Dear Sister Lizzie: I have been resolving on re-resolving to write to you but Satan or some other malign influence has let me hitch. But we are having a regular lizzard to chang and I have not much to do as the trains are abandoned and the whole business of the day is to keep warm. And first I want to send thanks from me all along the line for the very acceptable presents sent to the children. They appreciated all of them and esp. the book. Birdie takes great interest in it, and in asking the questions. If we did not have a set of old fogies here I would try and somehow buy some for the Sabbath School, but those who control the thing and furnish the material also think that nothing is done but what comes from the Presbyterian Board and they cannot be pulled out of the ole rut.

I do not know of anything I can write...
about that I will be of any interest. It is all monotonous here, a endless sea of nothingness, and I am so tired of it, but the old man of the Mountain is about my cell and I have to plead along as I best can. I try to feel reconciled but it is hard sometimes when I need a little filth to dress and cannot get it. But we all keep well at first and that is a blessing to be thankful for.

You will see by the papers that they are making great efforts to enforce the prohibition laws in this state. Perhaps they will make it out but I doubt it. Did you see what Theodore Dexter says about it. I think he is right about it and nothing but the grace of God will cure the evil. You must convince one of wrong before it is abandoned. But I will not neglect a friendly on you this cold day.

I will have to stop for the hopper is empty and the grists are all ground. We all come and be loved.

Yr Afft Frs
John B. Gregory
Cassius Jackson Station, July 12, 1886

Dear Sister Lizzy,

You must excuse me for writing so soon after receiving your letter, as it is contrary to all precedent, but like old Sister Hammond that used to speak in the Shaw School Store, "It seems as tho' sometimes I felt moved" to write and I had nothing pressing to do so I commenced and perhaps I may yet get through with some kind of a letter, but the material is rather scarce.

I am not as lone some as you think for the folks came back from the West about a month since, whether any one will go back this fall I don't know. I cannot say, some one ought to be there once in every six months. And then it rests with the Gov. The repeal of the prohibition laws will be in our favor I think, but there ought to be more improvements put on it than I
Can't able to put on and don't know how it will end. I would be glad to go on if I could but see no prospect at present and could only imitate Elijah and sit down by the brook that is on it, and I am afraid the ravens would not find one.

I am glad to hear that Mr. Patton has seen the trunk heard and hope he will walk in it. The Republican party here, I believe is as weak at now as ever they have been. Have about as much love for the Democratic party as the devil has for holy water, but the Lord chose the heathen Assyrians and Babylonians to punish Israel for their sins, and the Greeks and Romans punished them, and the Goths and Vandals punish them now. And so it goes. Those who have great opportunities and fail to improve them will be beaten with many stripes. The Republican party did a noble work under Lincoln, but since his time they have been getting worse and worse and now worship the golden calves and steal the gold to enable them of. Whenever they repent once do their first work I am ready to join them. In the meantime I shall for the mind and not for the party. We are all on account, Johnnie went to Cedar Rapids Saturday to work for a while. He says he is going to see you on your birthday. Perhaps so once perhaps death. He has grown so you wouldn't know him. Bindee is growing too, I have read the bridle and have no doubt they are a good money horse in the world. But I did not mean to beg it when I asked the price, just to get a thoroughbred is well and not much but 150 and gave 50. 150 is the price.