Rather than incur your displeasure, Mr. Mitchell, I’ll tell a story at the very beginning of this letter, but ease my conscience at the same time by my usual habit of confessing my sin to you. If I mistake not I promised to write to you Monday afternoon now this is Tuesday morning – my letter is dated yesterday because I fear another scolding from you. Last night I spent with Sallie Anderson, hurried home this morning immediately after breakfast, for the express purpose of writing to you before the mail closes. I hope the letter may reach you today; for there is no telling what will be my fate if you are again disappointed. Well, if the letter happens to arrive a day later I know you will readily pardon me and immediately repent all hasty words, whither written or spoken, when you perceive that the letter is dated the 16th. Attended society meeting last night, spent a delightful evening. Sallie took charge of me and introduced me to the Prof. As a new member I felt privileged to do and say what I pleased, went so far as to refuse to sing even when called upon by the Prof. himself. My deafness troubled me not a little; are you not becoming uneasy about your poor sweetheart? Dumbness would no doubt be a great source of consolation to you, but deafness is unpardonable. I must hear and heed all that is said to me. When I left home yesterday afternoon Annie (my sister) was abusing you terribly about her letter, she had just learned that you had left it at home in the pocket of your good coat. I comforted her by telling her I know you would never have forgotten it if I had written it. Did your call on Sister last night? I hardly know whether to expect her today or not but that train must bring me a letter from you, that much I shall certainly expect, you will not, I know, disappoint me. It requires so little effort on your part to write a letter, that you can no doubt pen a few lines with your eyes shut, so do not let drowsiness prevent you from writing to me. The boy is waiting for my letter so I must close, hope he will be in time for today’s mail.

Devotedly,

Co-