



Okaw Illinois  
March, 13<sup>th</sup> 1860

Dear Father

The wind is blowing  
very hard this morning from the  
north and it is quite cold but  
we have had splendid weather  
for two weeks past - and it was  
just like summer. I have just re-  
turned from chaining out the pig  
pen and I found it cold work.  
I went to church with Ma yesterday  
Mr Rork preached and he preached  
the best sermon I ever heard  
from him Ma staid at Grandmas  
to dinner yesterday, they had  
wild ducks for dinner. Mr McKean  
went up in Mr Philips corn field  
the other afternoon (late) and killed  
six fine ducks and sent Grandma



some of them, Saturday afternoon  
I went up there myself and found  
beside Mr Smith and McKean —  
several other gentlemen all of  
whom were hid in a corn shuck  
waiting for the ducks to come  
but there were so many there  
that they would shoot at the  
ducks before they came within  
gun-shot and consequently did  
not kill any themselves and ~~kept~~  
kept others from killing any,  
I have been thinking about it and  
have consulted several other gentle-  
men that it would be best to  
harow up the front yard and  
sow it in timothy grass and  
clover and then bush it over  
with a bush if there ain't some-  
thing done with it it will  
all grow up in weeds look

very bad for a front yard it  
will not take over a half bushel  
of timothy and two or three  
pounds of clover. The back lot  
I am going to plant most of  
that in corn and leave a space  
for a garden. Mr McKean says it  
will raise a good crop of corn  
Mr McKean and Aunt Fanny came  
over last evening and staid to  
supper and until late last  
night. It looked quite funny  
to see Mr McKean with Johnny  
jumping him up and down,  
he says you asked him to come  
every Sunday afternoon and he  
is going to do it. Johnny grows  
"rigged," and "fatted" and "better"  
"looking" every day and Laddie  
and Lirrie and the children  
nearly kiss him to death he has  
cut him but three times since you left

I have just come from rocking  
Johnny in the cradle Ma, Mary  
and the girls are sewing. Lada  
had just got up from off the  
all tangled up in Ma's yard. Lisa  
is washing Maggie and Lirri,  
and playing and Johnny is laying  
in the cradle looking around  
the room. The Bury and myself  
Saturday afternoon built a manure  
pen and a plank walk to the  
pig pen the manure pen is  
seven feet square and five feet  
high. I have finished Kapsler's  
and his Marshall and have  
got pretty well advanced  
in the first volume of Irving's  
life of Washington I find them  
very interesting. Both of them  
One tome is incorporated now  
and translated selected, Good Bye

Your obedient son

George A. Spearman