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New York Nov 23rd 1863

Dear Mama

I have just come home from Philadelphia where I have been with – Miss Haines spending a few days We stayed at the Continental. Hotel and had very nice rooms. Miss Haines – took me to see Independence Hall and the Art Gallery. we were going to the Mint this morning; but it rained so we could not do so. Miss Haines' object in going Philadelphia was to put her old coloured cooks grandson in a school about

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thirty miles from there. when we arrived at Philadelphia there was no one who knew any thing about the train for Oxford we spent a whole day in finding out about it. After having gone to evry Rail Road depot in Philadelphia we at last succeeded. and started the next morning at half past six for the train. and had a very pleasant ride on the cars to the depot where we took a stage for Oxford we got in to the stage which was then filled with passengers. the driver said it was nine miles. after getting myself

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fixed as near the driver as possible where there was the best chance to get my head of the stage I made up my mind for the worst as I knew I should be very sick. unluckily there were no windows in the stage. We had not gone very far before I began to feel very dizzy. and very soon after I lost all my breakfast. The passengers were all starring at me and one old farmer said "That little gal seems to be very sleepy." I thought I could have done any thing to that man. I was

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so sick that I could not hold my head up and I occasionally shut my eyes. I never shall forget my stage ride to Oxford.

I received a letter from Aunt Celia and one from Papa. they came while I was at Philadelphia, and I have not had time to read them all through yet but have read far enough to know that you have had the childrens hair cropped. Can it be possible dear mama that you

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have had Minnies hair cut off her pretty curls how perfectly beautiful she must look could you not send me some of her hair in a letter I would be very much obliged to you if you would. I don't suppose you had poor little Lizzies cut off she right to keep what little she has. Have you tried curling their hair with a hair pin I am sure it would curl beautifully. Susie cousin Alice and Annie send their love to you

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you all. I must not forget to tell you about Cousin Alice. I brought her some [sugar?] in a little box from Philadelphia after I had given it to her she went in her room and pretty soon came running to me and wanted to know if I had intended to give her a fit. I did not wonder for we dont get candy but once a month. How are you all at home. Give my love to all and tell Mis Ridgely I recieved her letter and will answer it on Monthly Holiday. As we

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are not allowed to till then and that I am very much obliged to her for writing to me. If you see Ann & Mattie tell her that Susie and I have recieved her letters. I thought that I had answered hers. any how I will write to her very soon. I think I wrote to you in my last letter that Susie did not get Mrs Shaws letter after I had written Susie thought that it was Aunt Matties sisters letter we thought you meant Eliza Shaws mother so she did get

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Cousin Marys letter and I think she will answer it Monthly Holiday.

I am having a splendid time at school. Miss Haines is going to take us to the Coal Mines in Pennsylvania Thanks giving and we expect to have a very nice time. Is papa coming on Christmas or any one I want to know very much, indeed. Oh papa in his letter to me said something about a box that had some things in it that we needed Susie and I I don't know what it

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means. when you write please explain matters. The box you send us with our cloacks in has come long ago the cloaks are very warm and nice Inst. I think they look as nice as our new ones. mine is a little short for me but that does not make any difference. Miss de Gowan is going to get me a new dress this Christmas I am very glad of it for I never was so sick of anything as I am of this merino dress that I have been wearing

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for I dont know how long I am getting on very well in my studies I cannot tell you what study hours I have with Miss McIntosh she makes every thing so interesting I love her very much indeed. I will have a great many Compositions to bring home with me. How is Peter getting on in his school I hope he likes it much better than he did I have given up all hopes of getting a letter from him I have written a letter to him and one to you they have been

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up in our room ever since Monday for I had not my postage stamps to send them so I wish in your next letter you will send me some they will get here a great deal sooner than I could get them from Miss de Gowan. besides I cant bear to ask her for any give my love to Mr and Mrs Cowan when you see them and to my sunday school friends remember me to Lottie Ilsley. and now dear Mother I must bid you goodbye with much

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love and many kisses to all I remain your loving daughter

Nellie Bly

P.S. Excuse this bad writing I have [written] in a great hurry and it was not light when I came down and I could not see the lines. I have blotted my paper too but I cannot help it so please excuse this line and I will not do so again. I thought I have written twelve pages I have not said at all what I want to and have not told you half what I have to say

Nellie