with continued rest. I have already gained about 10 lbs.

I am glad you like the picture. I think it much better than the one I sent to our friend F.L.

Before I close I must tell you by way of excuse that I am writing with a borrowed pen. give my regards & congratulations to Will. — I suppose he is as proud as "papas" can be over their first born and a son too.

I will close with "Three cheers for baby" and a heart full of love for mamma

Write soon.

Sincerely & truly — Jessie

Charlton Iowa
Sep 23rd 1886

Mrs Nora Ream.

My Dear Friend:—

I just received your letter and will answer at once for I want to tell you how full my heart is with congratulation & good wishes upon the advent of your new happiness.

Oh Nora dear! I can realize just how happy you are and I am glad, so glad, you have now attained the highest position of womanhood — wife & mother.

And may God show you how to most nobly fulfill the

task before you. And I feel
sure that you my friend
with God's help will make
a noble mother; there can be
no higher aim in a true woman's
life. You have my truest
& sincerest wishes for the
success of your efforts, and
may "baby" live to bless
his parents and be their
pride & joy. dear little fellow
yes, I'm sure I should love him
& your letter ~~too~~ has given me
such a great desire to see you.
but "we must want what we
can have" if we are content.
But I do have some hope
of seeing you next fall.
you ask "when I will come"
probably then. I am
going west in the spring. & if
in the fall I can find
time, my first pleasure
will be to see you.
I will do nothing with my
study of the summer this winter
but will try to use it in the
west. with my school teaching also.
I have a few weeks before my
winter work begins & as I
dislike being idle I am
going to learn the dressmaker
trade, in the mean time, for
my own special benefit.
I will begin next week. I am
in town this week having my
teeth filled, not a very pleasant
task, but necessary.
I have enjoyed my rest so
much since I came home
& feel better physically than
I have for months.
I am afraid I would become
corpulent if I could be content