

A very nice letter
to Miss Mary Cooley

by Margaret Pickett Lawton Rhodes

July 15, 1872

Allendale, July 15th 1872.

Dear Miss Cooley,

I seat myself to write you a few lines as the affianced wife of my son; this is my apology for writing to a stranger, as one who has hitherto been new to me, but not so any longer; so I feel truly grateful to you for bestowing your affections on my child; and welcome you into our family as a daughter, and could take you to my heart as my own child; Henry was the eldest of three children at his Father's death and although but six years old, he was my constant companion; and as he grew in years I learned to look up to him for counsel and approval in all matters of importance; and have often thought-

he never was a child in thought
or action but a man; it was ~~thus~~
that the strong tie between a widow-
ed Mother and her eldest son became
stronger than in common cases.
I have really wished to see Henry
unmarried for the past two years, I
thought he would be happier; and
now he has found one on whom
to bestow his entire love he says,
I am satisfied and truly gratified
at his choice; from all that I have
heard of you, I know I shall love
you not only as Henry's wife but
as my child, as my other daughter
I have but one) & you shall share
~~a~~ my large part of my heart
and find in entering our family you
will never know the want of a Mother
as long as I live. — I trust your
engagement will not be long as I

long for Henry to bring you home
to us all that we may see each
other and enjoy the Society of a
united family again. Ellendale is
rather gay ^{at} than usual now, the
young men gave a large Pick Nick
last Friday night at the Academy
and expect to give another next
week. There are a few widows here
now and the young folks find it
so dull generally during the summer
that they enjoy a party very much.
Our fruit has just begun to ripen
and now I wish you and Henry
were here to enjoy our splendid
peaches, Melons, & Apples. Excuse my
speaking of you and Henry in connec-
tion as I do but with my views on
that subject, I considered when I
dedged myself to my husband the
word just as solemn and binding as

if I were married, for this part was
recorded in heaven. Remember me
to your sister Mrs. Brooks. I would
be pleased to hear from you and
hope you will answer this scrawl.

Ella my daughter sends you much
love and says she has never known
a sister's love but she has given you
a large place in her heart already
as "her sister". May God's richest and
best blessings attend you through life
is the constant prayer of your sincere

Friend,
M. C. Rhodes.