

From Elizabeth S.C. Earl to Dear Brother

[page 1]
Lawrence
Sep[.] 22, 1863

Dear Brother[.]

I received a letter from you written at Wethersfield. How glad I was to hear from you, to know that you were at Home, but it was the first that I had heard of your being wounded. How[,] when[,] and where were you wounded. write me all about it.

My Dear Brother[,] you know nothing of the Horrors of this war, nor neather did I, untill the 21st day of August, our town was surprised about day light, by 300 men, headed by Quandrel, who murdered every man that came in their way, most of our people were in bed, and the [*text stricken through*] Rebels would knock at the door

[page 2]

and when th[e] men opened the door, they would shoot them down, and then rush in, and set fire to the house, threatning death to the women, if they stird, and by that way the House would get to burning so fast, that it would be impossible to get the bodys of their Husbands out, so that they would have to burn up, many men were shot, and then thrown into Houses that were burning. O it is heart rending to write about it, but I have seen what I hope I may never see again, unless it is to see those men that came here burnt to the stake, and then I should feel that we had had our revenge in some degree[.]

Ralph [Dise?] was shot and burnt up, his Widow remains in Lawrence for the present. almost all of the

[page 3]

women have left th[e] place, becaus the desolation is so great that they cannot remain. to see our beautifull town in ruins as it is at the present time, is enough to stir the heart of those demons to [*text stricken through*] pity and remorse [*text stricken through*][.]

I shall not leave Lawrence untill it is destroyed the third time. I have been here through [*text stricken through*] one invasion, one masscrea, and when it is visited once more, then I will think about leaving. I was not molested, my House being out from town, and not on the road that they came and went on. I was up and from my door, saw all of the devastation, as soon as they were out of town I went down and what a sight met my eyes I cannot describe[,] it makes me sick at heart to think of it, the women were not insulted as

[page 4]

much as has been represented, some few were abused. but as a general thing the Rebbels had some thing else to do besides insult the women[.]

The people that are left are trying to do business and to make every thing look as
Cheerfull as circumstances will permit[.]

Pleas answer soon[.]

Farewell
From your sister
E[.]S[.]C[.]

[*handwriting changes*]

Thomas[,] I received Liz letter yes[ter]day[.] I send it along tow you[.] I want you to write me
and tell me how you get Along[,] wheter you head is healing yet[.] I am in hury it 8 o clo[ck] in
the morning[,] Rather erly fore me too be a writing[.]

My love to you my son[,] A[.] Critenton

[*written sideways in left margin*]

Write soon