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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.



E. Hill House

ARMY & NAVY

H.C. BURCH, Manager

7:20 P.M.

Washington D.C. Jan 1, 1903

My own sweet Loryer,

Just after I sent to you last night my little greeting of love, I found your sweet letter awaiting me - where only a few minutes before it would not be seen - the coquettish little sweetness.

Well, you know, my Dolly, how late it was last night before I went to bed. This morning I awoke at eight, and after thinking for a moment what an early hour eight is, I was sleeping (perhaps snoring) again. When I next left bed - and it was nine-thirty. I dressed leisurely, packed the

grip which is to be checked;
etc., and soon there was
a visitor announced. It turn-
ed out to be Lefevre (of Ithaca).
He was in a hurry to make
a train; but as we had
missed each other contin-
uously, he wanted ^{me} to stop
with him at Harney's for a
cup of coffee. Well, the first
course happened to be a Man-
hattan. Do you care? Then
we had rolls and coffee,
and I rushed off with him
to the train.

Thence I went to the
meeting of the Botanical Society
of Friends, and there heard
two or three interesting papers.
Before the meeting was over, I
had met some new people,
shaken hands with many, and
said adieu, au revoir, to



11/1/93
E. W. House

ARMY & NAVY

H. C. BURCH, Manager.

Washington, D. C. 190

friends. Lunch is over now, and I am almost ready to catch up my grips and seek the depot.

Yesterday morning I spent an hour or two at the Office of P. & P. then lunched with Professor Hinkson at the Arlington, and subsequently attended the meeting. At this meeting I presented my paper on the Basidiomycetes under much more favorable conditions than the preceding one.

C. L. P. was here to see me in the forenoon yesterday and he told me of a letter from Parker inviting us to spend

a day and night with him
at Annapolis. It was not to
be thought of, as you will agree
with me when I tell you of
it. I am sure, Doodly. Then
C. L. P. took up quarters at the
Ebbitt last night, and we
had supper together. A very
large K. S. pin was in evi-
dence.

After supper I was soon
switched off (?) to a botanical corn-
er where a number of the
younger botanists were assembled,
so I saw C. L. Pagain only to
say goodnight and goodbye.

I was glad of the opportu-
nity to become acquainted with
some of the young botanists. We
sat around there some until
10:30 and then adjourned to

Heavy at 3:30 P.M. My school arrives in St. Louis (Dormitory) at 6:40 P.M. Friday. I will have to see how shopping goes. I shall be starting to depart when I shall first walk to the Hotel.



11/103
 Ellitt House
 ARMY & NAVY
 H.C. BURCH, Manager.

Washington, D.C. 190

Fritz Reuter's to have a glass of Münchener and a slice of Schweizer Käse. You are aware of the hour (and the condition of my chirography?) when I returned, sweet love.

So many people have asked after you repeatedly, and I am strictly 'out of it', not to have you with me. But more than all I would have with me my love to love and to tell my love. I miss her always, and I envy those whose divifies are here - if they are such sweet divifies as the name of Googley - my own Madrie Padie. With a world full of love I am ever your own old-time Sweetheart.

Cornell University,
3 Jan. 1908.

Dear Persica
and Dear Mr. Duck:

Returning from the American
Historical Association's meeting at Phila-
delphia I find awaiting me the beautiful
book - the book and the holly. Bless
you both, bless you, for the Christmas
memory. I have read and re-read the
dear old essay in this exquisite form, and
shall henceforward always couple its stirring
thoughts with you.

And I don't believe I have ever yet
thanked you for that twin letter which
gladdened my heart a month or so ago.
Some day I mean to look into that house-
keeping for myself.

Ah me, Uncle Bill and his Little Mary and their housekeeping are just about to migrate to New York. My most fervent left-handed blessings on that devouring metropolis! But I hope they'll carry with them such a breath of the countryside that New York itself will bloom into Springtime about them. I can't hold them long, and I hope the strange experience will be full of message to them while it lasts. They sail from here (via Long Valley) on the 14th.

Polly Flower and her sister have moved into their new house on the Heights, and they and the Milles will have at least a month of neighborhood. Let me see, whom else do you know? Professor Harry Bell

is deep in his teaching and making friends galore. Miss Moffett is doing herself very proud at Wellesley. I saw her chief, Miss Kendall, the other day at our Philadelphia meeting, and heard much of Miss Moffett's popularity. Miss Martin, as you perhaps know, is in the Normal School at Ypsilanti, Michigan. Miss Mabel Hale is back in the University - I saw her at table this very day, looking as bright and saucy as ever, in spite of our northern winter. Who else? Oh, you know that the Athlons have bought Professor Moss Cor's Lybe's house, and have built it all over again to suit them. And that every body else has bought a lot on the Heights, to be held against superannuation.

And that, I'm sure is all - except that the Comstocks are both off at Otto, and it will be February before they are back and it will be really living again.

That's positively all, except my
gratitude and my very hearty love
— it's safe, isn't it, if I describe it? —
and I am ever

Loyally yours,
George L. Burr.

was decided to drive up to Cambridge thinking our
good weather could not last much longer. I put
on the warmest dress I had, good wraps & gave
works over my shoes, had two hot bricks for our
feet as we did not feel the cold as much as I
expected. Of course Aunt Beville was surprised
to see us as she had not received our telephone
message that we were coming. Mrs Harris was in
Farmdale; had been there two days to see his
cotton, waited for a visit. Mary is spending a few
days at Norwood, we were sorry not to see them.
Aunt Beville was there last week, says Uncle
Brendan's yesterday evening, in a letter, writes
Mrs Stewart: "Dear wife, I had not
heard of her being in this single
weekend, she came to see about
her aunt & I suppose is looking
very well, says Miss Mary is
in fine health, they are
with them in A. Hall's.
Mother has recovered fine, she
Wheeler is now able to live
Brother. Did I tell you, Bob &
Dr. Williams have sent the
Winters place? Bob will put
I see that I suppose & he
go off "mounting birds" in
other words taking his
pleasure. I will be glad to hear
from him when she has time
to write, you three sleep and eat what
to accomplish much, with much
write you all & love to father
your devoted mother.

John was very complaining, his leg & arms much
stiffer & a good deal of pain in his back, but he
does not stop going around. Mrs. Stickney is very
ill with pneumonia, it was thought at one time
he could not possibly recover, he may die yet, a
man of 80 seldom recovers from pneumonia.

Passing the store this evening we asked for the
mail, there were four letters for me, among them
one from Henry & yours of the 1st which we
enjoyed very much. I am so glad you all had a
very good time, by this time I suppose Mrs & Mrs
Roberts have left & you have a quiet house. I
can imagine how the baby enjoyed her trip, they
will amuse her in the absence of her grand-
parents, for of course she will miss them very
much. I assure she will now be trying to
stand alone. Did you ever see a "baby walker"?
they had one for Fred's youngest & they said

Jan 6, 1903

it was the greatest thing imaginable. I fully intended to make particular inquiries about it when there, but for got it. Your baby is not quite ready for me yet as she does sit steady alone. I think it was a pity you could not stay to some of the banquets &c in St Louis. Your Father has been regretting that he was not present at a banquet in Greenboro yesterday. A ridiculous meeting. It was so cold to ride as far & he would have been absent two nights. I think he was to have been tonight invited. Henry reached home at eleven o'clock at night, hoped to have a good rest but at 3 in the morning he was called out to see a baby, & has been busy ever since. My third letter was from Mary Jackson, poor thing she has had a great deal of trouble since she was married, she says she married a plain

farmer but he is the best of his kind, the
family are as much scattered as ours. Heavins
lives in St Louis, Tom in Princeton, Joseph in
Colorado & Lucy in Jasper. Mary always inquires
particularly about you all. Not as long from Waverly
yet, but yesterday received the card signed for
a registered package. I sent him several days
before you was. Reuben stopped here a few minutes
yesterday on his way to Mistle toe with his
meat, chickens &c. Heant get the barrels he
wanted for Mistle toe. I dont know that I wrote
you Jane disappointed us about the cooks place
but Mary will continue to cook, that does not
suit so well for she will not live on the place
& besides that she washes for the Davis
family as she is always hurrying to get off,
isnt a good cook but I agree to almost any
thing to keep me out of the kitchen. I went to

Love from "Papa"
 & many thanks
 for your affectionate
 letter. I rejoice
 to know that
 Charles is happy
 & growing & that
 you are all well.
 Although I feel
 a little tired up after my dancing
 a good dance, & glass of Port wine
 I must make up but a short letter
 to tell you how much we enjoyed
 your interesting sweet message
 & "Papa" telling of your pleasant
 journey. The sweetest kind ones.
 I hope Ben is well & safe at home,
 & you can now enjoy your sleep,
 & don't hear any more ugly racket.
 Aggie says "Papa" is giving her permission
 to make her sleep.
 & you must get your lot to give you
 some. Aggie says she sure will do.

you soon & since the samples you
wanted, I am truly glad to hear
that you have a good book: you
must not stand too much on
your feet: but a walk sure is of
benefit at any time when the weather
is favorable. I am happy to think
my little gifts were acceptable & that
Papa was good. Charlie was fortunate
to receive such useful presents. He
should have written to me early in
the winter that he needed glasses.
I am not now surprised he was
sick. The weather outside tonight
is very cold but we are doing &
delightfully warm. I went down
town two afternoons ago. It is
sovereign shopping & it was so damp. I
have a little rheumatism but am
not suffering much. "Papa" goes

Me at a Birth day present a
 "Daisy quilt" which is such a
 beauty. As I am getting "hot" in
 my old age, I had tickets purchased
 to me for sexual operas, which
 I enjoyed immensely, especially
 St. Germaine, & Sunday morning
 "Papa" & I heard the "Statat Marie"
 it was beautiful & grand. I asked
 to play a little of it myself on the
 organ: So you have a Piano &
 practice sometimes. Aggie is
 getting very stout & goes out so
 seldom that she is doing her
 own work with my assistance
 for a while. The girl we had did
 not want to do cooking & washing.
 But Ben & Charles for me &

Thank Charles for his sweet letter,
I have not written recently as
I have been washing my eyes. I
used them, & much before your
"Baby" is well & very bright & healthy.
Nurse wants to sleep & lack of
kept busy at our paying profession
all calls on me this cold weather
longer now near by. Darling,
I long to hear from you again
& to know how you are. Will
you enjoy his visit. Alice wrote
me a short letter from Boston -
where she went to meet Charles -
she sent me also a present but it has
not yet reached me! Alice was having
a truly fine. Shear, Champagne
supper so, with the Smiths & the
Wicks; Lord night sweet. P. P. May
God bless & keep you. Yours ever
Dear Mamma

"Prairie-Ville"

Alle Leas - Ala.

Jan'y 11th 1903.

Dear Ben:-

Your Mother & I have had a day by ourselves 'tis Sunday - Dr Cobbs regular Service-day, but it rained so hard last night from 8 till morning & of course the Creeks & Roads prevent any assemblage today. I haven't seen a single person pass along but Mr Powell on horseback, and then I heard the sleek roosting of the quail.

Possibly you discover that I am ill at ease with my pen, can scarcely hold it stiff enough to write, so much bandaging on it - This evening a rough lightwood splinter struck into the ball of my right index finger & even now it hurts. Your Mother wrote to the Grand Children at Auburn, so I chose to write for no back to you. It is very cold & the wind whistles & vibrates the slats of the Southern blinds, like some one was knocking at it. It is all we can do to keep warm & hustle to the hearth to get the direct heat, Can imagine what

a cold atmosphere must surround
you in Columbia.

Your letter telling us of your safe
arrival into Marie's care, at home, relieved
our apprehensions - There are so many R. R.
accidents these days times - more than ever
I believe. A mere mention of the Scientific
meeting at Washington was seen by us in
some Newspaper, the statement was of its
success. - Ruben wrote us he was sick, so
your mother insisted I should go to his place,
reached his house about 1/2 past 2 o'clock -
in the afternoon the West wind was so severe
I concluded to ~~stop~~ over with Melvina & Mr
Harris - but next morning I had it in the
worst way possible - from Louisville to our
town - there is no wooded part of the road
to windbreak - it's all straight & direct - the
sweep of the wind seemed to get thro' me and
for two days I thought I wouldn't regain my
suppleness of limb - Could scarcely walk. It
was a horse back ride of course & apparently
20 miles. Mr Britton was taking good
care to see he had Comfort & C, and your

Jan 11, 1903

Uncle Harris had been over to see about him. Godspelling & bad writing, attributes it all to my ailing finger, - with the middle finger contract. The family at Rosebale were well & had a good deal of news to tell me, but they dwell mostly on the event of next month just announced. The wedding of Rev. J. J. Harris - he is to marry Miss Loula Ruffin of Tallmadge!! It seems to satisfy no one but the contracting parties. Mrs. Barber is already fixed in her remodelled house in Demopolis. & you would hardly believe it - but John & Bessie Minge went into Demopolis to look out for a residence, have some idea of abandoning "Norwood" - any way for the winter. The girls - the girls want to know you see & Harris has little Louise to put to school.

Our "Vagrants" are still with us, & we try to track them which is the front & which the back of the house - they guess right sometimes.

Our "John Smith" likes horses & dogs & has a decided taste for the kitchen - and as "Oliver" did, he often "asks for more". - all the scraps are his by right of touch. Your Mother gave him a pair of your old pants, of the bicycle suit - and he forthwith danced the highland fling all over the front lot, with his head bent at a tangent watching "dem buttons dare". -

We were much amused at Marie's re-counting the Xmas affairs. Since the crisis of the 3rd like your Mother has improved & is regaining her wonted strength. Gr Uncle Ben has bought John H. Minge Jr's house in Farmdale & so we think they are stationed for awhile. We had only one letter from Wane in 5 weeks & that very uncommunicative. The Grand Children in Auburn gave us such nice little letters - all their own, each one thanking for the box of Apples & Xmas things. Miss Lou Crowder pops in occasionally & relates the happenings. Mrs Stewart has leased her Plantation for 3 years & may be will live most of the time with Clara Kiehl in Atlanta. Your Mother joins with me in love & good back and Grnd Chuck also. Your Father Affly -

W. H. Minge

4056 Indiana Ave, Chicago. Ill.
Jan 12. - 1903

My dear Ben.

I sincerely hope that
by this time you have returned safely
to Columbia. I recuperated from the
trial deprivations & arduous duties
of membership in an Association for
the promotion of science. Charlie
Parsons has sent for instructions
& perusal the three papers he read there.
How about yours.

We are having very cold weather in
Chicago at present. Temperature 12° below zero
this afternoon & for days it has been around
that, so that I am shut up in the house.

Take care of your heart! Docs not want to hear

until the weather moderates. Jack
says that I have to be careful, & obey
orders.

In doors we are very comfortable
as the landlord keeps the stoves up day
& night. But how is it with you? Can
you get coal. It seems to be a scarce article
in Chicago, & in the west generally.
Can you get what you need, & are
you able to keep warm. I have been
troubled about you all. I hope for the
best however.

How do you like your new
field of labor. You have never told me
yet; Will you be likely to remain
there. In settling permanently anywhere
you should look for a pleasant &
a healthy locality.

Prof Wheeler went to California. Why not

JAN 12 11 903

settle there. It has a beautiful climate
I am sure that the Orchard & fields
the Mountains & valleys, Rivers lakes
& oceans bordering on or lying ^{with} in the
Western shores of this Continent would
give you a wide enough field for
investigation, & at the same time an
ideal home to live in. where if
you do not overwork yourself you can
live to a good old age giving you
years enough to make a name for
yourself & be useful to your day, & generation
& Country. "Live while you live", where
you can have the ozone of the Ocean on
the one hand & the winds of the Mountains
on the other, where you can obtain at small
cost the finest of fruits from the Orchard, of
fish from the rivers, & of meats from the hills
& plains,

When you have done your work in
Columbia Let us all go. I am saving
all the time to get out there at
last & live a little while under my
own vine & fig tree before I am
requested to go higher up. Your Mother
& myself are growing young on the very
thought of it. You will notice the change
on her when she comes.

She is counting the days already before
she starts for Columbia. I hope that
Marie is well & that Chuck is happy
in his work. Give my love to both
of them & tell Chuck I will write to
him a little later this month.
Agnes Baby & her & Mother Robertina join
me in love & kisses to you all. I remain
as ever
Your Affectionate Daddy.

My dear father writes with
much love to you all &
hopes to this body. Express
are awaiting letters,
these are ours. Your devoted
Mother.

Jan 12th 1903.

This is a threatening night, not
cold but it makes one shiver to listen to the
wind, there must be a storm, some where &
perhaps before many hours have passed we will
have our share of it. We have been interested
today getting Reuben's hay put away, last night
he sent his 4 or wagons here, & this morning a
mule wagon, the two hauled from the old
Johnson place, (now rented by Mrs Beasley)
& stored in our "red store" carrying the last
load to him, it is easier to get it from here
than from Mrs Beasley's where the roads are
bad. Your Father is reading tonight of the
sinking of the Glallam, was it it dreadful?

& the papers still have some thing about the
burning of the Progress theater, that too was a
terrible thing. Your Father looked over the list to see
if any of Maria's kin suffered, was glad not to
find the name of Robert.

I think my last letter was written the night of
the day we spent with sister Sally. I hoped they
could come to service Sunday but Saturday night
a rain set in & altho not raining it was cloudy
Sunday morning & your Father said Mr Harris
(Rev^d) would not think of coming, but he
did & brought his wife, wny one must have
thought this same, for there was no congregation,
after sitting with us an hour to rest the horses
they went on back, would not stay to dinner,
that is the first service we have missed
this winter. Today I had a letter from Warren

Jan. 12, 1903

says he does not know when he can come to Ala., that "the pot boils slowly here at present & one should be on the watch all the time." for a speculation I suppose he means.

Slerry wants to take Reuben to Dr. Murtin in Mobile, writes for him to go down at once, he will join him at Calcut. I don't know when we can get Reuben to go he has so much to do & so many disappointments about work. Slerry has great confidence in Dr. Murtin, says he wants to know something about Reuben's case & he can find out from Dr. Murtin & perhaps help Reuben in some way.

Mrs. Stewart is in the neighborhood trying to collect her rent, ~~but~~ fears she will have trouble or perhaps not get it at all, it is said the prairie (Murchill & Harold) have made way with most of their hay, corn, & mules

& there is nothing left for her. They have
 been selling hay since June, & still not ready
 to pay her. I had a long letter from Mary
 Jackson, now Mrs Smith, she seems to remem-
 ber us with affection but seldom writes, the
 family are as much scattered as ours, she is the
 only one in Gainesville now.

I suppose by this time Mr & Mrs Robertson
 have gone, & possibly Mrs Charley has decided
 to accept his brothers offer so you & Maria
 must have a quiet time unless Maria
 Loring is very talkative & keeps you amused,
 is she as fat as when I left her? I saw little
 things I wish we could see, though a telephone
 as well as talk, I would take a peep at her
 quite often if there was a line from her, then.
 How about the measles? still new by? I have

[1902?]

the chickens are cleaning up every thing
near the house. I have nothing but the
staircase left. I have been feeling
better lately I am glad to say
your letters with me are
much less to me than
your dear son
your devoted
Mother

Prairieville June 18th

Since your last letter I have
felt a little anxious about Maria but
then I thought as there was anything
serious you would find time to let us
know. I do hope she is as well as ever by
this time. I think if you could take the
parlor for your bed room it would be much
better for her, going up the steps is so tiresome
I don't think I would ever have held out
to do what I have done in housekeeping if
my bed room had been up stairs. I hope
the new cook continues to give satisfaction

it is about as hard to get a combinations
servant as a combinations horse - I wish you
could get a picture of my "creature" & hear
her dialect, it is so peculiar, I sometimes have
great troubles to understand her, but I see some
little improvement, the boy is very useful, spends
most of his time getting up chips & stopping
cracks in fences with the row hedges, all the
old piles of hedge your Father has had him
turn over & get out the largest pieces for burning,
not because wood is so scarce, that is one of
his economies.

I wonder if your snow is gone & you are having
as bright a day as we have, our weather has
not been pleasant by any means for some time,
cold & raw but yesterday was mild & I persuaded
your Father to go up to see Reuben, he is

still in bed but the swelling has gone down
some & there is less pain & soreness. I think I
wrote the swelling was caused by a burn. If
comes he is weak, for he has been in bed so
long & has so little appetite, no one to fix up
any thing to tempt him. Sister Sally often sends
some little nice thing, a few days ago I baked
John & sent him a basket of eatables. I was
very much afraid Florence would hardly get
him there & back but she did. Uncle Wm
still stays in Gaumeboro & nothing going on at
New Town, occasionally we have a card written in
his scattering way, says he is not improving at
all, I don't suppose he ever will. The old people
are fast going down. Old Mrs Langhorne died
a few days ago, & Mrs Sol Coleman but she
was young, was Miss Estelle Mary I expect you

knew her when you lived at the Station, Mrs.
 Gordon's health is very poor, she looks dreadfully
 I am almost equal to the Opulike Post - but
 now I have some other news, I believe I write
 of Mr John Harris' intended marriage, just
 about 5 weeks after and (Mabel's Marriage (by
 Well') will be married in St Nicholas church
 at 9 o'clock in the morning to Mr Pruitt,
 book keeper for the Minge Mercantile Co. He is
 considered above the common run of Hannadale
 young men as we may consider she has done
 well. Uncle Ben has bought John Harnett
 house in Hannadale, Rose packed up glass &
 chairs, rugs & carpets & left every thing else for Henry
 & Mary to use until she goes to house keeping in
 La., probably not until next winter. I am as
 glad Uncle Ben has a nice little home of his

own & will stop that needle business, the
life was a very hard, & rather dangerous one.
My last letter from Henry, in fact the only
one since he was here tells of his having had
a sharp, but short, little belline attack, he was
out when he wrote & had that day made two
calls in the place. He has numerous name
sakes, the latest, Ellsworth Hoffman Lee, says
now of them have attempted "hard wing" yet,
his patients must be very fond of him -

I have no very recent news from Asaburn, suppose
all are busy. Your Father says Mrs John Ed Webb
was paralyzed not long ago, also Sam Henderson
who worked in Whites store, you remember that
big, red faced man -

I had a note from aunt Melville last night, she

seems rather "blue", as not feeling well & her work
 grows as worthless she will have to give her up
 & do a great deal of the work herself, she thinks
 the windings in the family will break them, even
 to think they will have to help Mrs John Harris
 as much. Mr John & wife are in town going,
 Davies & Harris & with Lucy, & Mulville visiting
 around as there is one one at Norwood but
 Dick Wilkins, he must have a lonely time.

Tom Patton sends thanks for the paper, says your
 subjects were high Dute to him. I am nursing
 an Easter lily in my room but never saw any
 thing grow as slowly. I ask how I don't know how to
 cure for it. The nurse has said whether you have a
 flower or vegetable garden. Mr Powell has begun
 gardening already, but ours is still covered with tall
 dead John cow grass, if we could only get fire to it
 & burn it off how much labor could be saved,

I got so nervous that I
 couldn't sleep and my
 heart beats so fast that
 it scares me all out, but
 Jack is giving me something
 for it, and I feel better!
 Jack's Mineral and Paper
 salt is good for you all, find
 it in the paper—
 I thank you for your
 letter. I am
 all so glad that
 you are better. I am
 + M.
 W.
 the 1902.

I am so sorry to hear
 that you are not as well as you might
 be. But hope now, after this rest, that
 you will get stronger, and not try and
 overdo again. It does not pay to hurt
 yourself for anyone, and I am sure you
 overdid at Roma. I know I did, and I
 do most every day now. I will be so
 glad when April comes, for the "kiddie"
 is so heavy and restless, kicks me
 almost to pieces. I never had any
 of my shoes so naughty. Don't you
 wish you could take yours out, and
 see what it looks like, and then put
 it back? I do. I sent you turning out a
 sample of the small slippers and the pad.

I bought my cheese cloth and cotton
bathing the other day. I bought 5 yds
of cheese cloth for 25 ct and the cotton
for 15 ct. And today Mama and I have
been making the flannel shirts. I will
miss Mama dreadfully when she
goes to you. But as long as you
want her and need her, I suppose
I will have to give in to you my dearie.
And then I think the change will do her
good. I want her to come back and
keep house for me at the time of
my "blow out," but she says she don't
think she can for you will need her
then to keep you strong. You see I
am just one month behind you.
Anyway I will have Papa. Don't you
think he will make a fine nurse?
Mama and Papa have gone to hear
Lyman Abbott lecture to-night.
I don't know what Papa will do when
Mama leaves him. They are always

Jan 20, 1883
together. These days I am dreadfully
busy Marie dear. The days are not
long enough for me! Doing my own
work, going to the Dentist to have my
teeth patched up and making baby
clothes, is no dream. I took baby to
the Dentist yesterday and she had
the two back teeth filled and never
said a word she is a brave little
thing. Dr Thompson was as much
surprised at the way she acted as I.
He cleaned out the cavities with the
drill and everything and she never
said a word. I am so glad her
teeth are filled for she had so
much tooth ache. Dr Thompson is
an older man than Dr Drake and
very gentle. And he is a Southerner
and I think that is why he is so
nice. I am reading a book by "Hall
Caine," called, "She is all the World to me".

did you ever read it?

Merrie dear you do not know how much I value the lovely gifts you and dear Ben sent me. I have Dr Quinn's picture in the frame. And it looks swell on my mantel piece. And the little bands are so fine and nice. You must not put the knit bands on the baby first though, you must have first the plain flannel bands for the first three months. Mamma will show you.

Tell Ben that his letter did me a world of good and that he is such a dear to write to me. I will write a sweet letter to him soon. Jack has "Scratch my Back" hung in his office. And he is quite proud of it because you made it. But says he would rather scratch your back, too. He thanks you so much for your thought of him. He is a dear when he is asleep. Baby is so

brightly, the other day when I was ^{Jan 20, 1933} standing
at the telephone, she looked at me
and said, "Maama what for your
dress pulls up in front." And then she
said to Jack, "Papa my clothes are getting
so tight that you will have to give me
money to buy some more and a long
cloak." Everything she hears she say
she thinks she has to. But she
comes out with it when you
least expect it. She can say a great
many jokes out of her Mother Goose
book and sings "Jack Frost" for everyone
that comes in and says, Aunt Maria
taught me that.

Kithi and Bronie are
going to house keeping this week.
We have been having some bitter cold
weather, but our flat is so warm
that we never know how cold it is.
This is the most comfortable place I
ever was in during cold weather.
Well my dear I must say good -

night and sweet dreams. I am
glad Charlie is with you and Betty
I knew he would be happy. Give him
a sweet kiss for me. I love you all
very dearly and wish we could live
in the same place. Take good care
of your precious self and let us
know if we can do anything for you.
With fond love and many sweet kisses
to dear Ben and your sweet self
and wishing you both a very happy
prosperous New Year. I am,

Ever your loving & devoted
Aunt.

If I were you I would use
Alin oil to rub with instead of that
prescription Alice sent you she
sent me one also. But we always
keep a bottle of that in the house
for rheumatism only Jack adds one
more thing to it. Rub some cocoa
butter and rub your nipples with
it at night, and also a little warm
water and alcohol. And be sure and

Chaburn, Ala., Jan. 26, 1903.

Dear Ben:-

It has been a long time since I have written or directly heard from you and Marie. It was considerate of you to send the children the latest nature study book, which young and old will prize as containing some of Marie's work.

I have had even less leisure than usual recently. New work falls to me "informally" as the result of the interregnum in station work here, as the result of a request from the trustees of the Canabake Station that I direct their experiments this year (all for glory only) and in connection with the session of the legislature now sitting in Montgomery. Prof. Thack, Ross & I spent several days lobbying the first of this week. I stop over there tomorrow on my way to Birmingham to attend at the latter place a meeting

of the State Livestock Association.
I shall probably also have
to speak before the House Com-
mittee on Agriculture Friday.

Most of this is in connec-
tion with proposed fertilizer tax
legislation, which might
affect our income. We found
a general disposition to give
Amherst at least as much as
heretofore, but we need more;
but no application or definite
estimate has yet been made
until we make sure of keeping
what we now have, - viz. \$11,000 to
\$14,000 from the fertilizer fund.
No large ^{additional} amount, if any, will
be asked.

Under the new constitution
there will be no other session of
the legislature for four years.

My assistant with live-
stock, Mr. R. W. Clark, was recently
elected acting prof. of animal
husbandry in Utah and left
Jan. 1. I was unable at once
to obtain a satisfactory man
at the small salary paid

26 Jan 1903
here, but have just closed
a trade with a man, Jesse M.
Jones, from the Kansas College,
who will begin work Feb 6,
and who is most highly
recommended.

As to my prospects for
director here, things seem to
be going very well, but I have
no commital from the president.
He seems to appreciate my
work increasingly as he becomes
better acquainted with it.

I shall make my second
trip to Uniontown in about two
weeks. The man on the station
there, J. M. Richeson, is very willing
but untrained. He spent one year
as a special agricultural stu-
dent at Auburn. The land has been
squared for plot experiments by be-
ing divided by ditches into V-shaped
small cuts, according to the Corcoran
system of drainage. I shall
not attempt there the first year
all I should like in time to
do. You will be interested perhaps
in knowing that tile drainage
at Uniontown was pronounced a

failure by public, trustees & assistant director; on investigation I found that their failure to flow was due to the filling up of the outlet open ditch. When this was deepened at my suggestion flow began and now the drains can be located at a distance by noting the greater height of oots above the tiles.

I send the children's notes without correction as the errors of little children have some interest. They evidently discussed together what they would say, judging by similarity of statements.

We are still without a horse. R. S. Macintosh, Prof. of Horticulture, ^{here} reached Auburn a few days ago, coming from the Minn. Station.

As you doubtless continue busy, tell Marie we will expect her to keep us informed about both of you. With love for both of you,
Your aff. brother,
J. D.

P.S. No 2. I went
out to pick the violets
& lobelias, as long with a
water, I took off the
graphites & there was a
bowl of "black oil" & also
of orange pie, 3 of pines
and 9 one of fruit - each water;
I enjoyed it, out to the extent
of being sick tonight - I hope -

Prairieville Feb 1st 1903

Your letter yesterday was a welcome guest & read with much
pleasure. I was all alone & it gave me something pleasant to think of. I
am glad you told me about this little treasure, how I would like to look it
over! I wonder if I can't send some violets to be put in the draw with the
little things, I will try it as you say they had not lost their fragrance, oh!
if you could only see the hyacinths! they are lovely, & such quantities. I
think I could fill a basket basket & not cut all. I have written to three
different florists to try to sell them, but meet with no success as yet.
I thought it would be a good way to make some extra money, the best
has not come in, there is at much chance of making any by sewing, making
some bonnets & aprons as we ladies do some times, the servants have no money.
I am so glad you quite well again & hope you will continue so, now you will
have your mother to caution you against doing too much. Yes, the spring like
days make me feel lazy too, well not exactly lazy, but weak & unable to do as
I used to, that is one thing troubles me I find I can't work as I have done,
start with a good will but give out as I try to save myself as much as
possible. Sometimes I think if I could play lady for six months I would be
myself again, but perhaps, I forget it is old age, we must all go back sooner
or later. It certainly would be a great pleasure to be with you & your mother, now

& talk together, I think I can accomplish as much more when alone as when with one. I have begun making some underclothes for myself but I get so tired being alone I throw this work down & find some thing else to do for awhile & then come back. Friday I was out sunbathing all the morning directing a couple hired men to enclose a little chicken yard around the new house. Dr D- had gone to Galton, when he returned he had so much fault to find that I told him I would turn the job over to him as I was not much of a carpenter, so he went at it but did not finish the job & we could not ask the man to return as Dr D- knew he would not be at home.

I am glad to hear you & Ben like the blankets, we think them cheap for the quality. I have often wondered if you ordered any, you see I am interested in all the little things that concern you both.

I think I wrote Ben that Uncle Warr was in Schenck at the hotel, he was taken sick there & friends advised him to go to the Pitts, Gay & Harper Infirmary. Friday Dr Pitts telephoned Dr Duggan that he was very ill & he (Dr Pitts) wanted him to be sure to come over Saturday morning (yesterday) he went expecting to return last night, but his car came back from the depot without him & the mail brought us word to one. I thought he might telephone over this morning at mail time but he did not so I scarcely know what to think, he may be waiting for the worst to be over, I should think he can hardly recover. I made my girl sleep in the house last night, not that I think her much protection but she was in call if anything happened but we had a very peace full night, I slept soundly & better than usual still I dread a repetition tonight. Poor Pauline has a touch of it, there is a swelling

Feb 1, 1903

now on the other side & he is still in bed & I can't get to see him, neither
can sister Sally & she is so near, can't cross the ditches in the fields in a buggy.
I had a long letter from her a day or two ago. Lucy is so sweet just in some things
but peculiar in others, she seems to have been one of Charlotte's bridesmaids but
declines because she does not like the costumes they are to appear in, white with
sashes, black skirts & black hats, rather a singular style for such an occasion, still
I think she might do as the others do. I should think Nell would feel as if she
were in a funeral procession instead of a marriage party. The girls are to carry
pink & red carnations. I have not heard what her dress is to be.

I could not help thinking over my father, knowing I am alone, would invite me
over to dinner, I know she has no other ones for I was there yesterday evening & did
not see her, she was busy making a dress for today. I would not refuse some
of that, Charlotte never. I assure, I don't make many good things now, eggs
are so scarce & my soups & cream I put into butter which brings me about
\$3.00 a month, a small sum but comes in nicely, more if you take of all this
remember you asked me to write about all I am doing.

We had some spring like days, yes, Thursday, winter clothes & few were offensive, the
very next day was real cold, as was yesterday, but today I scarcely need a fire.
I have not heard from Fred in some time but he has been very busy I know, went
to Montgomery in the interest of the college, then to Birmingham for the same
meeting. Mrs J. B. is commoner, writes only when written to, my youngest

daughter does not do that does she? I would be mighty sorry if she did. I have
not had as letter from Waver this month, I mean last month, Feb has come
in. I am afraid this letter is very dull, there is not a particle of news to give
you as I had better close & write to sister Sally. My kindest regards to your
Mother, I would like as much to know her, hope I will some of these days,
& Mrs. Chubb to remember me to him, with much love to Waver & yourself

Yours affectionately

Waver.

P.S. I forgot to say Dr. D. claimed this town, to write to you but in the
uncertain state of things I thought I had better write now & let him wait.

Durham, N. H.

Feb. 2nd 1913.

My darling Grandma:-

I hope by this
time that you are safe &
sound with-brain and
that you did not get cold
during your trip. The weather
out-west has been as warm
as it is here at-present-
you must have had a
comfortable time on the car.
I know that you will be a great

There have on the point our sweet
going this morning and our sweet
sitting at Charles' desk writing a letter
When guide - a hospital up above for
three of the children are at home
and the sister Phoebe came
for us many at our time are quite
tired and especially after a poor night
not for me up & down several times
with me at the father.
They are in the house in the three
and at times they have had hot food
and at times they have had hot food

My dear and loving & our
little woman and I am so
glad that you can be with
her through the trying that
best time. I hope to have with
you to hear differently so
that they want come so near
together & then you can be
with God. I am glad that
you do not want to say that
the boys and although we
make had - we hadly at times
the is generally the one to
appear in the end and I am
truly sorry for her. I wish that
I could be with her in spirit.
Will dear you come to Syracuse

I have not had the Dr. but have
dosed them myself and this
morning they feel brighter.
They each have a bed in the
nursery and they are
companions in sickness. Father
who is at home to day with a
bad cold is up stairs reading
to them or he relieves me. How
surprising how many things
they can find for their mother
& I and as long as I am in the
house they keep track of me.
The two little boys are certainly
in a terrible condition and I
hope they never will have Erys
thraema again. Charles & I
have to bathe and dress the sores
three times a day. He is as good almost

Feb 2, 1863
February the fourteenth entertain
the Kappa Sigma Fraternity
with a valentine party. Then
on the twentieth of the month
the Kappa Sigma Ball takes
place and entertain the
Governor + his wife for them &
also receive with Mrs. Batchelder
and Mrs. Hayward. Mrs. Knubla
won't be in town for the week
and I do not know of a single
soul who will be sorry for her
absence. The Governor has already
accepted our invitation. I am not at
all afraid to entertain the one
for Chas. says if I just give him
a dish of baked beans he will feel

at-home. He got his appreciation
by continually eating baked
beans + pit with the different
range societies in the state.

I went to see the Mellens
several days ago + found them
both fairly well + quite cheerful.
Mrs. Craig has Mellens' daughter
in with them for the winter +
she takes good care of them
+ keeps them bright. She is a very
bright woman.

My orchestra of staves are
tuning up as much close + set
what they want.

Please hand darling Papa much
love when you write - & tell him
that I wish he were here with

me. He must-arrive for dreadfully late the
time will soon pass + you will be his life
again.

I was so glad to get these news that
the stars left I was dead! I must-arrive
this is long after I must-see my father
the stars were my friends - from
his house. Ben + Edward much love I
will stand I am + Edward. I must-arrive
at the small hotel. If you have it - we have
in time I must-arrive here and you are
can stand here to me. What a heart-
felt I love for your dear, sweet-est
What is the name of the very sweetest of my life
there.

Feb 2, 1903
such things and such a hell
Mrs. Rome is going through the
same trying time and Jane
is covered with a rash caused
by her vaccination.

The rest of this family are
well. I am entirely recovered
from my fall and I am
very careful how I come down
stairs and when I walk out on
the ice I am a sight - to behold
Charlie says I look as if I
were walking on eggs. I
have to be careful for just the
other day Mrs. Hayes fell and
broke her right wrist - a few
days later Miss Mary Ann

enjoyed dinner & left soon I ate with Mrs. and I quite feel and feel depressed when at home. This afternoon I am going to see Dr. Van Buren's operation. The Tuesday and have a successful operation at Mrs. Harris. Wednesday afternoon there is a Club Entertainment meeting at Mrs. Harris. Thursday afternoon the Quincey boys - week at the hotel & Friday I will have a sister's at home and after lunch we are invited to a large affair. party at Mrs. Harris. My friends will come from Appleton and I will be at home about - the affair for my two girls are at Green

music teacher / fell & broke her elbow & two days ago old Mrs. Willson (Marie knows her) fell in her room & broke her shoulder. I think it is remarkable that I did not have any such how I will write of pleasant things. Charlie & I went to a very pleasant musical at Mrs. Scott's last Friday night. Dr. Inghelbald & Mr. & Mrs. Harris formed an orchestra & played a part of the Opera of Norma and for sang two solos. Mrs. Scott has a new piano and she had a cousin visiting her from Boston who played on it very nicely. I did not go to church yesterday but at the two women go & I

and the ladies from Exeter
will have to come as early, the
only train they can take is one
that gets here at ten o'clock &
that is the very time I ought
to be in the kitchen.

This is my menu.

Table decorations, Johnquills & violets.
1st course
Chicken consommé, baked crackers
olives.

2nd course
Escaloped oysters.
Cold ham.
Hot rolls.

Celery & jelly.

3rd course
Chicken salad, olives

4th course
Charlotte Russe, Angel cake

5th course
Black coffee, confectionary, salted almonds.

My dear Son

I usually write to you on Sunday
but as tomorrow is our church day I will write
tonight. Dad looks telephoned this morning that
he would be here, but has he will check us
I want see, unless he came on train tonight, we
have had so much rain the creek must all
be out. Thursday night we had snow, a good
deal Friday morning (yesterday) & today there has
been a regular down pour all day, the front lot
this evening looked like a lake, the river still
runs but not quite so hard.

That sweet have been a terrible storm gone
land and Columbia, various hail & snow, not the
snow melted in the rain. The ice striates must
be as changeable as ours, not long ago, being sweet
the spring like days, even had the same spell.
I was expecting some cold weather after this but
the paper says the back bone of the winter is
broken. Some weather prophet here said we are
to have only one bright day this winter it

does indeed seem so. I would have enjoyed your "sourd roast" & briques ice cream, that I have never tasted but know it is good if you & Maria have it. We thank you both very much for your invitation to visit you, I am sure nothing would give our ears pleasure but we can't say yet what we can do, ~~about~~ clearing the house is not such an easy matter, some reliable persons must be left on the lot to care for horses, cows, chickens &c., that persons will be hard to find.

I think I closed my last letter to you before your Father's departure from Salem Sunday night. He left Uncle Warr a little letter but he was very ill the day before he went over. We have not heard a word from him since your Father's return, the Dr. Pitts & Mrs. David Houghland both promised to write, he must be getting on very well. He was very comfortably fixed & well cared for. We are wondering what he will do if he gets well enough to leave the infirmary, he certainly can't live at his home alone.

Yesterday I had a card from sister Sally saying she thought I would be glad to know that

Reuben spent Sunday with them, it was the
 first time he had been out, he had as usual
 driven him ~~over~~ in his buggy, she said he looked
 better than she expected & seemed in good spirits.
 I asked her was he glad to be out once more.
 I was in hopes he would come down to see
 us but the spell puts a stop to that & I am
 afraid the "old folks" will not venture over the
 roads to Ben Harris' meetings, they have decided
 to be married at St. Michaels church instead of
 at Mr. Hickney's. I saw in "The News" a notice of
 the wedding of Baxter Adams, cousin William's
 son, he married Miss Mrs. Williams of Conley
 city, and the Concord paper was a notice of the
 death of Miss John W. Fayden, O. P. years old.
 I had a letter from Wm. this evening, he
 says very little but seems to be in good health
 weighs 160, says his force is like a full grown, he
 eats three good meals a day & is always hungry,
 is quite comfortable on a spring cot with plenty
 of cover & a good wood stove and the tent. He
 has decided as long I am afraid he will never
 come to live in at home again. His letters must
 be addressed, Leche, O. T. I suppose there is a

I O. there now, it is the same camp he has
been at for some time.

We have not used the chamber for over a week
because of the smoke, today I wanted to see the
machines so I cleaned out all the coal I could
reach & made a wood fire, we enjoy being in
here tonight tho there is some smoke, the dining
room is so cold.

Heck will be in Constantinople next Friday &
Saturday but can't spare us a night even.
I think he might come Saturday night if he
finds to go home Sunday. You must be very busy
so many lectures &c, it is well because he has
nothing to keep her company & I am sure she
will be a great help to her. I hope Mrs. Oppenheim
will prove satisfactory & remain some time, it
is so trying to be constantly changing servants. Our
monkey hold on tight well, but they certainly are
the most miserable beings I ever heard to deal
with, story telling is fun for them, as fine jokes.
Do pray spare this writing a sharp pen doesn't
cut this paper & I think one makes too heavy
a mark & as it is, your father makes poor
selections of paper some how. The rain will stop.

Feb 7, 53

all the hyacinths, the bushes have been blue with
violet but the ground has been too damp for
me to be on it to pick them. I have had such
famine in my aubles this damp weather, but I
like. We have a good appetite. Do you know
meat has been a very scarce article in this
country lately! 4.50 a bush (2 bushels) brought in
large quantities, none by retail. For a week we
have had to substitute grits for much bread
& use flour altogether for the servants, but it
is cheaper than meat. What a change has come
over this country! It is time for me to say
good night, my kind regards to Mrs. Robinson
& Mr. Charley, much love to Maria & yourself from

Yours devoted

Father,

p.m. Feb 11, 1923

Dearest Marie:

Your letter
came last night and I wanted
to tell you how very sorry
I am that you have been so
sick & in such hard thoughts
generally. I did not know a
thing about it until last
Tuesday when I received a letter
from Grandma in which
she said that you had been
sick but were much better &

Before I could write your dear
letter came. I certainly was
glad to get it. for it had been
ages since I had heard from
Wissouri and was beginning
to feel quite anxious about you.
But thought every day would
bring me a letter. His hope
you will be very careful now
and not over-exhaust yourself
writing. You had better use your
materials than risk having
a miscarriage & let your
friends do your writing if they
are anxious to help you.
I enclose a little pattern that is very

simple and easy to make. The sleeves are
a little bit full for the present - after that
you can easily make them a little smaller.
I would not make many but because if
were you for before the summer is over
you will have "Wallie" in short clothes.

Many things (my former coat) has another
little girl nearly ten days old. I have
thought she is disappointed but as I have
been several times.

Please don't forget for his note & tell
him that it was better late than never
and appreciate his waiting very much.

I do hope that you have a good
servant. who will stay & be
a real comfort to you. poor
Aggie is without one again.
The city seems harder than the
country to get servants. I have
but very good girls at present
but still I have to do all my
baking except the bread.

Aggie wrote the other day &
said she would give anything
if I could be with her in April
& wish I could for I would love
to help her in any way. Perhaps
I will get out there yet all for
stranger things have happened

Know you will be glad to
have Mamma with you -
she is a host in herself. I'm
weren't wrong after she gets
to Missouri. No not think
you need worry a minute
about your confinement - for
you are young & built just
right to have children easily.
That is as easy as any one
can have them. It certainly
isn't as bad as having an
unassisted birth.

Prescilla & Inez were vaccinated
last week & the two little boys are
either now at present - but they

go to school just the same
the rest of us are well and
at our usual occupations.

To night Charlie & I are going
over to the Rames to a whist-
party. We have a little Club
of twelve & we play whist once
every two weeks. I had them
the last time & thereby have
a long tale which I haven't time
now to write. Tomorrow night
we are invited to a musical
at Mrs. Scotts & Christine has
brought new pianos. Durham
has been very dull but it is
making up a little now & will
be quite gay in February.

I am certainly glad that you both are
at last when you expect to be confirmed
You had thought all the time that you
would be well in it. & you are going to
avail until March 22 & why don't you
wait just two days longer & have little
Vallie come on Elizabeth's birthday. If he does
we will send him a present.

I haven't got to work now & make some
budding some for it so in a dinner
time. I have worked & signed all my
order prices & the morning at the time the
others. We hope you won't have any more
of course you will not say it. I have been sent

of themselves for the next six
weeks you will be well supplied
with.

With very much love for Rev.
Chuck, & your dear self in which
all the family would join if
they were at home.

Ever ever loving sister
Alice.

Jan. 29 1903.



TERMINAL HOTEL.
EUROPEAN
UNION STATION.
NO EXTRA CHARGE
FOR BATH
BAGGAGE FREE
DELIVERY LIGHT
ELECTRIC LIGHT
IN EVERY ROOM

THIS HOTEL HAS NO EQUAL IN THE UNITED STATES
FOR COMFORT, CONVENIENCE, CLEANLINESS & RATES.

St. Louis, Feb. 12, 1903.

My darling Sweet Madrie.

It was a shabby lunch that I had today, and so I made up for it at supper tonight. Now don't imagine that I had oyster cocktail, Rhine wine duck, and frozen pudding.

It was indeed - this supper - only a 2 in. sirloin steak and a small bottle of Uncle Buddy Wiener; but these seemed to hit a whole bunch of spots. However, Sweetheart, it was not enough to make me voluble, so don't expect anything extraordinary in the form of a letter - expect, though, the wholly whole soul love of your half size Benj. How are you, Ma Mice? Do you care half as much as I do.



TERMINAL HOTEL. EUROPEAN. UNION STATION.

NO CHARGE
EXTRA FOR BATH
BAGGAGE
DELIVERY FREE
ELECTRIC LIGHT
IN EVERY ROOM

THIS HOTEL HAS NO EQUAL IN THE UNITED STATES
FOR COMFORT, CONVENIENCE, CLEANLINESS & RATES.

St. Louis,

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that I am not with my Medicine tonight? Or do you rejoice in feeling like a little girl who is permitted the unusual privilege of sleeping with her Mama?

When I reached St. Louis, at 8 P.M., I was both hungry and sleepy. I talked to Stewart all the way, and for some reason that did not seem to keep me thoroughly awake. After eating lunch at the Union Station, we separated; and I went straight to Scruggs. I bought a pretty little pair of blankets, but they did seem to be of rather a small size. Then I bought a few things for myself - so the package which will arrive tomorrow or the following day is my pack-



THIS HOTEL HAS NO EQUAL IN THE UNITED STATES
FOR COMFORT, CONVENIENCE, CLEANLINESS & RATES.

2/14/03
TERMINAL HOTEL,
EUROPEAN
UNION STATION.

NO EXTRA CHARGE
FOR BATH
BAGGAGE DELIVERY FREE
ELECTRIC LIGHT
IN EVERY ROOM.

St. Louis,

190

age (n'est-ce pas?), but I will not object, of course if you do pay the express on it.

Next I tried to fit up my camera with materials for tomorrow, and that consumed much time. It was five o'clock when I reached the Garden. They seem to have on hand no material which would help me in my work next week, which is, however, no great disappointment. After talking for another half hour with that chief of enthusiasts, von Schrenk, I adjourned to the hotel, and here I am.

I love my little Dollie, petit Mame, and wish that I could kiss her right now on both little cheeks and both little eyes and one lit-



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THIS HOTEL HAS NO EQUAL IN THE UNITED STATES
FOR COMFORT, CONVENIENCE, CLEANLINESS & RATES.

St. Louis,

190

the month.

I leave at 7:35 A.M. for Pacific, expect to leave Pacific for Sullivan at 1:30 P.M. I will be in Sullivan on Saturday, and cannot say what sort of connections I will then be able to make to return.

I hope that "Grandma" is making things lively for you, as usual, so that you are highly entertained and highly entertaining. Give my love (such as you can spare?) to the Lady-Mme. Bouchon de Burg and to her Simon-Pure Spawm, but keep whole rivers - crystal clear and flowing in triumphal torrents - for my Bonnie Sweet Larcie, the wife of Benjie.

Your own dotted
Hubbans.

Mr. Fox will call for a little package of
mushrooms which I have addressed to your
house. Love.



BENNETT HOTEL.

7 P.M.

SULLIVAN, MO., Feb. 13, 1903.

Darling Sweetheart,

See the grand proportions of the "First Hotel in Sullivan"! This hotel burns as many oil lamps as the Waldorf Astoria employs incandescents; its dining room tables are six times as large as those of the "Effete Easterner", seats (each) five times as many guests, and to each guest there are six to twenty times as many dishes to a course, and fifty times as many toothpicks as courses! Really, I have had a good supper. It is a better hotel than the Powers House, and in a town one-tenth the size.

But, Darling, how are you, you old Sweet Honey Bunch of a Lover? Come sit upon my K-nee, Dearest, as of old, and tell me all about yourself. Tell me, too, if you and Boogly are getting along finely together in the absence of your cowlicked grandfather.

Well, another day is done, thank

2/13/03



BENNETT HOTEL.

SULLIVAN, MO.,

1903.

goodness, and I am one day nearer home and Doolie. I was up at 6:15 this morning, had breakfast, and caught the 7:30 train to Pacific. There I found my man, saw his crop, and ~~made~~ some exposures. Mr. Horner gave me a lot of practical information; but he is rather discouraged with his yields, and I am afraid that he is going out of ^{the} business until he can accumulate more capital for the undertaking. The best season was over, but some of the beds are yet in fairly good fruitage.

I left Pacific about three o'clock, and reached this town in a little more than an hour. I find that one of the caves which I had in mind to visit here is now being used for mushroom growing. I have seen the proprietor, and he will go with me to removal of the caves tomorrow. It will be impossible for me to reach St. Louis until tomorrow night. I had hoped to go out Sunday to my own Sweet Lov; Digitized by the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

~13/03



BENNETT HOTEL.

SULLIVAN, MO.,

1903.

but Mr. Horner is very anxious to take me out to see the condition of the corn-
past, etc. at the stock yards in East St.
Louis. I don't want to make another trip to St.
Louis for that purpose, so that I will attend to
it Sunday morning, and leave for Ma Mie
Sunday night. To avoid sleeping at Cen-
tralia, I may take the "Katy", getting an all-
night sleep on the train, and reaching Colum-
bia at about the same time as if I should
go via the Wabash.

I hope that you are feeling 'gilt edge', Sweet-
heart, and I wish so much that I could
take my old Persica for my heart for
even one little minute, for I love my own
little Girl — so much.

Oui, Madame, ~~it~~ I Perij., it's adoré,
toi. V. Perij.

2/13/23



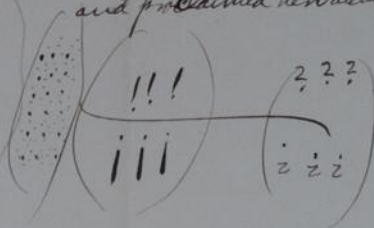
Where the frog
might be.

Frog went a-courting
he did stand, 'tis he!
under the shade
of a mushroom grand, 'tis he!

When he arrived
at his doorway quite hee-hay!
He made a low 'How-
and invited her to bite, 'tis he!

He forgot about the day
and pressed him to die, 'tis he!

He accepted with a croak
and proclaimed her Valentine's niece!



if there was any the world knew it.
They are right of it & they
show me the pretty garments
I have. I have had my dress, my
clothes now while they are put
on, she does beautiful
work. I wish she would
make a dress or so for me,
but she goes from house to
house by the month & while
she is at Mrs B's she does
for the whole connection.
I will put in a letter to
to Maria. I have not heard
from you this week but expect
you have been very much
engaged, your Father has
just to look around in
the garden & might
have some savings, with
Maria's love to Maria &
your self. Your devoted
Mother.

At least we are having some bright days & today we are
sitting in the chamber without fire, it is beautiful over head but oh!
the roads! they are terrible, & anyone can scarcely get to Gallons, even
worse than when you & Maria came last spring, how I wish that visit
were to be repeated, only a little later, so you could ride about some.
The March winds I think are about to begin & I hope the garden will soon
be in order for planting, our neighbors took advantage of a good spell some
time ago & have peas & some other things growing nicely, but we have no seed
in the ground & it is highly probable our servants will both leave & thus
nothing will be done. We find the boy very useful & dislike the idea of
giving him up, or the girl either for this is no time to finish another to take
her place. Their sister who sent them here went to Ireland said they could
stay this year with us, but has been writing to them lately to go over to her,
& the other day sent her husband to get their wages & take them over, your
Father refused to give him their money & ordered him off the place but he is
staying around here some where & is keeping them in a stew all the time,
any night they may slip off to take the morning train for Ireland as you see
the servant question troubles us all when servants are negroes. This morning's
mail brought a card from aunt Rachel saying Barbara was with them

for a few days, the swelling is still there, & hants & throbs sometimes, but
otherwise he seems quite well. She did not mention his eyes. I had a letter
from Henry also, his friend Geo. had gone down to crabs & was a great deal of a
week & enjoy bird hunting but in two days he was telegraphed for to Blocton
to attend to some business, however they had two hunts, one afternoon killed
52 birds. Henry had been out a deer hunt but did not get a shot at a
deer the several were pursued. Of course Aunt Phillet could not attend
"his John's" marriage on Thursday, & fears she will not be able to attend the
silver wedding either, she was asked to help, I am not shy enough to help
Lucy Briggs. Oh! what do you think! Fanny Briggs "astonished the natives"
Monday evening. She told her Mother just before supper that she was going
over to Maria Ransom's, but she went to the hotel & jumped into a carriage with
Mrs Lane, Lonsdale & Mr Frank Jackson (her lover) they drove to Gen. Sticks
to be married but he refused to tie the knot as they went to Mrs Smith
Jewett of the Peace & he made them over (Mrs Smith lives near Mrs L.) they
then returned to the hotel & took a room, that is as much as I know
of their own minds, only that she sent her Mother word she "would be
down in the morning to tell her all about it." I can't understand why she
should have acted so, for as sister Sally said, she always had her own way
& the family would not have thought of opposing her if she wanted to
marry. Now Nell will be anxious her second of home. The young man has a
salary of \$35.00 ^{a month} to support the two, did you ever hear of such small ones!
Fred is down in Cincinnati today, I could not go to meet him, even if I could
had been good, he said he had so much work to do I would have been a

any color different from what they have I reckon. I wanted to write you to day but it is getting
 very dark here. I will
 have to do that tomorrow,
 will have a quiet day.
 Mrs. Stewart wants
 the \$10 to go down
 I look at her eye
 I know when he
 gets there he will stay
 my husband expects to
 go before 4 weeks
 & would love to see
 & especially
 & family
 21st 1883
 p.m. Cranville, Va.

I have been thinking a great deal
 of you & how since the storm & wondering if it
 was such a blizzard as we had. For the paper
 we have it was quite a general thing. This morning
 while I was in the kitchen baking apples, & then
 cake for our decent tomorrow, Dr. P. sent me your
 letter, I was so glad to have it & enjoyed it so
 much that I read it over twice. It like so much
 to hear of what you are doing & all about the
 letter fixings, you indeed. There are many letter
 things to get ready but then some of them laid
 for the whole family, the cradles, basket &c, "coming"
 will be nearly fixed when he arrives. I am glad
 you liked the hibernia, did you know the violet
 in it were sweet, or did you receive a small boy
 of hyacinths & violets? I mention this because they
 were the violet I promised to send, & went off before
 the hibernia. I few violet are over now, I cannot see
 them as injured by the cold, I suppose it was
 because we had had such mild weather & the

change was so sudden, it's too find it hard to
keep warm but we have an abundant supply
of coal & wood too our greatest trouble is not being
able to occupy the chamber (over sitting room)
when the wind is from the west & that was a
terrible west wind, we had to take to the dining
room & it is so cold, we are in here tonight because
the chamber cracks. It is dread full to pay 2
dollars a ton for coke & you have so many tons
it does not last long I reckon. You have had a
bad time moving around to find a warm room
have sit you? well, I do hope the worst of the
winter is over, there must be so much suffering
among the poor these terrible spells. I certainly feel
thankful for our comfort. I have no idea what
the temperature was here, it was too cold to look
at the thermometer, but judging from the frozen
ground & the complete destruction of every thing
green it must have been pretty low. We had
snow now but the wind ceased to carry it
away; for four mornings after the storm the ground
was hard frozen, all my pines & barrels of milk
were frozen for three days. I am it is pity I am
making about 4 lbs more of butter a week than

Feb. 21, 1903

I can't sew & can't sell it, no one's going to
town. I am using it to work with in place of land
& often use it for the accounts. Ben took after being
brought back (I think I wrote of her trying to go off to
Selma) has remained very quietly, but I think it
is only that she may try to start off again when
we are not expecting it, for as she is I would
hate to lose her.

Yesterday cards came for the school existing. I know
no idea that I can go, really smitten of no one
much about it, the cards are too hard for old
people to be going about. I am sure sister Sally
will not be able to go, Johnny is on his journey &
Harry will not have any of his presents here. I
sent one for a little present for them, a "bunch of
forks" it is a very pretty little souvenir, I could not
make them a hand some present, so many more
to come. Yes, I will make the cousin such a present,
will give Nell a set of silver dessert knives. I
wanted to give ^{tea} spoons but sister Sally had selected
them. Of course Louis Harry will not have any
presents I wrote of her shipment I think. Marie
was terribly distressed but they made it all up
next morning & now Harry (Miss Jackson) here.

with her brother. Rumor says there are to be about
6 more weddings among the Hamadale people &
that Miss Mulville is to be married, the young man
who gets her (said to be George Benson) will draw a
prize, she is a fine girl, worthy of as better man
than George. I think Ruben ought to stay in Hamadale
while he waits the marrying man, he needs a wife.
We have not heard from him for over a week as
he must be at least in voice, he will not write
or get Mrs. Beattie to write, his eyes have improved
enough for him to write a short note. You never
heard of as much pretty work as Lucy Mulville has
on hand, a very fine half for Nell, then she is making
a pair of the white silk waist she is to wear as brides
maid, also a white linen waist for this summer,
& other jobs of the same sort. Sister Abby writes me what
they are doing. I believe it has been over four months
since I have seen her, so much too! It seems a long
time since I have seen any of our neighbors but
Miss Lou Barlow, we come over to see each other
quite often & exchange news things, she sent me
some very nice brown croquette the other day & some
woven nut pudding, today I sent her some of our
apples & tea cakes as I thought them right nice, at

Green would give people to be around perfectly content
at the infirmary, would he had everything he wanted
& friends were very attentive & kind. Green tried to
talk business with him but he would not have a
word to say on the subject his affairs need attention
but no one can do anything unless he says so. Some
thought place he got only a look of cotton, his
expenses were must be heavy but I suppose he is too
well satisfied to trouble himself as to how they will
be paid. Thus as we were talking he ought to have a
guardian appointed for him, we never expect to see
him out of that infirmary. I had a long letter from
Mrs. Hays, she was ill for three weeks & was very hardly
able to help her, when she was able to sit up a letter
Miss Mary was taken very sick & then their old cook who
had been a great comfort to them took her back, Mrs.
Christina's family were all ailing & could not help
them as they had a hard time. Mrs. Mary is unable to
move about yet. Capt. Taylor is the most amiable old
person I know, he has improved so much & actually
attempted to walk yesterday, a freezing day; never success
Maudie Green. The spirit just now a card from brother Hays
says he is very weak. A letter from sister Sally also, she had not
heard from Arthur for a week, he spent a week with them, had a
good appetite but was weak & the swelling still hard & thick.
I hope you are having some bright weather & every thing is

from Greenville, Ala

Feb 28th 1903

My dear Lou

We were much pleased to have your letter of the 24th handed us yesterday, my letter to your Mother must have reached Columbus the day after your wrote. I know you were glad the weather moderated in spite of the wind from the North, such cold as you had seen to me almost unbearable; how is coal now? any cheaper. We have had two of the worst days you ever saw & you know how hard it came down in Ala, all Thursday & that night it poured down, & yesterday was almost as bad, we could not help thinking of how soon troubled she would be, of course had to make her preparations for some winter it would brighten up a little to some down houses in a few minutes. We feel very anxious to hear if any one was at the reception for the rain did not hold up the best bit until 9 o'clock. I thought of sister Sally too how desperate she would feel, she & Leroy were to go over Wednesday in a 4 wheel wagon, I know she imagined terrible things that

might happen to them going back after such a
winter fall. I doubt if they crossed the creek today.
The water was so thought the side down there would
almost kill her, she is much more weary than I
am & goes all through me bad enough.

I wrote you I had no idea of going to the mines
excavating, but Maria Brown wrote me such a nice
note asking me to go & stay with her that I concluded
I would, your father declined. Hoping the cars would
stop by Friday morning I packed my best bit &
had every thing ready, even to putting out every
thing for each night until I returned, but when
I looked out in the morning I saw there was no
excavating for me, as I had the pleasure of unpack-
ing & spent the day overlooking woodsides, straightening
up the stone corner etc. I am anxiously awaiting a
description from sister Sally. I would have enjoyed
meeting all our relatives & friends very much, most of all
sister Sally, feel as if I have not seen her for ages
as our old friends used to say, poor old ladies, both
of them have been very sick, Mrs. Hurd now up &
out but Mrs. Hurd confined to the room, going no
stronger, it is hard for old people to rally. We have
no recent news from Uncle Warrick, a week with a

Feb 28, 1903

four times on it about a week ago, he said he
gained no strength.

Did you see in the papers a notice of Dr Davis'
death? that man who came to see your father when he
was sick some years ago, he was in his buggy one
morning, tried to jump out to hold his horse,
it is thought the step of the car struck him & threw
him under the car & he was run over, killed instantly.
He is a great loss to the state, for persons from distant
parts went to his infirmary to be treated, your father
thinks his brother will hardly be able to carry on the
work they had there, Dr. Chas Davis seemed to be
the manager.

We had not heard from Benben in so long that
your father went up to see how the fruit of this
week, found him out where his hands were placing
in sets, he was looking pretty well. Your father dined at
Mrs. Harris's. I reckon he has been here some a long
time since Sister Sally left home. I think Rich was
there but he is not in the house except at meal
times & at night. I don't know when was the last

times are heard from Fred, the paper stated he
was in Montgomery this week at the Exchange, we
wondered what business took him to the Exchange.
He seems to be out on college business as good
deal. Henry has not favored us with a letter this
week, I thought perhaps he went to Mobile to the
presentation of the silver service to the battleship
which was Mr. Johnson's speech on the occasion was
fine, he is a Mobilian. We hear nothing from Mrs.
Sprague, your father wrote to Fred when Uncle Dave
was so sick but he did not reply.

Will's boys have not furnished us an egg yet,
I feel like chopping their heads off, this month we
should have better chickens & not a hen has endeavored
to lay an egg, the crows are thinning them out,
we fear our own ducks are the crows, for we never
have that many left the yard. Please keep your
mistakes, my pen will go wrong, the crows hunt my
eye as I can hardly see & there is nothing to make up
an interesting letter as I had better stop. My kindest
regards to Mrs. Roberts, Give thanks for me, with
much love to your both.

Yours devoted

Arthur.

To B.M.D.

Prunella-Vitice

Kale He - Ha -

May 31st 1880

Dear Ben -

Mar Low says there is no use for you to write for I have told all the world and all about the Stone VC, about the rock-dwings, Kingsfolk VC. - Now you are what a poor encouragement there is for me. - But there is one thing I am sure she has not told you, about Potatoes the complete destruction in the last freeze of the bluen blossoms, they look parched up and if course our prospect is gloomy for fruit except peaches & some late pears - or late blooming Periwinkles.

A few days since I was at Van Dorn & look around to see what depredations the "Vandals" were committing, found only 7 trees cut down in the front yard.

Bro Wade's Place looks like a deserted village save enough. He is & seems at the "Cit Infirmary" all our friends particularly kind & attentive - sending him bumper,

grapes, cut flowers &c, his table was piled with all these
"luxuries" - the trick to eat & enjoy them & as friend Portidge
says. "We are trying to make him forget himself." &
they do. I have never gotten a word of business from
him yet, not a line - He seems perfectly content to exist
without a thought on business whatsoever. He tells me he
has all he wants & sleeps well - but there is no improvement
as the attending Physician admits. I fear he may just
gradually weaken down, down, & be bedridden there, not care
to change his environment. It is almost 4 weeks now &
no change for the better. Grieve wished to take him back to
Munich - but the thought of the noise of the children, or concludes
he was better off in the infirmary. I heard him say once
that when he died he wanted to die quick & trouble nobody.

Feb. 21, 1903

Your Mother & I have been much amused at some of Marie's - "Musings" for instance counting her chickens before they were hatched; but tell Marie I say that is just the way I did. I never prearranged for a girl's name during all our early married life - it was always a boy's name I had in view & so I was blessed. The same good luck to her.!! -

In the Hamstead Connection there has been such a rush for Matrimony that I have declared off - broke - . I administer only good wishes, Golden-prophecies &c, but abstain from anything more substantial. Quoted in this I found you something of the Mosquito kind, it is a villainous insect & bit me about two weeks ago. To this variety of Mosquito I attribute my cure.

attack of Erysipelas several years ago. I was a bite on
my cheek - from a mere little spot the size of a ten cent
piece - my face commenced to swell, the inflammation
extended to my eyes, entire face, top of my head & did
not stop til had entirely enveloped me. My skin peeled
off - all my hair dropped out & I was three months recov-
ering. I have always imagined that the thing had been onto
a dead chicken cat, or something.

We are all so glad to know that Marie is in good
spirits & cheerful; tell her to keep up somewhat a fruit diet,
take moderate but no active exercise, & all will be well.
Thank Mrs Robertson for her kind remembrance, also Mr Leharly,
for I hope to know them sometime in the future. With best love to
all. I am your father, affectionately
Wm. H. H. 1883

Faunsdale Ala 3/6/03

Dear Ben

Let me express our most sincere thanks to you & Marie for the lovely remembrance sent us on our Silver anniversary - The cordial & loving good will of our friends & relatives has rendered the 25th milestone on the journey of our wedded lives, one of great pleasure & happiness. Your aunt Mulville & Lucy came down a day or two before hand & rendered us valuable help both in preparing the refreshments & in decorating the house - I thought the house very pretty, decorated with southern smilax, intermingled

with silver chains & hearts - The refreshments were such as your aunt Melville, your mother & aunt Lucy alone can prepare, but we were so unfortunate as to have an awful rainy disagreeable day, & your mother could not even get to Gallien. The night was terrible, but in spite of a perfect storm of rain we had quite a large crowd & we were kindly remembered to the number of about 120 presents - some of them very handsome - Oley gladdened our hearts by an unexpected visit. Came all the way from Langdon North Dakota, to spend just

six days with us - He commenced practicing Vet: Med there last Nov & has done splendidly so far, although he says Dec, Jan & Feb are said to be dull months in his business - he is delighted with that country & is the perfect picture of health weighs just 199 pounds - I hope you like your new home & work & wish that I could have made you a visit before I left St Louis - Hope I can do so in 1904 - Lottie joins me in love to you both

Yours affly
B. C. Minge

Dear Mary
telling you how
much I love you

March 7th 1903.

My dear Mary

Your letter reached this 4th 10 o'clock.
I reached us on the 6th and here as a letter is sitting
there a quick trip. Of course we were glad to
hear from you, always are, it seems so strange
that with you the period is freezing at night,
with us the fire is needed, you made a little to
warm our hearts, & have the door now wide open
to cool the room.

I had a terrible job on my hands today & am
feeling rather tired. We have had an extraordinary
ice storm for many weeks on account of the
churning working as, we tried to get a man to
clean it out but did not succeed, then we
tried the old time plan of burning out, with no
improvement; today Peter Brown came, cleaned the
chimney from fire place up, fixed over the back &
tonight the fire burned beautifully so I hope we
will have no more trouble this winter, but oh the
cleaning I had to do; every thing was covered with

dead & root, I tried to get help from the girl
but she was the 'Old Scatch' & I sent her out &
did the work myself, then I made John come in
& take his first lesson in washing up the floor, it
required much patience but I was satisfied when
he was through.

Now Father has just come in with the mail & telegram,
hurrah for the girl! I am so delighted to hear
Bessie & baby are doing well, I am afraid you are
a little disappointed that it was not a boy, but
never mind you will find much pleasure in the
little girl I am sure. A little baby is rather as
nearly to you is not it? I certainly would like to
take a peep at you all over that baby, Mrs. Chas.
included, I imagine there will be much amusement
over her funny little ways, will your next letter
will describe her, give the color of her eyes & hair,
say who she resembles &c. Tell Bessie not to dabble
her with kisses but give her one now & then for
me.

With the night's mail came a note from Uncle
Wes saying how disappointed he was that we
could not be present at the school wedding & thank-
ing us for a little remembrance we sent, & add-

Mar 7, 03

secret fork, he sometimes a gift from Maria & yourself, I know he appreciated the courtesies, he also invited us to stay with them this night before Nell's wedding, I am 'never going' but don't think your father will. Poor girl is trying her best to get away, my. she does, some do not stay on this place, she has slipped off tonight & the boy came to say he was afraid to stay in this house alone but refused our offer to let him sleep in the house, it may be the last we will see of either of them. Uncle Ben said he saw Mr. Britton who said Rebecca was not feeling so well, Mr. B. thought he had been riding too much.

I know you are pleased that the Community will have as large an appreciation, & hope you may get all you want for your department.

Cornell did have a hard time since enough, I wonder what caused such an out break of typhoid fever.

We had a letter from Dr. Little a day or two ago, he says he sees no improvement in Bro. Waver, he was able to sit up 2 hours that day & was quite cheerful, you see he has so many friends ladies & gentlemen calling to see him, they keep

his spirits up. Now Father found all his corn gone
& his horses were all trampled up as if things had
been commingled over, & 7 trees had been cut down
in his grove, finding his pit, the whole of night he
stolen he sent him to Barbours, nailed up the
windows & brought home the house key. I would be
sorry for any one who would have to wind up his
affairs.

2-7-03

I did not tell you that the rains poured down so I
could not go to the silver worlding but sister Betty
wrote me a description of it, I will enclose that part
of her letter for I think you & Maria will be interested
to hear all about it, you will see it was quite a
"small" affair you must send the letter to Maria, it
will not be well for her to see her eyes too soon.

I hope Aunt Caroline will find you as much
"gracely" that she will stay some time, perhaps she
will "nurse" the "gracely" baby. I think your telegram
must have come last night but was not sent up
until tonight, it was dated 6th.

Now Father wants to put in his congratulations, write
his note & Aunt M. & let her go with him without
Maria, as I will not write any more. I hope we will
continue to hear good accounts from Maria, & little

P.O. Prairieville, Ala

March 13th 1908

My dear Daughter

The baby is a week old today & I hope you are doing well, we were so glad to know Ben's letter telling us of your all right, some how it has been misplaced & I may not receive as I would like, he says the baby has his features & black hair, that better is rather unusual and a little baby but very pretty I am sure, my babies were all bald headed, just a little yellow hair from ear to ear at the back of the head, are you glad you are safe? I am proud of you & it was right good weight for a little girl & if she grows fast she will soon be heavy enough, as much weight as you will care to carry around. Of course by this time you have plenty of mischiefment for her & she has nothing to do but nurse, sleep & grow. My babies slept so much that sometimes I would be very weary & look into them to see if they were alive. After all your mother did not have to wait so long as you thought, she as well as yourself must feel very happy that this trouble is over, almost by

2

the time this reaches you I suppose you will be
sitting up. I know they will all be so careful with
you that you will need no change from one to take
care of yourself. I thank you very much for wishing
to call the baby Lois for me but I think she
should be called for her Mother. How said she
would have both names. You know we all thought
your name was Lois Lois until the visitations
were out. I wrote sister Sally of the baby, in her apt
she desired love & congratulations to Ben & yourself.
Sister wrote Harri & Henry & my brother Ben.

Ben has gone to be with Mary who is "expecting"
very soon, she took a good colored nurse along with
her some of the old family servants - Is "Aunt
Caroline" Ben mentioned, your nurse, or cook?

About this time last year we were busy fixing to
receive you, have now just about the same kind of
weather & roads as when you were with us, only I
think some snow has fallen, I never saw so much
snow & so little sunshine, do you remember the
terrible weather? part of the time was April & we
did have some ^{sun} shine but now we seldom see the
sun. We are all wishing the weather may clear up so we
can go to Nell's wedding Tuesday, at least sister Sally,

& I saw, I don't care to go. Sister Sally will
 have to take her coach & go again for Lucy must be
 there. It is a pity people will get married in such
 bad weather, the better part of a week would be as
 much better. Speaking of marriages reminds me to
 say to you that Miss Ralph Smith & her son
 married this week, Miss Lou Richards sent me word
 she went over to school & was married, some of
 her friends knew what she was going for. She is the
 lady Maria who was so dreadfully distressed when
 her husband died that it was thought she would
 give herself to death, she would not take any interest
 in anything nor go out on the street for exercise, not
 even on a private street for exercise, when she did
 begin to go out about dusk, she would be covered over
 with a tremendous black veil. Mrs Smith has not been
 dead two years & she is married again. I did not
 know the gentleman's name but heard they will
 reside in Carolina.

We had a letter from Dr. Pettit day before yesterday he
 still says his W. case is comfortable, suffers no pain, is
 able to sit up most of the day, but gains no strength,
 is very clumsy, he has been there 6 weeks.

I heard Peabody was out grading some land so I

think his eyes must be very much better. I think
tho' that was rather imprudent, at to try very on
the eyes & sometimes think he injured his doing
so much reading.

I think I water. Ben our cook had left, we have now
one of Susan Scott's daughters but I am afraid she
will not stay long, she is rather a "high lady", never
comes until after seven o'clock & would like to have
her fire made, water brought & coal put in place
for her use, waits two or three days in each month,
is with her & waits after the dishes are washed
& kitchen cleaned. Dr. Foggan says he wants to write
a letter to you as I am very sleepy it will turn
out sick & proper to him. Don't I wish I could take
a nap at you all, especially the little one, kiss
her for her grand Mother, with much love to you all
& all.

Yours affectionately

Mother.

P.S. No letter from Edw. or Waver recently.

Prairie - Villa"
Hale's - Ala.

Tueh 13th 1903.

Dear Marie:-

I should not undertake to write you - just as it were - behind my wife's letter, but really I didn't wish to let an opportunity pass to say something on this occasion. We know that ladies always have a peculiar way to express themselves - a charming way of their own - and if Marion is distinguished for any one thing in particular it is in epistolary writing - I thought so long ago - and I am sure she has practiced well in the last 15 years or so, and she is almost perfect now. Yet there are some things she would omit, which she would consider of no importance & I should value much. Now for instance I don't believe she has told you not to squeeze or hug that little baby too much; its little ribs are very tender yet, and

if a true daughter of Che - she hasn't as many ribs as a boy
might have!! - But really in fact and no joking about it -
there are many babies spoiled by too much handling.
Fortunately a wise Providence made their little bones and joints
very flexible, and even their little heads can be moulded;
- Don't you remember in your "Geography" - or have you forgotten
all about it? - There was a most startling picture of descrip-
tive delineation - where an Indian woman had a Baby's head
tied up between two boards and so she carried it about. These
were the flat-head Indians - a tribe of North America. Some
few years back, when I was a boy, I never could pass over
that picture in my Geography - without dwelling over it for
a good while. Again, the Chinese you know took the other
extremity of a child - viz the feet & have for thousands of

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years minimized the tarsal and metatarsal bones of the feet of their women-babies. This crippling of the female sex, I expect, was originated for some very good reason, they say of course that it was to make them more beautiful - but I never could believe it at all. Somewhere in ancient history, I have read that in remote ages amongst the Scythians and other Asiatics; the "Females" were the soldiers - not because there were always more women than men, but I reckon it was because the women folk were naturally braver than the men and braver - &c, even to this day, I have found among women more courageous than men. Do you recollect what Milton says - "Eve" told Adam when they were driven out of Paradise; you may discover the fact, plainly told, how courageous she was, way back in these primeval days?

= I think the Chinese wanted to stop that soldiering business? —
Mrs-Lou didn't tell me what she wrote to you about — in
no wise; but I'll bet a ginger-cake — that she wrote
you of the marriage of one of our young widows.
(Mrs Ralph Smith). We don't know that a decent tomb Stone
has as yet been gotten to cover his grave. When ^{Lo!} she has gone
on a bridal trip again. After her husband died, she wrapped herself
all over in thickest sort of veils — black as night — & looked scared
at a man's hat. Well she wanted a protector I guess, & I hope she
has done well. — To make up for my deficiencies in the way of a
letter, I'll enclose one from Balling Duggan's wife "Londie" of Tuscaloosa.
Wouldn't you have liked to take a peep at those children in their fancy
dresses? — I regret I cannot yet say that Pass Waverly is improving.
With a kiss and love to all, I must say good-night — (nearly 12.) —
I'll wrap in the morning. — Yours affectionately, B. Duggan.

March 21st 1903.

My dear Love

This is a lovely spring morning, the sun is bright, the birds are singing & every thing has quite a spring like look, of course the trees have not their leaves (except the pines) but the grass is very green & the corn and wheat leaved, you know the young leaves are red & very pretty I think, there is just wind enough to make us feel that the wind is drying us & we will soon have better roads, while on the subject of roads let me tell you that a few nights ago some ladies & gentlemen were coming from the train to the old Johnsons place, they had six mules to the wagon, it took them one hour to get from Hall's to the house of the road at Mr. Hatch's woods, every few minutes they had to stop & clean the mud off the wheels or they would stop turning. It was that very morning that I wanted to go to Hannibal but concluded not to try it with only 2 mules, if I had had six in all probability I would not have been in time

for the train, it was a great disappointment not to go.

Received your letter, came. I was as glad to hear
Minnie & Miss Duggan were doing as well. I know
you have your hands full with college & house
duties & I thank you very much for writing. You
are quite right about the baby not wishing her
picked up & shaken ~~etc~~ every little whimper,
bubbling now & then & want to be held all the
time when really they are better off out of the
arms, it strengthens their lungs to cry a little.
I can well imagine the little Miss is growing
prettier every day & that you & Minnie are very proud
of her, what will it be when she begins to say
Mamma & Papa! She is two weeks old today & I
suppose Minnie is sitting up. It is a pleasure to
have such kind friends to remember one when
sick. I hope the baby's eyes will be black, but it
is hard to tell what they will be they change
so. I am glad you will call her Minnie Louise,
that will distinguish her from her mother, two of
the same name sometimes makes confusion, now
there are three Wood's in the family. That
reminds me, I had quite a long letter from

Mar. 20, 1903

Just a few days ago, Harry was put up from a
short attack of grip, the other was well. He men-
tioned having heard from you. He is much pleased
with the gentleman who takes Mr. Lohs's place,
his friends from the Museum & the College.
Those Auburn children are wonderful! They are
all playing chess now, even Ambrose, he will
play at it for hours with the two sets of men
imagining the other boy. I think they had better
be at some sort of dose sports getting strong &
unaccustomed like children to be children. Harry is
teaching them at home now, she changes as often
as your aunt. I like to see where her children
were growing up. How good really must appear
mistakes my pen will make little I don't intend
it to make, it is strange is it? I old age I reckon.
Mrs. Stewart has been at Mrs. Barnden's nearly a
week, as soon as it will walk up there, I want to
see her & asked her to spend yesterday with us, she
came & we had a very quiet but to me pleasant
day, I hope she found it so too. After dinner we
walked through the lot to the church yard, she
wanted to go over. She has packed all her furniture

in one room & turned the house over to the man
 who rented the place. She has not yet made up
 her mind what she will do, will board several
 weeks with Mrs. Hatch, by that time hopes to have
 decided upon some thing & will move her furniture.
 She came very sad at the idea of breaking up, never
 would have done it except that Frank wanted to
 go to Misses, then he did not stay but one month, in
 that time their baggage was made, made & stock
 sold as they had to break up. Miss Mary is well & happy.
 We very recent news from Uncle Waver, Dr. Little sends
 about the same report every time "gaining in strength".
 I wrote him about the baby. Mrs. Father had a little
 respite of a few lines from him last week, said he
 was getting tired of the bed. He is put into our
 invalids clinic & called into the same parlor every
 day Mrs. Stewart said she called to see him not
 long ago when in Selma.

Mrs. Tom House, Mayor of Danville, dropped dead in
 her store this week, apoplexy I believe. I wonder if
 I wrote you of Miss Smith's marriage, she went over
 to Selma, ostensibly on a shopping trip, the gentleman
 happened to be there & persuaded her to marry him
 in a house after she arrived, the marriage took

Went in the Episcopal church & they left for dinner
to purchase a ~~transmission~~, then go to Dr. P. He is said
to be wealthy & she had the reputation of being a
rich widow.

I am glad to know you have a garden, have
often wondered if you had, it is so nice to have
fresh vegetables from one's own garden.

Our Father has come in with this mail, a note
from Uncle W., letter from Watkins, he says Dr
Pitts says he can't help feeling encouraged about
bro' Wm. but he knows that at any time he
might have a back set that would carry him
off.

Burke's piece was as bad he could not go to
the wedding, kept Uncle Thos's company. I will
enclose Aunt Melville's note, you & Maria may like
to know about the wedding. The train last night
killed 4 snakes & 3 horses colts for Mrs G W Collins.
Well, now I must stop & write to one of the other boys,
love Maria & baby for me, with much love to you
all

Yours devoted

Arthur.

March 26th 1908.

My dear Son

Our supper is over & the table is drawn up
to the fire in the chamber, for us to write letters, as you
see we have cool nights & mornings yet. For the last
two days your Father has been busy in the garden,
John Mitchell sent his boy, a girl, & a mule, & they had a
time breaking up land that was plowed too wet, & had
drift in tremendous heaps, however with plowing & chop-
ping they succeeded in getting some ready to plant & the
seed were put in much to my delight for I began to
think we would have no garden planted, what we
want now is a gentle rain, then cucumbers without wind.
Today we had a note from Richard, his ailments seem
to increase instead of abating, the pains ache is as bad
as ever on face, hands, & neck, & he has two boils on
his neck, the usual remedies seem to do no good, I
think because not applied right. Let me know how
to take care of him. I do wish he would get married.
He is going out all the time, says he is pushing the
cotton planting this week, he is always a head with his
work. Sister Sally wrote and has spent the day with them

& she fastened his sick all day, I wish he had stayed several days & let her keep up her treatment. The man who brought Pauline's note says the cows are still terrible it will take two or three weeks before a buggy can go over them. And yet Mr. Colby wrote to know if he cannot come down Sunday, I don't see how he can unless on horse back & it would be a terrible ride for him.

How is Miss Maria Linné & her son-in-law? I hope she is well & growing & "son-in-law" strong them every day. Your letter for this week has not come but I just think you are too busy to write. These are the dullest times I ever saw, & I can't give you an interesting letter. I wrote two weeks ago before yesterday but did not pick up an atom of news. I went to Mrs. R. W. Collins & to Mr. Linné, of course I walked, & waited at the gate some time for some one to protect me from the mischievous dogs, just think of six little noisy children & 8 dogs running in & out at "Mrs. Bob Woods", almost as many at the other place.

I had a letter from Henry a few days ago, he will soon change his residence from Fairfield to Wagon, it is about 20 miles up the M. & P. R. R. There is a large lumber mill there already, & another very large

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one being built. They want a resident physician
 & he has secured the place, about 5 miles off there is
 a temperance ^{& two smaller mills} establishment, he expects the two mills to
 pay more than he is collecting at present, & says
 the surrounding territory is better than where he is, some
 of the territory he now owns will still be his lands, &
 especially that about & west of Mecl. dock will be
 mines. There is no Doctor on the Southern road (they
 call it now) from Nelson to Calvert. Dr. Will will
 do most of the Fairfield practices & Henry will assume
 some of his above Calvert, he says this is in keeping
 with his policy of not getting too heavily anchored in
 one place, of increasing his income, & of getting out
 to a permanent place when he can afford it, & the
 opportunity offers.

Tell Grace I have been making some bonnets lately to
 sell for the Guild, have three, but no finish as yet.
 I made a little duck tie & collar & sold that, thinks
 I will try some more. I am working on a business card,
 expect to give that to sister Sally to help her in her
 bazaar work. The Fairmadies ladies expect to have a
 three days bazaar after Easter to raise money to help
 out the Rectory fund, each lady must furnish 6

articles & some satables for the benches. Sister Sally said
she did not see how she & Lucy would get up 12
articles as I thought one from one would help some.
She thinks "Bro John's" savings will be an excellent
expense to them. Oh! I forgot to tell you I received
today a check for 150 dollars, my share of the first
payment on the Richmond lot that was divided up
into small lots & 14 of them sold, there will be some
more coming in April, not as much, then two other
payments in one & two years. I would like to invest
the two first payments to be bringing in some thing,
of course I could use it on this house, but don't
think that would pay.

We heard that only the tops of John King's (Jr.)
houses, will be, were visible above the water, what
the damage will be we can't tell, Horn is on a visit
to Fairdale & was very uneasy about John, but I
reassure he took care of himself. He is right on the
sine I heard, Horn Father says he will write soon as I
will say good night, with much love to you all & mine
to the baby.

Your devoted

Brother.

P.S. I am afraid I will miss Maria's interesting letters now that
she will have the baby to care for, but I will not be jealous.

MAY 27, 1902
Dear Ben! - The paper on which
I am writing presupposes that I
have not much to say - and
indeed I write now, chiefly to
say that I intend sending you
a specimen of our common
Cane - which has given to this
section of the State the name
"Canebrake". You can well re-
member how in your earlier
years - you watched the flocks
of black-birds - as in the
twilight time they flocked or
winged their flight to the creeks
as roosting places - the Cane-
thickets. In those days the
seasons were such that the
Cane bare seed - Not for
many years ^{the} recently have we

been able to secure a specimen of the cone
with the seed-crop on it. It looks like "Brouss.".
I have saved a good bush of it to send you,
possibly it may also be a curiosity to some
of your friends in Kalamibia.

It would be useless for me to write you a
letter, as your ^{Mother} doubtless has described in de-
tail the facts & news of our environments &c.

We hope the young Mother & daughter will
continue to grow in strength & grace & charms &c
&c - World without end. } Your Father affectionately
Loves & a Kiss to them for me. Ed. Thompson