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[Letter], 1853, Nov. 10, West Sutton, Mass., Mary E. Gould [to] Alan Cameron

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West Sutton Nov^r 10 1853

Friend Ellen

I suppose you are expecting a letter and you shall not be disappointed. But what shall I write about. There is nansen but that is not worth writing. There is no need to tell you the summer is passed and autumn is nearly gone. That you know already. Shall I write to you about the fashion for bonnets and cloaks for the coming winter, perhaps this might interest you a little. but people up here do not think so much about dress as they do in Plainville. I never wrote to a young gentleman in my life. but if death had not robbed me of a brother! I should have had one about as old as you are. what if I should write to you, just as I should were you my brother! I would have my brother good. good morals. good manners. and good tempered. I would not have him use vulgar or profane language. I would not have him drink intoxicating liquor. no smoke a fragrant Havana, yet I suppose he would smoke for all the young men do. yet I think. It is just as useless as it is for girls to stuff their noses with snuff. I would not only have my brother moral. but religious what good thing does a rational religion deny. any body? to love God with all the heart and thy neighbour as thyself. is its ~~substance~~ substance and peace with thyself and all the world. With a preparation for life or death is the result of true religion. Pshaw! I hear you say Emily has preached quite a sermon it does not sound

like putting pepper on the shuttles or a thousand other
foolish papers. she used to do. Well Allen you must
know that I live in Mass. now and I have left
Emily in B. I. here I am plain precise steady

Mary E Gould

Mary