

St Louis April 19th 1865

Dear Sister Jenny

Your kind letter of Feb. 19th to hand several days since. I wrote Steph. last Saturday, the day our Noble President expired - having been shot the night previous - what a horrible crime, could any person that would - commit such a deed have any human blood in his veins? Was he born of woman or devil? Lincoln our Noble President - a Second Washington - in the hearts of the American People - and - equal to him as a Statesman, Patriot and a Christian, is no more, as I write the - bells are tolling and banners flying this death - knell this being his funeral day. Business is suspended. There are services in all the - Churches, doing honor to the Noble dead - may he rest in peace, and may his guardian - Spirit watch over the destinies of this our beloved Country, in this hour of its greatest - peril, is my fervent prayer.

I am glad to hear

Fanny is getting along so finely. do you think she
she will be as strong as though nothing had
ever ailed her. I hope so. I believe I wrote
Steph. that Kate and Mally had lost one of
their children. that with Kate's financial -
troubles must make them feel pretty badly.
Fanny. you ask now if
was on my wedding tour. no fanny I was not.
If I ever take a wedding tour it will
be to California and that within two years.
Well I guess you will say that I coming right
to the point - so I can. I know about all of
your love matters. so I will tell you about all of
mine. well fanny to commence. I will say that I am
in love for the first time. yes for the first time.
I introduced myself to the young lady that I have
chosen for my wife (if I can get her) about
three months ago - you may think it strange that
I should introduce myself. when in Boston I was
requested to call on a Boston lady ^{stopping here} whom I returned
home which I agreed to do. - I was acquainted
with the gentleman she was stopping with here. he
not being at home. when I called. of course I
introduced myself. I do not believe in love at first sight.
but that or something else made me say as I left
Miss Alice Cogswell that evening that she should be

my wife if I could get her. well if I
was out in love the first time I saw Miss
Alice I am now, and I have told her so as
plainly as I have told you. I have always
said that I thought it would be an easy
matter to take the quester as we call it -
well I found it so. I have also found
that it is just as easy for a young lady
to refuse which Miss Alice has - not only
had the opportunity of doing - but has done
it ^{twice} I suppose of course now - will come and the
laugh with you - very well - you may laugh but
it is no laughing matter for me. However I -
shall endeavor like a philosopher - not to try
me in two new flank movements. I am heart -
more now fair lady - and when they say ~~no~~
no. they mean yes - about half the time - is not
that so. I used to think so, but I told you
I begin to think now they mean what they
say. Alice is an orphan girl - not remarkably
handsome - but better looking and a great deal
smarter than I am - and if I am any judge
of human nature. She has the right kind of a
heart - you may say I am rather hasty not having

Now acquainted with how only three months
will that is just what Alice tells me - It has
been the longest three months that ever I
experienced - will if Alice does not have me I
think its very doubtful if ever I marry -

I think I have told you enough - about my
love matter for ever times - you will say nothing
to Cous. Sam. about this - and if I do not -
I need you and Steph. will know the reason
why I never got married, and so on etc -

Kiss Nancy & Minnie for Uncle Jed - and tell them
he will write when he has more time and feels
more like writing

Your aff. Bro -
Jed. W. B. Smith's