

Martha Farnsworth diary

Section 3, Pages 61 - 90

Martha Van Orsdol Shaw Farnsworth kept a personal diary from 1882 through 1922 with only a few gaps. The diary starts when she is a teenager. The entries in this volume describe her daily activities as she is growing up in Winfield and later Silver Lake and Topeka. She marries John W. Shaw on September 4, 1889. She refers to him as Johnny or Winnie in the diary. He works for the post office. Many of Martha's diary entries are very emotional about the boys she dates and her marriage to Johnny. From the beginning of her marriage, Martha expresses her unhappiness in her marriage. It seems to stem from Johnny's drinking and his anger when he was intoxicated. Johnny dies in October 1893 and Martha soon marries another post man Fred Farnsworth in 1894. It is possible that this diary was rewritten from an earlier version because some entries are underlined in red.

Creator: Farnsworth, Martha 1867-1924

Date: Between 1882 and 1889

Callnumber: Martha Farnsworth Collection #28 Box 1

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 213046

Item Identifier: 213046

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Martha Farnsworth diary

1884 March 1884 59

Fri. 7
 At home. Went to Literary in the evening with Pa + sister May + Belle. We had just the jolliest time at Literary's I hate to think, that I'm going away and can't come any more. Jannie Carman walked home with me after Literary's and when we got right on, top of the hill, near the house, he looked down at me (for I only come to his shoulder) and says "Mattie I want to make a bargain with you". I had noticed that he was rather quieter than usual, but I little dreamed of what was coming, and replied, "alright", when he says, rather abruptly, "will you marry me?" Well, it was so sudden and unexpected that I answered, simply, "yes" without hardly knowing what I was saying. I wonder if that is the way everyone gets engaged. I always thought people "made love" first, and he has never made love to me, I have never went with him very much, this, and he hasn't had a chance and he wanted to ask me, before I went away to school and will "make love" afterwards. He says, "we" will get married when ever I get ready, to quit school.

This is my first "proposal," just think! I'm the first one, of all this crowd of school girls and boys to be engaged, and I'm young, too young: just "sweet", 16 and Jannie is 20. Morris, his name, but Glen Bradshaw "nicknamed" him "Jannie" at a dance one night. I wonder what Pa will say, but he won't know it, for we won't marry for ever so long, this Jannie says he is ready to marry any time: this Spring in the Fall, or when ever I'm ready, but I must go to school a long time first. I'll have to give up my other "sweet hearts" when we get married, so I'm going to wait a long time. Jannie asked me to "kiss" him good night and I had to do it, but I don't think he is near so nice, for doing it. I never kissed him before, I don't like to kiss boys.



Martha Farnsworth diary

60	1884 March 17 th
Sat. 8.	Went down to Grandpa Anderson's in the morning to borrow a spool of thread. Ray Cass, Mr. Darling and Belle Anderson were here. I feel just like I always do, if I am "engaged"; how funny it sounds.
Sun. 9	Went up to Mr. Ed Holmes' in afternoon to see sister May who is going to stay with Mr. Holmes' awhile this summer but there being no one at home, came back and went to Uncle Joe Anderson's awhile and then with Belle went to meeting at Prairie Grove, at 4 o'clock P.M. after walking about 9 miles altogether.
Mon. 10	Pa + Ma took me to Winfield, very early in the morning to Mrs. George Parmer's where I am to Board and then to Mrs. Limerick's where Minnie Weber came and Pa + Mrs. Limerick, went with us to the Central school building, where Minnie + I entered school under Miss Lois Williams, in Grammar Department. Minnie in "B" grade + I in the "A", where in two months if I pass good examinations I will be promoted to High School. I went up town in the evening to buy some school books.
Tues. 11	At school. Called at Mrs. Limerick's few minutes in the morning, before school. Mrs. L. is an old teacher of mine and I love her very much. Mrs. Parmer's seem to be very nice people. She is going to let me help her with her work, to pay for my Board, because my step mother didn't want me to come and this will settle the "expense" question.
Wed. 12.	At school. Called to see Minnie Weber at Mrs. Sanderson's a few minutes in the eve.
Thurs. 13	At school. Went up town after school in evening to get me some ink and slate pencil.



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1884 March 1884		61
Fri. 14	At school. There is a very large attendance at school. I am only acquainted, with Minnie Weber, Rose Hooker and Lulu Pixley. I sit with Hettie Brown. I called at Mrs. Spinner's a little while in the evening.	
Sat. 15	At Mr. Parmer's all forenoon. Went up town in the afternoon to Mr. Mounts. Minnie Weber was here awhile in eve.	
Sun. 16	At Mr. Parmer's: Rained all afternoon.	
Mon. 17	At school. Went up town, after school in the evening.	
Tues. 18	At school. Minnie Weber was here awhile in the evening.	
Wed. 19	At school. Was at Mr. A. J. Thompson's few minutes in eve. to get some milk. I'm getting awfully "home sick" to see all the young folks at Prairie Grove. I'm going out there Friday night to Spiterary if I have to walk the whole 12 miles. I would like to see Jamie but no more than the rest of the folks.	
Thurs. 20	At school. I like the school here ever-so-well.	
Fri. 21	At school all forenoon. Minnie Weber came home with me to dinner, after which we went to Mr. Mounts and got Mary M ^{rs} and went up town, where we met Pa + Ma who took us all out home. And after supper we all went to Spiterary at Prairie Grove, it being last night of Spiterary. ^{wasn't} Not there for it rained, but Jamie Gorman was there to walk home with me and we all had, such a <u>jolly good time</u> .	
Sat. 22	Mary Mount, Minnie Weber + I, went over to uncle Jake Rogers' in the morning and stayed until after dinner, when Minnie W. + I went to Mrs. Ed Holmes and got sister May and come home, stopping awhile on our way at cousin Nelson Saffers, we have had a nice time today.	



Martha Farnsworth diary

62	1884 March 1884
Sun. 23	At home until 10 o'clock A.M. when Will Sapp, Emma Weber, George Rogers, and Mary Mount came + got Minnie + I and took us all back to Winfield, going by uncle Bill Webers where we staid until after dinner, then George + Will, brought Mary + I to Mr. Mounts, when it commenced to rain and I stayed until it quit in the eve, when I went to my Boarding place at Mr. Parmer's. Mr. Mount treated me to "Beer" the first I ever tasted and I think it awfully, nasty, bitter stuff. He had better leave it alone, for he has drunk up his home and every thing he ever had.
Mon. 24	At school. Minnie Weber + Jennie Snyder were here in the eve. I had a jolly time out home and was glad to see Jennie and all the folks.
Tues. 25	At school. Went over to Mr. Thompson's in the evening to get some milk and was introduced to Gene Mrs. Inturff + Will Finch, while there. Will is tall with blue eyes and light mustache, and seems so quiet. Gene is short, with blue eyes, smooth face and quite talkative. I think I will like him the best of the two, tho' I'm not making "mashes"
Wed. 26	At school. Went to P.C. from school in the evening and Minnie Weber came home with me and stayed all night
Thurs. 27	At school. At Mr. Thompson's for milk in eve and saw Mr. Finch + Mr. W. Inturff. Wind blew off awfully hard today; part of time couldn't see across the street for the dust and part of time the sun was even hid by the dust. It was fearful; the hardest dust storm I ever saw in my life. Minnie Weber stayed all night with me
Fri. 28	At school. I saw a Chinaman today; the first in my life. Minnie Weber + I went up town at noon with Letta Heinrich and in eve after school, to the P.C.



Martha Farnsworth diary

	March	63
Sat. 29	At Mr. Parners all forenoon. Went up town in afternoon. Pa and Ma were down to see me. I sent a blue celloid ring to <i>(Kelle Anderson's by them)</i>	
Sun. 30	At Mr. Parners alone in A.M. as they went out in the country three miles to visit a cousin. I went to Mr. Maunts in afternoon and Mary + I went up town to Mr. Frank Grampton's Bakery to see his sister Rena Grampton and were introduced to a Mr. Beaver who "treated" Mary + I to ice cream. Mr. Beaver, Frank + Rena Grampton, Mary + I played 3 games of Cards called "Lotto." The first time I ever played it and I beat two out of 3 games. Mary + I came home <i>(early in ev.)</i>	
Mon. 31.	At school. Rained in the afternoon. We had a jolly time <i>(yesterday)</i>	
APRIL		
Tues. 1.	At school all forenoon; was more in P.M. We've had such a jolly "April Fool Day," but I haven't been fooled out single time all day, but "Oh! so many" of the pupils were and at noon, Gene McInturff ran over from Mrs. Thompson's "bareheaded," to Mrs. Parners, for Mrs. P. told him there were two girls at Parners, who wanted to see him: poor "April Fool" not to catch on.	
Wed. 2	At school. Mrs. Thompson, Ralph + Barrett, Rile Smith + Mrs. Barge were here in the evening.	
Thurs. 3	At school. Gene McInturff + little Ralph Thompson came over in the eve, after a paper, and took me back with them, where I spent the evening playing cards, with Gene, Will Finch + Mrs. Thompson; had a real jolly time and Gene walked home with me.	
Fri. 4	At school. Minnie Weber came up to see me in the eve and we went over to Mrs. Thompson's awhile.	
Sat. 5	In the afternoon I went to Mr. Maunts + got Mary M. + we went to Mr. Bowers + got Jennie Mitchell + went up town. After supper Mrs. Parners + children + I spent the eve at Mrs. Thompson's.	



Martha Farnsworth diary

64	1884 April. 1884
Sun. 6.	At Mr. Parmer's all day. Rained most all afternoon. Mrs. Thompson & children spent the evening with us. I was very homesome all day. I believe I'm beginning to think Mr. McEnturff rd especially Mr. Finch, are quite nice boys: tho' Gene seems to be the jolliest.
Mon. 7.	At school. Went up town from school, in the eve. I like school here very much. rd am making many new friends.
Tues. 8	At school. Minnie Weber came home with me from school rd stayed all night with me. She & I attended a "Concert" at the Opera House, together in the evening, which was just splendid.
Wed. 9	At school. Minnie Weber took dinner with me at Mr. Parmer's at noon. Gene McEnturff was here a few minutes in the morning. As I always go to Mrs. Thompson's for milk, once a day, I see Mr. Gene McEnturff & Mr. Will Finch every day rd we are getting quite well acquainted.
Thurs. 10	At school. Went to the P. O. after school in the evening.
Fri. 11	At school. Was at Mrs. Thompson's anyhow or so in evening.
Sat. 12	Went up town in the afternoon with Minnie Weber. We called a few minutes at Mr. Henry Mounts.
Sun. 13	Went over to Mrs. Thompson's after dinner rd went with Anna Hook to Sunday school at the Methodist church, after which I went back to Mrs. T's with her rd in eve went to church with her at the Methodist. Gene McEnturff rd Will Finch both wanted to go to church with me ^{and} neither, wanted to go with Anna, and as they could not agree between themselves, who should go with me they both "shy" excused themselves to me rd stayed at home and let us go alone.



Martha Farnsworth diary

	1884	April 1884	65
Mon. 14	At school. Spent the evening at Mrs. Thompson's very happily, and Gene McInturff walked over home with me. I see I've made two "conquests" in Gene Mc + Will Finch: wonder who will come out "best." Gene is ahead now. Poor Jamie Carman is being forgotten I'm afraid. Well I <u>don't</u> <u>love</u> him anyway and never did, and people ought to <u>love</u> when they marry. I like Jamie, only as a friend. Frank Frederick, an old admirer of mine at Prairie Grove, is 21 years old today. He has blue eyes. All my "sweet hearts" have, Bert, Jamie, + now Gene + Will.		
Tues. 15	At school. Went up town from school in evening.		
Wed. 16	At school. Stopped at Mrs. Nichols in the eve, on an errand for Mrs. Parmer. Minnie Weber, Jennie Snyder, Anna Hook + Mrs. Thompson + children were here in evening.		
Thurs. 17	At school. Minnie Weber + Eliza Johnson, came to see me in ^{evening} .		
Fri. 18	At school. I spent the eve, at Mrs. Thompson's		
Sat. 19	In the afternoon Mary Mount + uncle Geo. Roger came and took me to Mr. Rodocker's Photograph gallery, where we met cousin Will Sapp + Jamie Carman and all five of us had our pictures taken together. I wasn't a bit glad to see Jamie; after having our pictures taken, we all went to Mr. Mount's, Jamie walking with me. The boys all went home, to Prairie Grove, from Mount's + I went back to Mr. Parmer's. I spent the eve very happily at Mrs. Thompson's, with Anna Hook + Will F. + Gene Mc whose company I enjoyed more than Jamie's.		
Sun. 20	I spent the afternoon + eve at Mrs. Thompson's, when Gene McInturff walked home with me. Will F. + Gene cut off a piece of my "hair ribbon" in memory of the evening which was a most jolly, happy one.		



Martha Farnsworth diary

66	April 1884
Mon. 21	At school. Mrs. Thompson + Mrs. Parmer have been trying to get Will Finch + I, to going together, but Gene + I seem to "Match" better. I'm 16, and Gene is 18. Will is 21 and seems much older to me; but, both are nice boys.
Tues. 22	At school, went up town with Minnie Weber, at noon ^{and} to the P. O. in evening after school.
Wed. 23	At school. I see Will + Gene every day, and think them very nice boys. Jim Flint is 15 years old today. There was a very heavy <u>frost</u> last night ^{and} ice this morning.
Thurs. 24	At Mrs. Parmer's all day; my eyes are bothering me ^{and} I did not go to school. Minnie Weber came ^{and} took me out driving in the evening. We drove up to the "Water works Reservoir" east of the City ^{and} had a lovely drive.
Fri. 25	Went to school, in the afternoon. Cora Finch, Pearl Friend + I went up town together, in eve ^{ing} after school. We have good times at school.
Sat. 26 ²⁶	Went up town in the afternoon. This is my 17 th birthday ^{and} I've had to keep out of sight, of Gene + Will all day, for they were determined to give me a whipping. Anna Bronnershine sent me a pretty glass cup, Mrs. Parmer gave me some candy, Mrs. Parmer, a gold "Bread-pin" + Eliza Johnson a pretty collar ^{and} all for my Birthday presents.
Sun. 27	Went to Mrs. Thompson's for milk as usual, this morning ^{and} Will Finch caught me, turned me across his knee ^{and} whipped me awfully hard, with the Clothes-brush, he said to make me remember my 17 birthday ^{and} I always will. Minnie Weber took me out to her home in the morning ^{and} we went to S. S. at Walnut Valley Church in the morning ^{and} after dinner we went to Mr. Corban's ^{and}



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APRIL 1887.

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played "Outdoors" awhile, then drove back to town^{2d} got
Olifa Johnson^{2d} all three went to see Anna Hook at hers.
Thompson^{2d} and Will Finch went to Baptist church with
we four girls, in eve but we made Will walk with Anna.
After church Will + I took Anna home, then took a short
walk around two or three blocks^{2d} then home. Will scolded
because I would not walk to church with her^{2d} Anna, instead
of making him walk alone with Anna. He said I knew
that I was the only one of the "lunch" that he wanted
to go with. Of course I knew it, but I wanted to tease him

Mon. 28 At school. Rained most all day. I have nice times
at school, but everyone is strange; not like my old friends.

Tues. 29 At school. Minnie + Emma Weber came for me in the
eve^{2d} and we all three went to "Hannings' Opera House" to
hear Maj. Gen. Prentiss, Lecture on, "The Battle of
Shiloh" and it was just splendid.

Wed. 30 At school. Went to Mr. Mount in the evening
after school, to Mary's "wedding". Mary Mount
and Fred Gross were married at six o'clock P.M. by
Judge Barrs. Had a real nice time. Mary was
so happy + proud of Fred. I don't feel a bit like I
would be happy if I married Jamie, I guess I'm
beginning to like some one else better - Will for instance
I hope Mary + Fred will always be happy. Mary is the
first girl I became acquainted with when I came
to Kansas, from Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, in Dec, 1872.
I was ally 5 years old then^{2d} of Mary + I have always
been friends. Ed Mount walked home with me after
the wedding.

MAY

Thurs. 1 At school. Ge Cott, Lea Rue Limerick + Israce Wary were^{here}

Fri 2 At school. Emma + Minnie Weber came to see me in
eve. Emma stayed all night^{2d} and pierced my ears.



Martha Farnsworth diary

68	MAY 1884.
Sat. 3	Went up town in the afternoon nd called at Mrs. Limerick's. I know Pa won't like it very well, because I had my ears pierced last night; he says that is the way Indians do.
Sun. 4	Mirnie Weber + Eliza Johnson came in the afternoon for me to go walking with them. We went to the West R.R. Bridge, over the Walnut River, where a year or so ago, Charlie Cobb - a 19 year old Boy - was hung by a Mob for killing Sheriff Sherrerman, while trying to arrest him. We went to Bliss' Mill too; had a long walk, then I came home nd Will Finch came nd took me to meeting. I had a jolly time today.
Mon. 5	At school. Called at Mrs. Limerick's few minutes at noon. I spent the eve at Mr. Thompson's. Anna Hook told me "Fortune" with Cards.
Tues. 6	At home all forenoon: the folks got up, too late, for me to go to school, went to school in afternoons.
Wed. 7.	At school. I like school very much, but liked it better out in the Country at Prairie Grove.
Thurs. 8.	At school. Anna Hook came over in the evening nd went with me to the Opera House to hear the Graduating exercises of the High School. They were good, and 6 graduated.
Fri. 9	At school. The Last day of school and I feel sorry. Pa was down to see me. I went up town after school, nd spent a very jolly evening at Mr. Thompson's.
Sat. 10	Cora Finch came nd we went to the school house, where we scholars all met to get our "Promotion" Cards. Cora + I were both promoted to High School.



Martha Farnsworth diary

May 1884.		69
Sun. 11	Went for a walk in the afternoon, with Will Finch to Riverside Park. We spent the evening at Will's, father's and had such a jolly good time.	
Mon. 12	At Mr. Parmer's where I am to stay this summer and be ready for school in the fall. She has two children and wants me to help her. Pa was not very willing for me to stay.	
Tues. 13.	At Parmer's. Rained all forenoon and spoiled the Picnic the school intended to have today, I spent eve at Mr. Thompson's.	
Wed. 14	Went up town in afternoon to P.O. and called at Capt. Hamta to see Minnie Weber. Mrs. Parmer said she would give me \$2.00 a week to stay with her this summer. Pa would rather I was at home. I would rather be here, where I can see Will.	
Thurs. 15	At Parmer's. Will Finch + I went for a walk in the evening, up to the "mounds" east of the city; the city looks lovely, lying so quietly, down in the valley of the Walnut River. I almost quarreled with Will this eve, because I have promised to go to a "Circus" tomorrow with another fellow and he thinks I belong to him. I didn't know Will wanted me to go with him; the other fellow asked me long ago.	
Fri. 16	At Parmer's. Ed Smith came for me to go to the "Circus" with him in the afternoon, but I told him a "fib" and stayed at home. Poor Ed felt very badly because I would not go. I told Will I would go with him this eve, but I didn't. I had to "fib" all around. I could not pick up courage to go with Will, after "lying" to Ed. I'm afraid I have too many "strings to my bow."	
Sat. 17	Went to P.O. in afternoon and took a short walk with Anna Hook in the eve. I enjoy being here in town very much but would like to see my country friends often.	



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May 1884		71
Wed. 28	At Mr. Parmer's: about evening I walked $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles out in the country to Uncle Bill Weber's, it being Minnie's, 17 th Birthday and she had a Party. We had a jolly good time and a supper; there were 18 present. Eliza Johnson, Jaley Harman + I stayed all night. We went to bed at 8 o'clock A. M.	
Thurs. 29	Minnie Weber, Eliza Johnson, Jaley Harman + I got up at 5:30 A. M. and walked to town. (At Parmer's all day.)	
Fri. 30	My folks were in from the country today and sister Belle ate dinner with me. It being Decoration Day, she + I went up town after dinner to see the Parade. I spent the evening at Mr. Thompson's.	
Sat. 31	Anna Hook, came over in the afternoon and we had a jolly time, looking over town, at people thru' the "field glass." It is a splendid one.	
June		
Sun. 1	Anna Hook + I went to Emma Gunbar's in afternoon. I see Will everyday when I go to G's for milk.	
Mon. 2	At Parmer's. Went to Mr. Thompson's in evening and Minnie Weber came to see me, so Will Finch + I took her home to Mr. Hunt's, first stopping at an Ice-cream Parlor. After we came home, Will + I sat out on our Porch and talked all evening.	
Tues. 3	At Mr. Parmer's. I went up town in the afternoon with Anna Hook. In the evening Will Finch + Anna Hook came over. Anna went up stairs and talked with Mrs. Parmer and left Will + I to ourselves and we sat on the Porch and talked all evening: this little love affair, is mutual, and in dead earnest, not like it was with Jamie. With Will + I it was "love at first sight" tho' both of us were engaged to someone else: but I've broken mine and it waits to be seen whether Will can live or not. I hope he can.	



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72	June 1887
Wed. 4. th	Minnie Weber + I drove out to her father's in the afternoon, about 2½ miles in the country S.E. of town rd also drove to Mr. Thirsk about a mile farther
Thurs. 5	<p>Mr. + Mrs. George Parmer went out to Cambridge today to see their niece, Lizzie Parmer, married to Rev. James Gull, at 8 o'clock P.M. They were gone all night. so I was alone all day. Anna Hook com^{ed} had me go home with her for supper, then she came and staid all night with me.</p>
Fri. 6.	<p>At Mr. Thompson's for breakfast and there until noon when the folks came home. Cora Finch came to see me awhile, then went to Thompson's and after supper she + Will came for me^{ed} we all went to the Ice-cream Parlor, then to Rose Hixon's where we spent a jolly hour or two, then took Cora home^{ed} then Will + I came home^{ed} sat on the veranda and talked until 11 o'clock. These talks with Will are getting very serious^{ed} and mean very much to both of us.</p>
Sat. 7	<p>At Mr. Thompson's about an hour in eve, when Anna Hook came home with me^{ed} stayed all evening. I always enjoy going to Mr. Thompson's for I always see and talk with Will Finch, and he is very dear to me.</p>
Sun. 8	<p>Will Finch came for me in the afternoon^{ed} and we went and got his sister Cora, then went to Riverside Park for the afternoon^{ed} and spent the early part of the eve with Cora, then Will + I came home and had our usual talk on the veranda. I feel very differently toward Will, to what I did Jannie so I guess it is <u>love</u> this time.</p>
Mon. 9.	<p>Cora Finch came in P.M. + she and I went to the Bretton Hotel to see Emma Weber^{ed} also to Mr. Mauntz. In eve I went to Opera House with Anna Hook to hear "Helen Sawyer" lecture on Kansas ^{Rio la}</p>



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June 1884	
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Tues. 10.	At Mr. P's. Spent the eve at Mrs. Thompson's where I went to get the ruffles for my new lawn dress, stitched: it is a very pretty dress. Will Finch walked home with me, but did not stay this time.
Wed. 11	Gora Finch came ^{ed} & stayed all afternoon with me ^{ed} & cut out our new lawn dresses: they are just a like ^{ed} & we are making them alike. She stayed for supper with me, then I went with her, to her brother Frank's who is jailer and lives over the jail, and to Rose Hixon's awhile, then I came home & Gora went home.
Thurs. 12	Mr. Parmer hired a "three-seated Livery-rig" & I took Mrs. Parmer, Hugh & Baby, Mrs. Thompson, Ralph & Barret, Blanche Parmer ^{ed} & Anna Hook, all out to my father's farm, about 12 miles north of City. We left City at 8 o'clock A. M. & returned at 8 P. M. after a most jolly day at home. Came near being run over, by the cars, at a R.R. crossing near the City, on our return. Pa has bushels of cherries and how we did eat. And I made a "cherry string" & brought Will.
Fri. 13	At P's. Eliza Johnson & I went "horse-back riding" in the early eve ^{ed} & her horse "threw" her ^{ed} & run off home. She was not hurt, but had to walk home. I was at Mr. P's all eve ^{ed} & Will walked home with me. I go to P's every day but it is to get milk for Mrs. Parmer, not to see Will, tho' I see him.
Sat. 14	Went down town in the afternoon, to see any of my friends who might be in from the country. I saw Golden Kistler & Eliza Hansen who came in ^{ed} & were married at 3 o'clock P. M. by Judge Lane. I went down to see Gora Finch & stayed until 10:30 P. M. After supper Minnie Weber & Will Finch came; Minnie, Will & I went to an Ice-cream Parlor, then took Minnie home to her. Hunt and then Will brought me home: he is a jolly, good boy.



Martha Farnsworth diary

74	June 1884
Sun. 15	Will Finch came for me in the morning nd I went down to his father's with him nd stayed until 1 o'clock P.M. then went to Rose Hixon's awhile, then home nd later we went to the United Brethren church, to meeting going by Rose's, for she + Cora Finch.
Mon. 16	At Mr. P's. Spent the evening at Mr. P's with Anna H, but of course I got to see my "sweet William" as they call him.
Tues. 17	Called on Mrs. Limerick in afternoon. Solola Moore nd Nettie Waugh called on me this afternoon, Mrs. Parmer nd children + I, spent the eve at Mr. Thompson's.
Wed. 18	I went to Cora Finch's in afternoon nd stayed until after supper, when Cora F. + I went to Rose Hixon's awhile, then started home, when it commenced to rain nd we stayed all night at her brother Frank Finch's.
Thurs. 19	A bright, pretty morning after the rain nd I came home early. I went to P. G. in afternoon + called at Cora's. The late afternoon, Mrs. Parmer + I spent at Mr. P's, nd Will + I put in our time, sitting in the hammock, talking. Will makes a splendid "sweet heart."
Fri. 20	At P's. Mrs. Parmer + children, + I spent the evening at Mrs. Thompson's. No wonder Will + I, are "falling so much in love," we see each other, day nd night and all the time.
Sat. 21	Went down town in afternoon nd called at Frank Finch's. We all spent the evening at Mrs. Thompson's again.
Sun. 22	Went to Sunday school, in the morning, to the United Brethren church. In afternoon Will + I went down to his father's nd got Cora + Rose Hixon nd went to the Park for the afternoon. We all went to Rose's from the Park nd at church time to Catholic church, but it was so crowded we went back to Rose's awhile then home.



Martha Farnsworth diary

June 1884 Winfield, Kansas 75	
Mon. 28	At Mr. Parmer's. Only got a glimpse of Will today.
Tue. 24	At P's. Will came over in the evening and gave me his Photograph, the "original" is just as good as mine, if he is engaged to another girl: that will be broken, but it takes time ^{3rd} Will, <u>loves</u> me with all his <u>heart</u> .
Wed. 25	At P's. Rained very hard this A.M. and evening.
Thurs. 26	Went to Mrs. Thompson's for the eve, but Minnie Weber came ^{3rd} and Will + I walked home with her ^{3rd} then Will spent the eve with me. Will is just a <u>perfect</u> Boy Jan 17 now ^{3rd} he is 21, tall and has blue-eyes.
Fri. 27	I spent most of the afternoon at Mrs. F's with Mrs. P. Sister May and Carrie Plunket called to see me.
Sat. 28	Went down town in the afternoon ^{3rd} had some Photographs taken. Went to Mr. Finch's and spent the evening, with Will, we first calling at Rose H's.
Sun. 29	Went to S.S. in morning at United Brethern Church. In afternoon Will Finch + I went to Rose Hixon's ^{3rd} stayed all afternoon ^{3rd} in eve he + I took a long walk, out thro' west part of town ^{3rd} crossed the Southern Kansas R.R. Bridge. Some trains coming in, kept us on the other side some time ^{3rd} we sat a large stone ^{3rd} talked till safe to cross back, then went to Rose's ^{3rd} four couples of us went to Grampton's Ice cream Parlor, for ice cream ^{3rd} then Will + I went home ^{3rd} it was almost 12 o'clock when Will went home. Such a lovely eve ^{3rd} new moon.
Mon. 30	Mrs. Thompson + children + Anna Hook, spent the evening with Mrs. P. + I. Mrs. F. + Mrs. P. are trying to interfere with Will + I. want Will to go with Anna ^{3rd} and me get a new fellow; <u>not much</u>



Martha Farnsworth diary

76	July 1884
Tues. 1.	I went down town in the eve nd met Cora F rd and we went to Rose Hixon's awhile, then home.
Wed. 2.	At P. Mrs. Finch + George, stopped in, a few minutes in the evening to see me.
Thurs. 3.	Went down to Frank Finch's in the evening nd got Cora, then home with her, where Will met me nd and he + I took a short walk, down to the river, by the Mill, just long enough, to "whisper a few words of love, to tell me how dear I am to him" then all went up town to see the Old Soldier's Parade, went to an Ice-cream Parlor nd home and to bed early, for tomorrow is the "Fourth" and Will is to be a "special" Policeman.
Fri. 4.	Up bright + early nd packed my Lunch basket, then went to Frank Finch's for Cora + she + I to Rose H's then up town to see the Parade nd to the Fair grounds to the Fourth of July Celebrations. Will ate dinner with us nd spent all the time he could, with me. I went home for supper nd after supper Will and Gene McInturff - who has been out of city for sometime) came for me to go down town with them to see the Fireworks, which were just grand; after they were over, Will came home with me nd we talked till mid night. This has been such a <u>very, very</u> happy day to me. I know I'm so happy because Will loves me so much. I saw poor Jamie today, but dared not speak to him, lest I should encourage his love, that I do not want; he looked <u>wretched</u> and I'm sorry for him, but most too happy in my new love, to feel ^{very} sorry. Jamie is too be pitied if he cares for me as I do for Will, and I have every reason to think he does. It would break my heart to lose Will, tho' we are not engaged.

Cora Finch introduced me to Charlie Jenkins, today; he is an old man of here or wants to be one, and appears very nice.



Martha Farnsworth diary

July 1884		77
Sat. 5.	In the evening Anna Hook came over ^{ed} told me Will Finch was sick, and wanted to see me, of course I went over ^{ed} found it only a joke. I guess they wanted to see how much I really cared for the Boy. She is "gone" on him but won't do her any good: he doesn't care a "straw" for her.	
Sun. 6	Thermometer was up to 100° today. Sister May came to see me ^{ed} toward eve, Will came ^{ed} took us to Riverside Park, we returned home by the R.R. Bridges: the one near the Mill I jumped off of ^{ed} May + Will came down the ladder, the other one we had to wait some little time to let the cars cross; we then took May to Mr. Bryan's where she stayed all night and Will + I came home by way of the woods east of the City: it was such a lovely, Moonlight, night.	
Mon. 7	Thermometer 101° today. At Mr. F's awhile in the eve ^{ed} Will turned Anna + I completely over several times as we sat in the hammock. I think so much of Will.	
Tues. 8.	Thermometer 104° today - awfully hot. In eve I went down to Mr. Frank Finch's to spend the eve with Cora, they being gone ^{ed} Will came down ^{ed} walked home with me. I don't know what I'd do without my dear, blue-eyed, Will; he is <u>so good</u> .	
Wed. 9	Mrs. Thompson spent the evening with us. very cool day ^{ed} beautiful moonlight evening.	
Thurs. 10.	Cora Finch + Clara McEnturff came to see me in the late afternoon ^{ed} we three girls went to the P. O. then to Cora's ^{ed} from there to the Bliss Hill ^{ed} went up on top of it four stories high. When starting home, we met Will + all went to Cora's awhile then Will came home with me.	



Martha Farnsworth diary

78	July 1884
Fri. 11.	Lennie Thompson is 18 years old today, was at Mrs. G's awhile in the afternoon ^{and} again in the eve, when Will walked home with me, as he was on his way down town.
Sat. 12	Called at Mrs. Bull's in afternoon; In late afternoon Mrs. Farmer + I went to Mrs. G's to a surprise, birthday Party on Mr. Thompson; it being his 40 th birthday. There were 32 present ^{and} we just had a jolly time: had a Picnic supper
Sun. 13	Went to Riverside Park in the afternoon with Will Finch, going by his father's for few min ^{and} we spent the evening at his father's, then came home ^{and} sat on the east piazza ^{and} talked until 11 o'clock. Will is such a good Boy.
Mon. 14	Emma Weber came to see me in afternoon ^{and} early in eve she + I went to Mrs. Hunt's ^{and} then spent the evening at Rose Hixon's.
Tues. 15	Rained hard most all day: Will Finch got word today from Elk Falls, Kans. to come on, at once and accept a position in a Mill over there so about 4 o'clock P.M. he came over ^{and} bid me good bye ^{and} took the 5 o'clock train for Elk Falls: it just broke my heart. I've been so "blue" all evening, I couldn't eat any supper ^{and} I've nearly cried my eyes out. I didn't know I did care so much for him, until now he is gone: how can I ever <u>stand it.</u>
Wed. 16	Went over to Mrs. G's in eve awhile to see Emma Weber who is "sewing" there, but it is so lone some there, without my Will, I could not stay. Was up town in afternoon. I've cried all day today ^{and} when ever I was alone. I'm so lonesome.



Martha Farnsworth diary

July 1884		79
Thurs. 17.	<p>At Mr. To's awhile in the eve, Minnie Weber + Ross Branson while out driving, stoped there to see me; this is Ross's 19th birth-day, he is Minnie's fellowrd not near so nice as my Will. Oh! how lonesome I am without Will. Carrie Plunket, Fannie Bryanrd sister May, where here to see me <u>in the eve.</u></p>	
Fri. 18.	<p>Was at Mr. Thompson's to spend the evening, but it makes me so lonesome to go there, I cry myself to sleep when I go to bed. I wish he'd come back.</p>	
Sat. 19	<p>Went down town in afternoonrd and met Cora Finckrd and we went to Mrs. McKeenold's, to Frank Finck'srd and to the Shooting Gallery to see Isene McInturff, then I came on homerd and Cora went home.</p>	
Sun. 20	<p>Oh! it is so <u>lonesome</u> everywhere, without Will; after dinner I went to Frank Finck's for Cora but she had gone home, so went to Mr. Bryan's for Carrie Plunketrd and sister May, then to Mr. J. H. Finck's where we got Corard and all went to Riverside Park, for the afternoon. About sundown we all came to Rose Hixson's for a while, then May + Carrie went to Bryan'srd and Cora + I started for a short walk, when we met Isene McInturff, who went with merd and George McCallahan who walked with Corard and all came to my houserd and spent the eve. I wish it had been Will instead <u>of Isene.</u></p>	
Mon. 21.	<p>At Mr. Thompson's awhile this morning.</p>	
Tues. 22.	<p>Sam spent, one of my old "beaux" from the country, came in to see me in the afternoonrd and I went down town with him. I wouldn't let him come back with me; I stoped at the Shooting Gallery to see Isene McInturff few minutes also at Frank Finck's, to see Cora. Cora called to see me in the evening.</p>	



Martha Farnsworth diary

80	July 1884
Wed. 23	<p>Oliver Bradshaw came up in the evening to see me^{and} we went for a walk^{and} after our return he stayed and talked until 11 o'clock. He said I was the one, among all the girls at Prairie Grove, that he wanted to go with^{and} I would never give him a chance to go with me, always kept "shy" of him - well, I never fall in love with my teachers. He <u>proposed</u> to me^{and} I told him I would not marry until I was an "old maid" and that would be 13 years from now: he said he would wait 13 years, if he could have me in the end. I told him "<u>a</u>right:" he would think his chance "<u>s</u>lim" if he knew how much I cared for Will.</p>
Thurs. 24	<p>At Mrs. Thompson's awhile in the morning^{and} got an introduction to Harvey McClellan while there. Oh! how I do want to see Will and every one is trying to get me to take Jamie back again, because he is so broken hearted^{and} tried to "commit suicide" by taking strychnine but his mother, caught him, just in time. I'm sorry for poor Jamie, but I can't love him. Will has the heart and soul, tho' we are not engaged yet, but he <u>loves</u> me I know.</p>
Fri. 25	<p>I went down town in eve, stopping at Frank F's for Cora, who also came home with me^{and} we went to Mrs. Thompson's awhile: I walked part way home with Cora, then came back home.</p>
Sat. 26	<p>In afternoon, went down town, got Cora Finch, Hettie Linnierick & sister May and all went out home with Pa + Ma who came for us and after supper at Pa's, Cora, Hettie, Lottie</p>



Martha Farnsworth diary

July 1884

81

- Pontious + sisters May + Bellerd + I went to Mr. White's - about 1/4 miles, to Elfy White's Birthday Party, she being 16 years old today. Stopped at uncle Joe Anderson's awhile on our way there: had such a jolly good time at the Party, after which Ed Smith, (an old admirer of mine) walked home with Cora + I. Hettie, Gattie + Cora stayed all night with us; we got home, away after mid-night.
- Sun. 27 At Pa's until after dinner when cousin Will Safford + Jamie Carman camerd + took Cora, sister May + I back to Winfield, Cora + I rode in the seat with Will: they all had a good time but merd + I wanted Will. Jamie was glad to be near me, even if I wouldn't ride with him. I didn't want him along; it made me feel "cheaf" after way I've treated him.
- Mon. 28 Went down town in the afternoonrd finding Corard at the Shooting Gallery, we talked awhile with Gene W. Duntzff + Geo. W. Glellan, then I came home. Josiah Calvin, came in the evening to see me, and stayed talking until 12 o'clock: he is one of my dear old friends from the country.
- Tues. 29 At Mr. P's awhile in the morning; so lonesome
- Wed. 30 Mrs. Parmer + childrenrd + I spent the evening at Mr. Thompson's. I want to see Will so much.
- Thurs. 31 With Mrs. Parmer at Mrs. Burge's + Mrs. Olive's awhile in the afternoon. Glenn Bradshaw came in the evening and we went down town for Ice creamrd + he staid until almost mid-night after we came home. He is wasting his time, for I will never love any one but Will, I know.



Martha Farnsworth diary

82	August 1884
Fri. 1.	At Mr. Thompson's in the afternoon. Anna Hook spent the eve with me: how I wish Will was here. I get nice letters from him, but it is nicer to have him here: he writes he will be over to see me, next Sunday nd & I would I be happy. Clem Bradshaw was down to see me this evening.
Sat. 2.	I went down town in afternoon nd & meeting Cora F. & we had some pictures taken together at Mr. Entire's, also Minnie Weber & I had some taken.
Sun. 3.	Went to the "Southern Kansas" R.R. Depot at 9:30 A. M. to meet my dear Will, but he didn't come nd & I was <u>bitterly</u> disappointed. Cora F. and Gene McEntire nd came to see me in the evening nd & we went for a walk to the "mounds" east of town and staid until 10 o'clock.
Mon. 4.	At Thompson's awhile in afternoon, <u>so</u> <u>lovesome</u>
Tues. 5.	Went down town in afternoon nd & called at Mr. Waters to see Rose Hixson, Mr. Hunt to see Minnie Weber nd & Lgs. Bull's to see Idola Moore.
Wed. 6.	Ruby Whipple here awhile in the morning, nd & Minnie Weber in the afternoon.
Thurs. 7.	Went to Mr. Bull's in evening nd & went with Idola Moore & Jess Kuhn to Prayer meeting at the Baptist church. I wish Will was here.
Fri. 8.	Minnie Weber came in the afternoon nd & took me for a drive to Riverside Park and the Fair grounds. I miss Will everywhere I go.
Sat. 9.	Idola Moore & I went down town in the afternoon, and called at Mrs. Plater's to see Emma Weber.



Martha Farnsworth diary

August 1884.		83
Sun. 10	Went to the Depot this morning to meet my Will and he came at 10 o'clock. I had to tell a "fib" to the folks for every one, is now opposing, my going with him and I told them I was going to S.S. I went with Will to his father's and staid all day; after dinner he + I took a short walk, to the Santa Fe R.R. Bridge. He had to return on the 5 P.M. train and Cora, Lure McEnturff + I went to Depot with him, where he kissed me good bye and nearly broke my heart, going away again. Cora then walked home with me and in about 1/2 hour, Lure Mc + George McGlellan came and took us out driving. We drove about 7 miles out in the country, and it was a lovely drive, but I wanted Will all the time, tho' it was a very jolly evening, as it was.	
Mon. 11	At Thompson's awhile in the morning. the folks know that I saw Will yesterday and are mad about it, but I am very happy, tho' it makes me more lonesome.	
Tues. 12	Went to P.O. in afternoon to get a letter from Will and I got it too.	
Wed. 13.	Went to Mr. Hunt's toward evening, to see Minnie Weber + she and I went to Mr. Water's awhile, then I went to Frank Finch's awhile to see Cora and came home.	
Thurs. 14	At Mr. F's awhile in the morning: LITTLE, Minnie Clark, died this morning. she was so sweet.	
Fri. 15	Idola Moore, came in the afternoon, for me to go calling with her. we called on Cora Finch, Minnie Weber and Rose Hixon. I spent the evening at F's.	
Sat. 16	Called at Mrs. Limerick's in the afternoon and went down town. Ed Smith went home today, to Indianapolis, Ind. They say he wanted me very much, but was too shamy ahead of him and he	



Martha Farnsworth diary

84	August 1884
Sun. 17	Minnie Weber came for me, bright & early and we drove out to Prairie Grove, to Pa's and stayed until 1:30 P.M. when cousin Will Sapp came and he, Minnie & I, all drove up to Green Valley, to Mr. Carman's. I didn't want to go, but they all insisted: they are trying to get me to "go back" to Jamie again and I can't love him. We did not get out of the Buggy, but talked about an hour to Jamie and then drove back to Winfield, cousin Will riding at least 6 or 7 miles with us and then walked back. We got back about 6 o'clock after a good visit at home.
Mon. 18	At Pa's, very lonely without Will.
Tues. 19	Called to see Minnie in afternoon and also at Mr. Water's. Grace Gary is 9 years old today.
Wed. 20	At Parmer's. Mr. & Mrs. Tull, of Cambridge, were here today.
Thurs. 21	Went down town in afternoon and called at Rose H's. Went to the Skating Rink in evening with Minnie W.
Fri. 22	Went out in the country in the afternoon to uncle Bill Weber's with Minnie and stayed until dark.
Sat. 23	In the afternoon, without any "warning" who should come, but Jamie Carman! how I hated to see him, but in spite of my heart's protest, we "talked over," the past and now are "engaged" again. I could not "hold out" against his "pleadings" when I saw the tears, streaming down his cheeks and saw his whole body trembling, for very love of me. Poor boy, I wish I could love him, but I know I'll never love any one but Will, but I must bury my own heart now, and try to like Jamie all I can. After we "made up" we went down town together, and Jamie seemed so happy. Ah! how can I ever marry him.



Martha Farnsworth diary

August 1884.	
85	
Sun. 24	At Parmer's Oh! so lonely for I'm used, at least on Sunday, to being with a <u>dear one</u> and now to know I never will be again. how can I tell Will what I've done, for he will be so disappointed, tho' he wasn't out of his other engagement. <u>I don't love Jamie</u> and <u>never can.</u>
Mon. 25	Minnie Weber called in eve ^g and she + I called at Mr. Bull's for Odola Moore. Lola + I walked to the "Court house" square, with Minnie on her way home. I told Minnie of my <u>wake up</u> with Jamie. Minnie takes my part and favors Will.
Tue. 26	At Thompson's awhile in the morning. I wish Will had stayed here, then Jamie could not have had a chance to "coax" me back. Oh! well I may get over it; a girl of 17 is not expected to know <u>what</u> or <u>who</u> she wants and is excusable for most anything she does. I'll try to be <u>good to Jamie</u> .
Wed. 27.	Odola Moore called to see me in afternoon.
Thurs. 28	Pa was down to see me today. Emma + John Weber called too, to see me. I spent the eve, at G's with Mrs. P.
Fri. 29	At Parmer's all day; so <u>much more</u> lonely now there is <u>no hope</u>
Sat. 30	Went down town in afternoon and got a letter from Will. At Thompson's; ^{eye} they + Parmer's are glad, Jamie "came on the scene"; they think that ends all between Will + I. Harvey McClellan asked me to drive with him tomorrow and I said I would. Jamie sent me word he was coming down, but maybe I can run away, for I'd rather drive with Harvey.
Sun. 31.	Minnie Weber came early in afternoon, also Jamie Parmer also Harvey McClellan, for the promised drive, and Jamie looked so pitiful, I had to fib to Harvey and stay at home with Jamie. I think I have a few "too many strings to my bow" I will just have to drop Jamie again for I can't love him and don't want him coming here.



Martha Farnsworth diary

86	September 1884
Mon. 1.	Thompson's + Parmer's think I treated Harvey <u>one</u> badly, yesterday, but I didn't <u>go to</u> . I wish so many didn't "fall in love with me", or whatever it is. Gora Finch, Idola Moore + Ruby Whipple called to see me in afternoon.
Tues. 2.	Minnie Weber, came on "horseback" in afternoon and I got on behind her, and we rode out in the country to her father's and stayed until after dark: and I enjoyed myself very much, if I am "engaged" to <u>one</u> , in love with <u>another</u> , and <u>several more</u> strings to my bow, I might spare.
Wed. 3.	Mrs. F. and children spent the evening here.
Thurs. 4.	At Mrs. F's in the eve. A hot, windy day. A beautiful moonlight ^{(night,}
Fri. 5.	With Mrs. Parmer, spent the evening at Thompson's.
Sat. 6.	Went down town in afternoon, met cousin Will Sapp and meeting Minnie Weber, Will took us to Crumpton's Ice cream Parlor and treated us to ice cream.
Sun. 7.	Gora Finch + John Brooke, came in the afternoon for me to go to Riverside Park with them, we stopped at Gora's awhile in eve and called at Mrs. Water's, then brought <u>me home</u> .
Mon. 8.	Gora was up to see me, awhile in the morning.
Tues. 9.	At Parmer's. Got a letter from Will today: he feels <u>very badly</u> to think I've gone back to Jamie but says Jamie has first right to me: poor Will is so unselfish, I know his heart is breaking so is mine and I never will marry Jamie.
Wed. 10.	Called on Minnie W. + Idola Moore in afternoon and Minnie and Ella Bogg's called to see me later in day.



Martha Farnsworth diary

September 1884.		87
Thurs. 11	Mrs. Parmer took Hugh and went to Skating rink in eve with Mrs. Thompson & I stayed home alone & took care of Baby.	
Fri. 12	Minnie W. my dearest Cousin was up to see me in evening.	
Sat. 13	Called on Idola Moore few min. in P.M. & went down town & called on Mrs. Harter at Bretters Hotel, with Emma Weber.	
Sun. 14	Jamie Carman, came to see me, just a little past noon & later he & I called at Sgt. Bull's for Idola Moore & Jess. Kubi & went to Riverside Park for the afternoon. We stopped at Rose Hixson on our way home. I knew Jamie wanted to have me all to himself, but I can't bear to be alone with him, for he "loves me to death" and can do nothing but tell me about it over & over, and I can't bear to hear it, it is hateful to me, for I can't love him the least bit & in return he overwhelms me with love I do not want. I pity the poor Boy, but that is all. He stayed with me until "plum" midnight. I'm glad he only comes down every two weeks.	
Mon. 15	At Parmer's: they think I ought to marry Jamie at once, for think he is <u>so nice</u> : <u>too nice</u> to lose.	
Tues. 16	At Mr. Stretch's awhile in the evening.	
Wed. 17	Went down to see Cora F. in the afternoon & she & Carrie Bouche walked up town with me & rode home with Jack Spacock. We saw two little niggers fighting & Jack said something to them and one of them threw an open knife at him, just missing him.	
Thurs. 18	Minnie Weber, took dinner with me today.	
Wed. 19	At Parmer's. Wish Will would come over to see me & I know he wants too, but can't get off.	



Martha Farnsworth diary

88 Saturday Sept. 20	Sept. 1884
	Went to "Lella Bros. Circus" in the afternoon with Jamie Garman. Jamie stayed to supper with me in the eve nd went home at 9 o'clock, or rather to the Hotel, to stay all night.
Sun. 21	Jamie came to see me about 11 o'clock A.M. ^{and} stayed until in afternoon, when he went out home to the country. I wish he would "get stuck" on some other girl; I hate so to have him come to see me, that I can hardly treat him right; he must think I'll make a pretty cold wife.
Mon. 22	At Parmer's. They think every thing of Jamie. Wish I did.
Tues. 23	Aunt Anna Van Gerdol died today noon, leaving a pretty little, 5 year old, daughter, Bella, that she gave us. Uncle Will + Neal Anderson came in for me in the eve nd I went out home to Pa's.
Wed. 24	Went to Grandpa Anderson's, with my folks, at 10 o'clock A.M. to Aunt Anna Van's funeral. She was buried at Floral. Went home with Nelson Sapp. in afternoon nd stayed all night.
Thurs. 25	Came back to town this morning with cousin Nelson Sapp. My Will is over from Elk Falls. I went to the Fair in the afternoon with Minnie Weber nd met Will there nd was so glad to see him, I cried. Jamie Garman is down too, but I wouldn't let him come out to see me, Minnie ate supper with me nd then we went down town where we met Will + a fellow for Minnie nd we all went to the Theatre, nd took the largest way home afterwards. I've been so happy with Will today. Minnie always helps us to get together; she is just the dearest, best, girl and does everything for me.