Dear Father and Mother

Why don't you write to me and tell me the news. You spoke in your last letter that you had a good chance to buy a good piece of property very cheap. If you have your eye on it still write me, describing it, and why you think it valuable. I can send you the money for it. How is Mother getting along you wrote the last time she was getting along nicely. I am in a position now to let you have some cash, so you can write and say how much. I may be home some time this winter. Can't say when exactly for I have a large amount of business to attend to. I have one shop which employs 18 men, and am fitting up another which will employ over 150 men. I am now—what you Democrats call a “Bloated Eastern Manufacturer.” Is the Buchanans still live in Port Huron, and is Carrie Married yet? Give my love to all. Your Son

Thomas A

Newark N.J. Oct 30—1870

ALS, MiDbEI, EP&RI.

1. Newark Telegraph Works.
3. Carrie Buchanan, whom Edison later called “my old flame when a boy.” See Chapter 1 introduction, n. 12.