

*[Two page letter to Effie from her mother, Mrs. Watts. First page missing]*

[Front of remaining page]

I have just heard that Josephine Cosmann is dead – putrid sore was her disease - she was going to Miss Brown's School - I had not missed her but now recollect I have not seen her for several days - I haven't heard any of the particulars except that she requested that Mr. Early should preach her funeral sermon. Altho' so young, not more than fifteen if that, she has been a consistent member of the church for several years – the greatest sorrow of my life is that my children are not all Christians - If one of them should die without religion, my peace would be embittered [embittered] forever in this world, but the consequence to them would be awful indeed - I can never cease praying for them - with my latest breath I will think of those so dear –

Dear Effie let not nothing draw you from your Savior – he is the best friend of all – if you cling to him he will be with you in every trouble he will make your life and death happy

[Back of remaining page]

Your friends frequently inquire after you - I am glad you have such nice grapes, We had delicious ones – but not much other fruit in the garden - I made no preserves this year – Sugar is too scarce - the first time I have not made them since I have been a housekeeper  
Mr. Benner has gone to Europe. I don't know how he managed to get off-

Your Pa and Maida are in bed fast asleep – he coincides with me respecting the “officer”

You must not think I intend to hurt the feelings of either – I love you too dearly for that –  
May Heaven's choicest blessings rest upon you all.