

## Letter 16

East Groveland  
December 19<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Cous Sallie

Your very kind and welcome letter was rec'd this eve and was gladly read & reread. Also several papers from your Father for which give him my thank. Your letter finds me much better, but dear how lonesome. I would give almost any thing if you were here to night. I heard the whistle of the train that took you from us last Tuesday & I could not help. Well I hardly know what but any way I drew a long sigh. After leaving you at Uncle D's I called at the office and there found my Discharge from the War Dept & after I got home I could not sit still. Mother asked me what ails you Sam. Can't you keep still a little while. Well it hardly seemed like home & I thought of the sory that runs something like this. "Tis home where ere the Heart is & C (i.e. etc)". Tuesday I took cold which settled in my \_\_\_\_ (?) & was nearly bed sick Wednesday & Thursday, but tonight am quite comfortable. I should love dearly to be with you in N.Y. to see the sights. I know you had a splendid time. Please accept my warmist thanks for you kind invitation to visit you this winter. I would love dearly to do so but will have to posepone till the Future. Should I come I would perhaps be as lonely as ever after my return. I would give all I posess if you were only with us this winter time. Then would be pleasant. Now how lonesome. I hardly think I shall remain home much longer for I must do something. Farming I am afraid will be more than I can do. I saw Uncle D & Aunt T yesterday. Were all well. Think I will go up tomorrow. The Family are all well & Young America grows finely. It's Songs I think improve it. Can reach the highest note on the scale. Since you left us we have had pretty near Sleighing and I know if you had remained we certainly would have had that ride. Well I must hurry my wandering letter to a close for it is nearly eleven P.M. & the Family have all retired. You will see when you receive this that I am obeying you (order) promptly & which I trust will find you Safe in your dear home & Surrounded by "the dear one at home". Wish I might welcome you home but perhaps there are other ones aside from home that will rejoice at your return. I rec'd a good letter from one of my Boys tonight. All were well, & all wish me back. Dear fellow how glad I would be to join them again. Any thing to drive away these lonely times. Sally you don't know how different it is since you left us, but I must close. My love to all at home, & believe me as ever your Loveing Cousin

Sam

P.S. Do write soon & please excuse this lonely letter