Monticello, Feb. 19, 1872

Dear Sister Lizzy,

Your letter came to hand last night, and it was the first ray of light that I have had for some time, and I hope it may prove the precursor of a perfect day, although I cannot quite see my way out yet. Of one thing I am certain, and that is that I am in a false position in the world. I have no doubt that forming like an marriage is honorable, but in both cases there needs to be a true affinity to make it agreeable. This shows affinity.
has been much abused, but still it has a true significance when rightly used. But hold on. I shall not mean to write an essay, but to answer your letter.

As to the amount of money to be raised, I think that I can raise it by giving me a little time. I suppose that I have $700 worth of property free of all incumbrance if I could only raise the money on it. I think that I made a good prospect of selling the farm this spring, and I shall do my personal property, but shall have to do it on terms as it is impossible to get money at present here. But I may as well let you know that I am losing money every
day that I stay here and have been ever since I Chine homed. I have done all my duty towards the children, but they must begin to look after themselves a little. Many will get married this spring, I suppose. Dan'l wants to go west so that I shall be left alone. I will provide a home for Ada as long as she needs one while I live.

I think there is no doubt but that I can raise the necessary amount of money by the first of May, and I'll do it sooner if possible. The sooner I leave here the better I shall like it, although I shall have some pleasant memories behind me, and also some pleasant anticipations.
for the future which I hope to yet see fulfilled.
I have a good deal of business to settle up here, and it will take some little time, but if the first of May will do, I will get the money. I will have it by it is a possible thing, and I will go with it myself. I will perhaps before I have a friend in the East who is working for me and he says that he does not despair of an office yet, but if he does not get one for me the next make no difference with the other arrangements.

As to the board, I shall have no one with me this summer, I do not expect but (Deo volente) I hope to keep well, for I feel more and more the truth of the Scripture, 'It is not good for man to be alone,' you have some
idea of what kindness is, and although many might think by the assorted manner that I profess to be alone yet I think you know me better. And besides, I think I have learned this winter new revelations of the duties of life, and new ideas as to what constitutes domestic happiness. I do not know but it would be more proper to say that these varieties have lain dormant in the heart and just been warmed into activity. This is for yourself alone, I hope to see you this spring, and perhaps I may tell you more. But perhaps not. It will depend on the spirit in which this is received. Of one thing I can assure you. and that is that I hope
been inordinately lonely this winter. Especially at times and it is at just such times that I need someone to speak comfortably to me.

I speak freely to you for I think you will not misunderstand me. Whatever the future may have in store for me, I shall not easily forget the past.

If the first of May will do it all around, with God's blessing on my efforts, I will be quite better, and I am so hoping so.

Write soon, and love to all. Let God be the hope of your heart. "Trust in the Lord and he will do good and verily there shall be food."

Your Aff' Bro

John S. Lovejoy
Monticello, Apr. 28, 1870

Dear Sister Lisy:

I suppose that I am owing you a letter, and as I am not especially busy just now, I thought that I would write to you a few lines, in answer to your last. I have just read it again and give you credit for the best intentions. Accept therefore my feelings were not hurt in the least. I have thought of all the controversy you have had except the children. Since that is something else, no one can calculate before with certainty, and I am willing to let matter to follow the admonition of the Scripture, “Sufficient unto the day.”
the day goes. I do not believe that I have allowed my fancy to guide me at all. I am not at all used to let my fancy run away with me. I believe that I have been quieter in this matter just as Isaac and Jacob were quietest. And I believe that we are just calculated to make each other happy and that no other one would make me so whether old or young. And believing this I hope now you will encourage to know that it will require strong reasons to turn one. The children all say they will be satisfied if I am. They never would look before me as a mother, and they will soon probably leave places of their own. It is not for the sake of getting a woman that I chose to marry, but...
cause I thought she was not the one suited to me and would have a good influence over me, she has had a great influence over me already, and been the means. I believe of making me a better man, and in doing so one to feel better and act better, you become the constant internal low spirits of the family. Well, this last week night got the matter of one of times, and I had never talked among oderies, but while she was here last winter, this evil spirit was always driven away by her conversation and presence. Once I felt that she was just such a holy heart as I needed. And if the Lord opens up to be recognized I leave no doubt, but that we should be happy together.

Ada got home all safe.
And has been thinking of her
hers like a young cow just out
to pasture. She has improved
a good deal. They were all glad
to see her and show it by taking
her without mercy. She has
written to you I believe.

I am still in hopes of getting out, but have not yet heard
from my Eastern calling. I have
just written to Eileen. I will
go and see you just as soon
as I can, and perhaps before,
they are busy getting ready
for the wedding. I hope with
you, that Mary will be happy.
If I have as much confidence
in her choice, as I have in my
own, I shoulelde leave no doubt.

Love to all.

Wyatt Har.

J ohn & Louisa.