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has been cauterized several times. It is the first time since we were married that he has had so serious a sickness. The day before he was taken, before we could get a Dr, his throat filled up so rapidly that at one time he was past speaking. Mr Walmsly is his partner but has been absent most of the time for two years. His temporary clerk now is Jordan W. Moorely, a young man with a wooden leg, son of John Moorely (J.C. will remember him) I have written before that Mrs Sprague's oldest child Henry Oliver and her youngest Adèle Sprague were both dead. Tell Eliza that Mrs W.P. Molette & Mrs Kennedy formerly old Mrs Duckworth have both recently died. Tell J.C. that one of Gen Bragg's brothers married Col Kunnelly's daughter. There must be some difference between her and Judge Bragg's accomplished wife. The Judge and Gen. are brothers. Within the year Mrs Judge Hunter and Mrs Leang have died. Also Mrs Leang's youngest daughter, Scott's Holt. and old Mr Tom Rives. Mrs Holt left four little children. Death has been very busy here and I have no reason to think but that he has been equally so in other places and it makes me tremble to reflect that when I ever do get a letter what news it may contain. How much I think of my father and mother and sisters with their families. And those little graves too are not forgotten. Edward ^{her eldest son} was buried at Cemetery Lane you know that is a long disagreeable ride from here so that I am able to visit it but a few times in a year. It would be a consolation if the last resting place of my little ones was where I could oftener see it but it cannot be. You can sympathize with me for your little Mary too is far far away. And where is Willie? The last I heard he was a Mrs Boardman. Herbert asks me so many questions about his cousin Willie. Is Ann London still living with you? Do try and write and tell me all about the family. Have you tried sending by Flag of Trade through Fortners Monroe and paying the Postage? Mrs M'Pherson an English lady who has been teaching in Mrs Smith's family (Sara Hunter that was) left here for N. York via N. Orleans on her way to Canada a few weeks since. She told me she would certainly try to find Eliza's residence and see her personally. If she does she can tell her more about us than we can write. The last letter of mine that I know you received was written nearly two years ago. Love to each dear individual and tell them all to try and try again to send me a letter

Portland Nov 24th 1863

My Dear Sister Helen

A year and a half and not a letter--not a message--not the least tidings from all those I love as well. Why is it? It must be that some of you write, and if so, why do none of the letter reach me? I know of many persons who have been receiving letters through the past summer and autumn. Do you never hear from me? Is it possible that none of the many letters, I have forwarded by so many different routes, have ever been received? The season here has been very sickly. Herbert and I were both taken but we went up to Mrs Wades and returned home the 1st Nov perfectly well. H- is very fat and rosy. He said at the supper table to night that he did wish some of his aunts could come out and see him. He is as petted and spoiled as an only child. Well he is the only one we have with us now. Charley is at boarding school in Coosa County Ala. Ellick K. is in the *Army of Tenn* in Tennessee His health has improved so much since he went there--so much horseback exercise agrees with him He wrote me last week that he had not had a sick day since he went from home. Alex was taken very suddenly and violently, a week since, with sore throat He is convalescent now, but gaining slowly. He throat has been cauterized several time. It is the first time since we were married that he has had so serious a sickness. The day he was taken, before we could get a Dr. his throat filled up so rapidly that at one time he was past speaking. Mr Walmsby is his partner but has been absent most of the time for two years. His temporary clerk now is Jordan W. Mosely, a young man with a wooden leg, Son of John Mosely (F. C. will remember him) I have written before that Mrs Spragues oldest child Henry Oliver and her

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From your affectionate Sister Mary A. Hall