

Lewis Clap County Iowa

April 25th 1858

Marcus Packard Esq,
Dear Sir

I do not know but what you may consider me rather presumptuous in addressing you not having ever seen you. But I have this for an excuse. Being well acquainted with your Mother and also bearing a relationship as your Mothers half Sister I address you. Warren Packard was here day before yesterday he told me that you was engaged in Editing & Publishing a paper in Ind. I have ^{heard} Sister Julia speak of you but supposed you was in Michigan until Warren told me. When we reflect on the changes that time is ever bringing about and the many scenes of the past that could have been changed for the better, we are led to enquire whether in our past life we have so lived as to advance our own happiness and that of our fellow beings, and we are almost invariably led to the impression that we could have done better. Therefore I say let us in the few remaining days that time allots us here try to enhance each others happiness. I hope we may not be strangers to each other as we have been although distance lies between we can by correspondence know each other tolerably well. I feel almost alone away out here in the West having no Brother or Sister