

My dear Brother

I had designed to send you a telegraphic message from here but find the charge so high I think twill not be best. We have had a long & tedious journey. The various hindrances such as sand bars Etc. I cannot tell you much about tonight for my little ink stand I find this evening quite empty. And my time is short too. I know you have felt anxious to hear from me and I intended to have written before but had no convenient opportunity. I will soon give you some history of my journey. Last Sab night we were aground. We ran on a sand bar Saturday morn at ten and remained there till Tues night when another boat came up and we left the magnificent Empress and took passage on a little crowded boat called the Julia Dean. Thurs night we reached Cairo—took the Sultana and tonight reached Memphis about 425 miles from Cairo. I have been in perfect health and have enjoyed the journey very much indeed. Sarah is very unwell. Has kept her berth all day. She is under the influence of powerful medicine And I hope will be quite well tomorrow. Mr. Ross is not well. I cannot be too thankful for my continued health. We are going on tonight and will be to the mouth of the Arkansas tomorrow evening—if prospered. One week more will find us well on toward “our Cherokee home” we hope—I wish you knew Mr. Ross. I cannot say much about him tonight but he is very kind indeed—and moreover a very agreeable traveling companion. Already he seems like an old friend and I feel that he is to stand in your place in my far off home. And he could have no higher place dear Alden. That my thoughts turn to you often I need not say. I must not indeed say much or I cannot send at all. My letters to you are yours exclusively. Send word to Father & Mother of my health, safety & happiness. With a warm bundle of remembrance & love to all & a promise to write speedily again. I shall hope for letters when I reach Talequah. Do let your letters be frequent—even if they must be short. What tidings from George—O how much I want to say & hear. I must stop else I shall be homesick & then I shall lose my good name—for they think I have done very well in this long tedious trip. Only once have they seen me in tears and then but for a moment. Love—O ever so much to the loved ones in R & B. I cannot enumerate them now—but Marianne & Lanny especially. Mr. R sends his regards. Says he hopes we shall complete our journey in a few days more. Thinks I have kept up my spirits remarkably well and now good-night--good-night.

Write soon & often to
Yr own Ellen