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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.

Jan 3rd 1894

My dear Lou

The boys have gone & our house seems as quiet again, Lewis left last night, Waver our yesterday freight I think they enjoyed the holidays very much, with the exception of one day the weather was good enough for them to visit or hunt as they pleased. Waver had to make three trips to Danapolis to have a tooth fixed the dentist plugged it three times before he could get it right, the first time plugged on the nerve, of course that could not stand, the second time deadened the nerve a little, & the third time killed it, which he should have done at first, he must be a poor dentist.

I have not seen any one from Uncle John's this year as your Father is going down on a collecting trip today I will accompany him, I have a little business with Johnny too. Ruben says as we are going off he will go to see Mr Jackson about the

interest he owes him. Reuben has no prospect of
work for another year, seems to have no idea of
looking around to find any, I think he is satisfied
to wait on the Civil service. I am glad to have
him here but for his own good I think he should
be at work. Bobbie Collins sold out his stock of goods
at the Woody Collins store to Mr Woody Collins & has
with another man (Seal I think is the name) bought
out Mr Bladec, he was a long way behind so had to
sell, advancing so much ruined him. Mr B- says
he is going to Texas. Bobbie will remain with his
Father & Mr Seal kept the store at the depot, every
one thinks they will try to build up a good trade
there & there Mr Joe will go down there, you
know he disappointed your Father about taking
the seed store, sent for "Mr C W" for this year the
store he has been in all the time. Mr Joe is terribly
"blue", there never was such a cry of hard times, the
merchants & planters are at last becoming disgusted
with advancing to negroes.

Wednesday night. I commenced my letter before breakfast
but had not time to finish before leaving for Uncle

Jan 31 1894

John's, it is now after supper. We had a nice drive down, the the next wind was rather cool, roads very good notwithstanding the heavy rains of these days & Friday. We found them at home & glad to see us, the girls left for school Monday. Uncle John is much worried about his business matters, he helped as many & now they can't pay him, but he managed to give your Father a check for part of his account. I wrote you we would have the "Communion tea" Friday, the day was awful, cold steady rain all day, but I made every preparation, towards night Mrs Collins sent in her portion of the supper & soon afterwards Mrs Hatch sent hers, & her three girls requesting me to take care of them for the night as the weather was so bad. Clara was with us, the other boys came up & Willie Bowdler, Al Garber & a friend of his came over making in all about 14 persons. I concluded to give them supper but not have the communion, it was well I did ^{not} for early

next morning the Collins family sent word they wanted
to have the supper over on Saturday night & would
make any thing necessary, wet & muddy as it was
Lewis rode all around to see the housekeepers, all
agreed to having the supper but Mrs Tark, she could not
get her chickens cooked ready as then he had to come
back by such horses & let them know that Monday
would be the night, all prepared. The weather was
pleasant & we had about 46 persons, the girls sang
& played on the piano & much to our surprise
four of them danced the "Minuet" in the hall.
Lucius, Mabel, Lizzie & Lora. I fear our baptist friends
were shocked, if they had consulted me I would have
preferred their not entertaining the company in that
way, but of course could say nothing against it as
they were nearly through when I found out what
was going on, I having been in the kitchen making
coffee. I wish you could have been at the supper
table we seated 16, the elderly persons first such as
"Mrs B W," Mrs & Mrs Venables, Mrs & Mrs John Walter
Mrs Garber, the Holdens &c, the waiters took the
orders & Mrs Birmingham & I helped the plates, it

Jan 31 1894

was as funny, some would have all bread & drink, others all meat, others again milk, water, tea, coffee, onions, the latter we served in our little colored scrap plates, & honey in the tiny white scrap plates. I've never heard such a roar of laughter as when we set their suppers before them, after laughing over them we would throw hand turkey, chicken salad, chocolate sauce & jelly, & any drink they wanted. We had two full tables & a good many to the third & an abundance for all. The waiters had a fine time enjoying the fun three times. Every one seemed delighted with the novel entertainment & a good many said we should have charged 50^{cts}. I felt fully compensated for my trouble. Elvira & the boys dressed the parlor with cedar & vines for Friday night, Monday the boys dressed the dining room also. Elvira was obliged to return home Sunday. I was as long as I could not stay longer, Benben took her home, Aunt Matilda

sent me by him a little glass preserve dish &
Suey as soap.

I have had a letter from Fred since 4 was, the
boy arrived safely & was much enjoyed. I hope you
received my letter written the Friday before 4 was. I
think it was. I hope to hear from you tomorrow.
Bobbie's man "Tivins" will begin work with us tomorrow.
Sadies will cook, & we hope to find a better house girl.
I am rather tired tonight, hope I have not tired
you - Good night, with much love

Your devoted Mother.

The letter to your Mother put in -
Will send the Codons & send perhaps
by next mail - (S.S.)

Auburn, Ala.

Jan 12th 1891

Dear Mother:—

Appreciated
your letter very much
which came a few days
since received a letter
from Alice D. today; would
have answered your letter
sooner but have been very
busy of late. Yesterday
went to Chelika with
instrumente tools and all
to make a test of the
electric plant, which was
very good, in the party there
were seven boys of my
course and Prof McKeisick
and Wilmore; the result

of the test will be worked
out and written up by one
of the boys for his thesis.
I enjoyed the play in
Selma very much tho
would have been more
pleased if it had been
the Merchant of Venice instead.
The conductor of the freight
telegraphed and had the
train held for a while but
its patience was lost so
it went without the tiny
coggle.

I don't remember exactly
what was made the last night
you remember you gave me
8241 for change therefore presume
the rest were the proceeds of
the night's fun.

Prudence, Bessie & Louise will
have anything but a dry time

if you have had the rain we
have had. Don't see their
object in coming at this time
of the year unless that Aunt
Alice is going off for a trip, would
like the best in the world
to see Louise for it has
been so long since last
I saw her, about four or five years.
Think the chances are against
you in keeping him, he being
used to so free and easy a life.
I got myself some thick shirts
in Mon. morning.

Alice says that her Grand father's
place is now in the hands of
a land agent, they are expecting
it to be sold, move to town
about February.

Now you will wonder what
is the cause of such a scratch
as I have put up in this

P.S. Please ask Reddy if he can get me a large stick
 of paper or a
 about four
 inches
 diameter 3 ft.
 long also the
 tell which my
 navigation
 produced
 in heat it will
 be sent by post
 as early as
 possible but
 not made.
 Stick must not
 crack or a gun
 piece. W

I am very nervous tonight
 think it is because of an
 accident I had with one of my
 ankles which gives me much
 pain, the joints of that limb are
 affected because of the shock
 which they received on my
 fall when the ankle gave way.
 As there is nothing of news
 nor note going on in this
 large town but plenty of
 nothing going on so it seems
 fit that I should stop this
 scratch and say goodnight with
 love to all,

Your aff. son
 W

January 17th 1894.

My dear Son

Your last week's letter came the day after I wrote, I must thank you for it. I am glad to know you take a little recreation sometimes, you must certainly enjoy seeing some of the good actors while you have a chance.

From what you say I suppose you have planted some cotton in a hot house of course, if you are enjoying such weather as we are, the cotton would almost grow out of doors. After heavy rains the weather has cleared off & yesterday no fire was needed tho we had a little late last night for such chilly people as Uncle Waver, this is a delightful day, not warm in the sunshine & the violet & white hyacinths are beautiful. yesterday Rebekah gathered two plates heaping full of violets to sweeten the house & adorn the table. Now as we are becoming quite gay, had a sociable last night

given to Louie & Bessie. Uncle Waver decided they
should extend their visit a week as now they expect
to leave on Friday. Tom Father wanted me to give
the girls a dinner, but I told him I much preferred
evening company & thought the girls would too. We
invited the three Mobile girls, Winnie, Sannie, Lizzie,
Miss Lou & Elvira, the latter did not come nor did
Alice, as we had only six girls & 12 gentlemen, such
girl manage to entertain two gentlemen very well, they
talked, played cards & had some songs. Sannie Collins
favoured us with two songs, very well sung, one the
banana song, did you ever hear it? Watkins' Daughton
was on a visit to Uncle Waver & of course he was with
us, having heard as much of his skill on the violin
I sent our violin yesterday morning to Ben Torbert &
asked him to put on the bridge & tune it which he
did, but Watkins could not be persuaded to play, said
he had given up music & all that sort of thing which
none of us believed, begging the young man's pardon.
He doesn't talk much, nor play cards, as I fear he
had a tiresome time, unless he enjoyed the supper
there was nothing to interest him, he is one of the

Jan 17, 1894

sort that always looks lost. Now shall I tell you
of the supper? We had in the centre of the table a
tall glass pitcher filled with fern leaves & white
hyacinths, a present from Miss Dow; along lamp
on each side, then two glass dishes of salad, a large
white & brown layer cake at one end of the table, &
a nut cake at the other pickles & bread. From the
side table we helped the plates to turkey & chicken
salads, poured out coffee tea & milk. Where through
with that we handed jelly & chocolate sauce, Reuben,
your Father & myself were waiters & I think we
managed it very nicely. If laughing was a sign of
enjoyment I think nearly all had a nice time. The
noon was very bright & I hope Uncle Waver & Watkins
reached home safely they could not be persuaded to
stay, Watkins was to leave for Iowa this morning. The
girls & Minnie spent the night with us, after breakfast
Reuben went with them to spend the day with Mrs
Hatch, they will return to Van Dorn on tomorrow's

1862
fright. Louis looks so sweet & pretty last night. She
is so anxious for Myron to be sent to college, we recom-
=and Sturbeville, gave her a catalogue.

Louis has never said anything about what work he
would prefer, I think an active life would suit him
best, he has another year yet to think over it.

I enclose Wm's last letter thinking you might like to
see it as he seldom writes to you. Louis mentioned he
had written to you, he has so much writing to do that
I feel he is excusable for not writing often, all do better
than Ruben I can't persuade him to write to any
one, his excuse is that you all would not be interested
in anything he could write.

Your Father invited Dr. Huggins down last night, he
replied "nothing would give me more pleasure but the
grip holds me fast." Since the Tarpons left he is
quite lonely & would like to find a suitable compan-
=ion, we recommend Mabel - Don't you think she
would be about old enough for him?

I have been interrupted so often that I must ask you
to excuse this poor letter, must write to Louis as well
close, with much love,
your devoted Mother.

Sublime, Ala.
Jan. 24, '86.

Dear Mother:-

Your letter
recd a few days since, you
ought to know by now that
I am not of a letter writing
thought I had better wait
to write until after hearing
from home.

If I should get sick (which
is not probable) think then
would be few who not
gratified that he in Mrs. L's
power, she is so kind and
thoughtful, treating us as
if we were her sons, almost.
If you should fail to eat
heartily at usual times Miss^y

will ask you if you are
sick or what the weather
says it please her to see
we eat heartily.

I thought there would
be serious trouble with my
hip at one time - tho' well
now - when my ankle
gave way I was running
down the college stone steps,
dropped on that knee with
whole weight, the jar being
very severe on both knee & hip
joints which must have
been somewhat inflamed
because of the soreness.

I am almost inclined
to say that we will
not have any winter,
the last week appears much
inclined to verify the
supposition.

I am very sorry to have

missed seeing the girls.
don't see what possessed
them to come up at this
time of the year, unless
for a change and to take
Alice back to Mobile.

Suppose there is a great
change in Louise from what
she was and is?

One would not expect
much change in Bessie for
it would be unnatural
for her to change from what
she is to any thing else.

Alice did not say that
the place was sold but that
it had been put into the
hands of a real estate agent
to be sold - which was
very likely it would be.

More than likely Mr. Boussan
will be at a loss to know
what to do with himself

people who have lived in
country the greater part of
their lives are likely to do
that is quite a new fresh
for Bobbie to be playing.
I am very nicely situated
have a good room, not far
from college, a studious room
mate who breaks the monotony
occasionally by playing on
his fiddle on which he plays
very well.
If Reuben sends the cage away
try and get him to send the stick
if possible.
I see Fred has not gotten over
the planning of scheme for
other how is Ben standing the

have her write, she is gone but I don't much believe that, however I will try to keep her some
 time. We hope to have some
 very dear plants on today but
 will not. If you are not too
 late any more. Parker is
 busy sending the double
 business part of it so badly
 broken the day are sent
 it. My buggy harness is the
 only one I don't set on the
 place. So at the winter
 getting away from us! nearly
 two months of it gone, I am
 hardly ready, it, the older
 one goes the faster time
 place I think. Dinner is
 ready 24
 I must say good bye
 to much love
 With
 Your devoted
 Mother.

I think our winter has at last set in, this
 is a rainy, raw day, cutting wind from the west, the not
 so cold when one is out of the wind; with the exception
 of one cold spell our winter as far has been like spring,
 the lots look quite green, the Madeline vines are 18 inches
 high & some of the roses have large buds on them as
 we have been almost spoiled by the nice weather. I
 think now well will pay for it, the fruit buds are
 far advanced & I fear will be killed, we should have
 removed the earth from ours to retard them as much
 as possible but we neglected it, there were so many
 things for the man to do, yesterday we hoped to plant
 peas & spinach but the rain will put a stop
 to that for some days. I expect you are having sleet or
 snow. Are you trying to grow some cotton? I thought so
 from what you said. Before this reaches you I suppose
 examinations will be over, hope yours were good as I

know you wished them to be. I've seemed much
relieved that he had sent his money & delivered his
address, tho he has another address to be handed in by
the middle of February. Mr. Magnuson & wife were on
the campus when he wrote, staying with Prof. Magnuson.
Prof. Mrs. Key & Miss Mattie are both to be married he
says, hard times seem to make no difference with the
marrying people.

Has Fred written you about his son? he is over a
week old now, we have had a letter & three postals
telling us of his welfare, they must be very proud of
him. Fanny says he is to be named for Fred, he must
be a wee bit of a specimen, baby, clothes, & pillow weighed
only 8 lbs, now their trouble begins, teething, measles,
whooping cough & all such things to be gone through
with & then two grand brothers in the house to spoil
him, gracious!! what will he be?

Well, I have made my fare well visit to Aunt
Melville for this winter! I am so glad I went but
we had a muddy ride! I tell you, in a mud hole
near Beezie's the double bar broke, Rainbow had to get
out in the mud & water, I held the horse while

Jan 24, 1894

he went to a cabin to find a stick to tie on to it. Mr Harris saw us & came bringing a man to help, we tied up & drove to his house, he had a man working there who made a new bar & put it on. All were quite well, we saw Beese & Oliver they had just received a letter from Melville telling of Prof Hille's sudden death. His wife only a few days before went on a visit to Virginia. One of the teachers went into Prof Hille's office Saturday night to have a little talk with him, she said she noticed he breathed heavily but she did not look at him just then, in a few seconds he seemed to be choking rested his head on the table near by & when she reached his chair he was dead, apoplexy it is supposed. His death created terrible consternation among the girls, Miss Hille was telegraphed for & his body was to be kept until she reached there. Melville could not tell what they would do about continuing the school but Mr H- thinks they will get Prof Richardson to take Prof Hille's classes & continue the

school until Jan 2.

We hardly expected Mr Cobbs down Sunday after the heavy rain Saturday night but he came & had services, very few were out thinking he would not be able to cross the creek, he dined with us. He one from Wau Down came up. Your Father was there Monday evening (the day we went to Laneville) Mother was sick in bed, Alice was with her & his Wave spending the day with Charley Hanes.

I enclose a letter from Wave, some of the items of news may interest you.

Your Father had to appear in Greensboro as witness in a case to be tried today, he went yesterday evening to spend the night with Mr Cobbs, it was well he did. I suppose he will hardly attempt to reach home tonight, the tomorrow the weather may be much more unpleasant as it is turning colder now. Sunday evening we had a call from Messrs Smith & Torbert, the only young men who have called since being invited here. I wrote you my house girl left some time ago but I have one now I like much better, she is a smaller girl, very quick & easy to understand, her brother says I may

for us, the note was taken for debt from a man who will never pay any money. There is as
short of that the note will come
in nearly about June.
Yes, I thought I was paid all
around with accounts but my
brother got stayed a week
& concluded this did not
like staying here & left as I
do my new clearing, picking
up chips &c., it is true I was
at it now, this afternoon or
about. Please excuse this letter
I am sure I have been
interrupted any or eight times
while writing. With much
love
Feb 7th 1894
Mother.

hardly expect a letter from you when it comes, as I will
not wait to begin my letter. Your letter usually comes
Thursday, too late for me to get mine off to reach you
by Sunday. News with us is as scarce as with you, if
any it would hardly reach me now, I have no visitor,
& Reuben is off grading land for her Skinner, he went
back Sunday evening to be ready for work Monday
morning. I am sorry he has such a poor instrument,
it retards the work very much, it was the best he
could borrow. From present appearances I think he will
have to stop work in a day or so on account of rain
a strong east wind is blowing which must come or
later bring rain.

Yes, we think Col. Amstrong is the man trying to get
Dr. Brown out. I hope he will not succeed. Fred wrote
he would not apply for a place in S. C., I suppose that

thinks the South Carolinians too changeable, politics run
high there. I wish Fred would apply for Col Bonduant's
place if he is turned out, certainly Fred could live cheaper
& more comfortably, & save more than he does in Washington,
then too the kind of work would agree better with his
health & village air would be much better for the baby. I
think if he could get this place that he would give
entire satisfaction.

For your benefit I enquired of Drives who Prof Wm May
expects to marry, also Miss Mattie, he has not answered
yet. I had a very nice letter from him yesterday, also
one from Waver, he had that morning passed through
a very severe but short spell of cramps colic, something
he never had before. His eyes too are giving him
trouble, Dr Woodrow sent a prescription, said if that
did not benefit him he must change his glasses.
I am glad you are not a candidate for a degree because
I fear you would study too hard & injure your health.
Now, if you had the means how would you like to stay
another year at Harvard? Suppose you could get a
scholarship or maybe a fellowship & some one should
supply what means was lacking would you like to

Feb 7, 1894

study there another year? think over it & let me know what would be the chances of a fellow ship & how much more in the way of funds would be needed to keep you comfortable in every way.

Your Father has had one of his bad aches, all yesterday & last night he suffered greatly from the pains & had at the same time terrible nausea, nothing would stay on his stomach, no medicine or any thing, until about 2 hours ago I advised the juice of half an orange, he took it & that has been the only thing retained. I have just finished giving the other half. I will laugh at him & Willie Browder if my remedy sets him up. Last night at one o'clock we called Willie in, well the way of it was this, ~~Now because~~ your Father had been attending New House, he grew worse about that hour & sent for him, he could not go but sent to ask Willie to go, & to stop by here to see him that he might tell him about the case, which he did. Now could suggest nothing but what we

had tried. I am pretty sure your Father will be
better in the morning. We sent before dinner to enquire
about Mr. Hansen, he is better too. Mrs. Tomie De Rose
is expected soon, is not pleased with her place in
Washington.

I suppose you will have time to attend some of the
Lenten services. They are all "high church" in Cambridge
& Boston are they not?

I am reading the little book you sent on Sundays
like it very much, found "Hypnotism" very interesting also.
Your Father has been reading some of his 100 years old
books lately, I have not the patience to read them, am
always bothered about the *s* es, you remember the old
style long *s*, exactly like f -

I am having some holes dug for asparagus, your Father
ordered 4 doz of the "Golden Tunnies" from Mrs. Henderson at
25^{cts} a doz, is not that cheap? Yesterday evening I planted
asparagus & peas, they should have been in some time
ago. We will miss the nice plants you used to bring
us from the Station. "Mr. Bob Wood" is plowing in oats
at the 7 acres, Father furnishes the land & oats, he plows
in, & cuts them for half. I think it a very good thing

caught one by the tail but he got away. We took guns & our little yellow dog & hunted around
 for some time but could see
 nothing of them, they must
 have changed their quarters. I
 don't know that I told you
 the Joins boys caught a
 very large opossum in the
 hedge between our pasture
 & the strip some weeks ago.
 They have caught a good
 many eggs at this big estate
 in fact all that are laid
 there. Dinner is coming in
 I must close, with much
 love from sister & brother
 P. S. I suppose some of the
 Boston or Cambridge girls
 sent you a Valentine did
 they?

day, with you I suspect it is snowing, & a bad day for
 laboratory work. From what you said of your studies you
 must indeed be busy, have your time fully occupied.
 I am glad you indulge in a pleasant lecture some
 times, it is a recreation that you need no doubt.
 I hope in your coming letter you will tell us what was
 the programme at the Fox Lane Club. You have several
 times mentioned Club meetings but don't tell us what
 they do at the meetings.

We are having as Ruben would say "a dull old
 times," only your Father & myself at home. Ruben
 spent last week, with the exception of Saturday, at
 the Skinner place grueling hard. Monday afternoon
 he started for Somerville, from there intended going to
 Faneuil, has not yet returned, if he waits much

longer will have to come in a rain. We have had
the heaviest rains lately I almost ever saw. Nearly all
day Sunday & again that night we had a succession
of rain storms some times a good deal of wind. During
a slight intermission of rain your Father started
Sunday evening for Uncle John's, was sent for to see
Sorrow who was sick from cold, the rest of the
family were quite well. He did not reach home again
until 2 o'clock Monday, on arrival had to change
horses & go to Spring Well where I fully expected he
would spend the night but he returned about
6 o'clock, very cold & stiff, from so much riding in
one day, it was impossible to go in his coat. In
the Bethune swamp he rode through water for about
a mile.

I fear a great deal of Reuben's work was obliterated
by the water, they had not force enough to plow
the land as it was laid off. When they finish
up what he graded they want him again.
Of course the bad weather & roads prevent me
from seeing any thing of your Grand Mother. I

Feb. 14, 1894

reckon Alice is having a dull time up there, perhaps
the Mr Richardson goes over sometimes, he visited
the girls about 4 or 5 times since to the honor of
your Grand Mother & I wonder what aunt Alice
thought of it. Bees sent Reuben one of those crocheted
ornaments, a beautiful lilac color, not becoming to Reuben
tho I think.

As bad as the day is, your Father is doing some work
in the garden, having the dead fig limbs cut out & putting
up others, setting out several peach trees & some
fig bushes. Mr Hudson has not sent the raspberries
yet, we ordered 1/2 dozen of the Golden Lutes, too many
I think, don't know where we will put them all, then
Mr Benton promised us some "Or heart" but we can't
get them until next week as he has gone home on a
visit. I have never heard how the board like him.
I had a letter from Lizzie a day or two ago, Mr Ma Hay
is to marry a Miss Mayo, a very pretty girl from

Columbus, pity to waste her beauty on that ugly man
I think. Miss Mather is to marry a gentleman from
Vincennes Station, Mr Dameron. Gov Seng sent his little
son to Miss, Gen Lee seems to have put him under
Lewis's care, he took care of him the first night, then
secured him as room mate, he is a "prep" a very nice
little fellow Lewis says.

I have not heard from Fred or Warr this week, in
Fred's last he seemed to think the baby was not thriving
as he should, wrote to your Father for advice. I felt some
what anxious to hear from the little fellow.

We sent to Wood & Sons, Richmond, for some garden &
flower seed. If the flowers are as pretty as the pictures on
the papers, my garden will look very pretty this summer.
I sent for only one rose, a pretty white one, will divide
some I have, & scatter them around, filling up missing
places with annuals & chrysanthemums.

There is no news in the neighborhood so please excuse
a very uninteresting letter, oh! I forgot to tell you, your
Father & myself went on an opossum hunt yesterday,
where do you reckon? to the big stubble. I'm getting out
feed this evening before Antinous can two in there,

Feb. 21st 1894

My dear Son

Your very acceptable letter of the 18th reached me today, what a time you must have with the snows & thaws! Our weather on Sunday was so different, it was a lovely, bright day, warm enough to sit on the porch, Monday the snow came, & again today we have had a slow steady snow most of the morning, it is turning cold now & tomorrow may be clear & cold. We are glad to know that you would like to go to Harvard another year, did not know you had thought of it. I hope you can get a better scholarship, or a professorship & with your Father's help go another year, he thinks he will be able to help you, spoke of writing to you on this subject but was so long about it I thought best to mention it. I don't know, but I hardly think Ware or Lewis would care to take an advanced course. Lewis has never said what he would like to do when he leaves

college. I sent him a nice boy last night, ~~so~~ he
is enjoying it tonight.

I know you must have enjoyed hearing "Patti" Tremm-
-ber hearing Adelina Patti when at school, this can't
be the same one. I thought her voice wonderful & the
sweetest I ever heard, she had not been long on the
stage then. Wave wrote of enjoying some nice music
by Edward Baxter Perry a blind pianist, a Boston
man I think. Several of Wave's class & two professors
were to go to Montgomery Tuesday to make a test of
the electric plant there. I think Wave expected to
go to, wanted to see Dr. Baldwin about his eyes
while there.

No recent news from Fred, I think the little one
must be getting on well or he would have written
for advice, did I tell you Fanny sent me a piece
of his hair? it is almost as dark as yours. If Col.
Bourmont is turned out Fred would like very much
to have his place, the salary is better & living is
much cheaper in Auburn, the active life too would
suit Fred's health much better.

Sunday was our day for services but Mr. Cobbs did

Feb 21, 1894

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not come. Mr Smith thinking from appearances on Saturday that we would have bad weather telegraphed Mrs Cobbs not to come, very few knew of it so a good many of us met there to be disappointed. Uncle Warr & Alice came up, spent the day with us, said Mother was quite well.

Willie Robinson has returned, we heard he did not pass in French & Mathematics but I did not know he would be sent home for that. Some one said he would try it again in April or May. I heard nothing of it from him, he inquired about you, spent a week in Washington on his way home, did not see Fred, said he did not know he was there.

Is Mr Parker in your class? if so I expect it is very pleasant for you to study together. I suppose by this time you have made some friends among the Harvard students. We put out the 4 dog newspapers Monday just before the snow, yesterday the very wet

some Irish potatoes were planted, some of our own
keeping, many of them had sprouts 18 inches long, of
course we cut them off to about 2 or 3 inches. I had
no idea they would stand the cold we have had
this winter, they had nothing over them.

Reuben left home Monday to do some more grading on the
Skinner place had to go first to Thos to get Amos of his
level, could do nothing with the one he borrowed from Mr
Mr Fadden. Tom Amos Horne went to Tushaloma to
try to find another man to take charge of his
dairy, Mr Horner has made little or nothing, let
nearly all the cows go dry, & he has taken a clerkship
in town, leaving his 17 year old boy in charge of
the dairy. He has paid only a small portion of his
rent, I feel very sorry for Mr Horne he is so unfortunate
in the bargains he makes is so low spirited about
his business matters, we have not seen him for
some time. Every thing is going on as usual in this
neighborhood, no news, my sleepy time has come so
good night, please excuse this letter it is so badly written
& so uninteresting, with much love

Your devoted Mother.

FEB. 14, 1894

Dear Ben -

I have been thinking of late that perhaps if you wish to continue your course at the Harvard University another year, it would be well to be looking about now, I do not understand the requirements for a fellowship - or scholarship, but it seems to me that a student having attended a scientific course at this school, & having devoted his past student's life to such, would be entitled above others -

I merely throw out this suggestion to
you, as I hope if Ware gets through
at Auburn this year, I will be some-
what better prepared to help you along
further. Your Mother has written
& given all the news, so I write now
just to call your attention to the fact as
to another year. Another thing did you save
any seed of the "Matchless Minute" at the
Station last year. I wish to write Benton
for some seed.

Yr Father
J. S.

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL COLLEGE.

OFFICE OF

College Reflector.

A LITERARY JOURNAL PUBLISHED BY THE PHILOTECHNIC AND
DIALECTIC SOCIETIES.

J. C. MAGRUDER,
Business Manager.

L. L. DUGGAR,
Secretary.

Agricultural College, Miss. March 4 1894.

My dear Mother,

It is some time since dinner is I must make haste in order to finish in time for church. I was glad to receive your nice letter Thursday night. There is quite a contrast in the weather now from what it was this time last week. For the last three or four days it has been very warm and pleasant. After inspection this morning the day was so fine that I walked uptown with some of the boys to attend the Methodist Church. Their preacher always delivers good sermons and I am glad to listen to him whenever it is possible. We generally have

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Agricultural College, Miss.

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to leave however, as soon as the
session is over to get back to
dinner.

The week has passed quite
rapidly with no incidents what-
ever, so it is hard to find
anything to write about. The
sun came out bright and
warm last Monday and melted
all the snow and ice, leaving
us in a slap and dash.

The Dialectic Society had their
public meeting on Friday night.
Though they had beautiful weather
they drew no larger crowd
of visiting folks from the City
than did we. Now perhaps
you would like to know whether
or not I came with anyone.
Yes, I came out with Miss

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met the young lady who
was recently elected member
of the Lee Guards. They are
very hospitable people and
always have stands of fruit
and cake in the parlor, so
when we returned (there was
also along a young man who
escorted the older sister) they
produced fruit plates, knives
and napkins and insisted
on our having refreshments
which indeed were quite accept-
able. Then after I returned I
had to sit up about an hour
and make out the punish-
ment list for the next day. It
was quite late when retired.
Some negroes composing a
string band were out here last

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night and a crowd of people gathered in one of the society halls and had a "stag" dance. I had been to town in the evening and ran about considerably collecting for the Reflector, so after only a short participation I retired to my room.

Mr. W. L. McCreesh who has occupied the position as assistant director of the Ex. Sta. left about a week ago for South Carolina where he will take Col. Newman's place.

From Ben's letter which you kindly enclosed I would infer that he has given up all hopes of getting the degree in view because of attendance. Some

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one in Starkville told me that
he would get the position
vacated by Mr. M^{rs}. I sup-
pose this is wholly untrue
isn't it?

Enclose my commission
which you can keep better
than I.

Please excuse this unconnec-
ed letter.

Yours loving son,
Luvie.

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Agricultural College, Miss. *March 7*, 1894.

Dear Ben,

I have indeed been away since I have written to you. In fact, of late I have greatly neglected the few correspondents I had. I wish that the college authorities, are gradually increasing the work of the upper classes, that is, the afternoons are being occupied by work in the laboratories, perhaps though they be. This robs one of that "free time" for reading, corresponding, &c, which former classes had in abundance. While I don't in the least object to this feature, it is the subject of murmurs of some. We are now having afternoon work in Zoology with Prof. Cullen, before I had

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we had Chemistry, and during the third term, each will be out while pair will be with Dr. Butler. The Senior Class also had their work with Prof. C. this term but they "kicked" so vigorously against it being compulsory that the Faculty excused them. This is a good and small class anyway, and because it was realized that this much be done in order for some of them to graduate.

The Faculty passed resolutions some time ago that hereafter every member of the Senior class must work six hours a week in some department of the College, and this to be checked at the beginning of the session.

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This, of course, will allow each student to select and spend his whole time in the chosen work.

Prof. Oculman wants to take us out some ten miles in Oktibbeha Saturday on a collecting trip, but I think this plan will be defeated on account of not being able to obtain a conveyance.

By this time I suppose you have read through much as to Professor McKays arrangements. He is to marry Miss A. Laurie May of Columbus on the 21 inst. Col. Robins, Keud, and others who were boarding at Prof. McKays, have sought other lodgings, as you may judge that the time is not far distant. It is also stated, though

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I am not certain, that Miss
Matter M. Key is to be carried
off by a Mr. Dawson of Madison,
Miss.

Mr. McGee of the Exp. Station
left about ten days ago for
South Carolina. I suppose he is
a very excellent man for the
place. He made a very cheap
sale of his horse buggy, & harness
selling the outfit to Prof. Whit-
tebert for twenty five dollars.
Though the horse was dead, she
is a fine driver.

Well, while I am giving the
news I may get beyond the inter-
esting point, however, you must
omit the uninteresting and credit
me for all. Perhaps you heard
of the marriage of Rev. J. M. Magruder.

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to a young lady of Canton on the 17th inst. And to add another to the list, J. C. Magruder of Oklahoma is to be married in the near future. It seems that this is the year for these engagements, and we find one consolation in the case of the first named - ugly men need no longer fear, there is a chance for all.

We are to have a noted lecturer with us on the 24th inst, J. B. Palfrey of Atlanta. He has as good recommendations as anyone could wish. Dr. Palfrey is also to visit Columbus about the 17th inst.

Starville society is a little livelier now than usually at this time; one of the young ladies has quit school on account of her eyes.

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another, on account of her health and so on. By the way I have an invitation to a gathering at Miss Eva Yates on Friday night, which I suppose will be enjoyable. Miss Luce has not been over this way in quite a while, and from that account she was in ill health. There are now about three of that family attending the D. & D. Co.

The Dialectic Society had their public meeting last Friday night and the Philotechnic had theirs two weeks before. Both were fairly good.

From a look out of the window one realizes that the winter has passed and spring is now upon us. I am afraid, however, that

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the cold spell some time ago
has damaged the fruit.
It is some time after tape, so
I must close this hurried and
unconnected letter.

Yours aff. Bro.
Lewie

and sometime ago that Prof. Dr. Witt Jahns would lecture in Shaw tomorrow night but

I have heard nothing more of it, if there had been a special train we are thought of going but there will not be a special. If you

should get a motor ship what would be your duties? It is late as good night with much love

Your devoted Mother.

March 7th 1894.

Your letter came this evening, we were glad to hear from you. I must reply tonight but there is nothing interesting to write of, can only write of our home doings. I have been working out of doors all day. Peter came & fixed the wire around my little flower garden, as yesterday Reuben & Antoinette put planks around the borders & today I moved five roses, two peonies, & planted about a dozen kinds of annuals, some other times I will divide the aublets & waxy hyacinths set them out, then later the chrysanthemums they are not large enough yet. If the things grow well the garden will add to the looks of the front yard I think.

Monday, a second crop of Irish potatoes was planted, cabbage, tomatoes, lettuce & peas are up & many other vegetables planted. The last few days have been

very mild & the ground must be warming up.
The planters are putting in corn, some say they had
better wait as bad weather has been predicted. How
is your cotton progressing?

You certainly are fortunate in being able to hear
those operas, I wish I could have been with you, but
don't think I could have stood during the performance.
I have heard no real good singers since I was
married, in Richmond I often heard them & the
winter I spent in Mobile & New Orleans.

Reuben has been at home this week, had a little
more work to do at Mr Skinner's but can't get
Frank to shoe his horse, Frank's wife Father gave
him a beating the other day & he feels rather stiff.
The Danapolis people had quite a scare on Sunday.
Mrs Obering's millinery store caught fire & burned,
next to it Mr Cooper's store, & then the office of
Drs Bailey & Ruffin, the wind was high & the
fire so hard to put out that they feared the
whole town would go. They telegraphed to Selma
for a fire engine but by the ~~the~~ time it arrived

Mar 7, '94

the fire was out, it burned up to Mr Bailey's drug store, the brick wall & snow roof stopped it. The loss is estimated at 14,000 dollars, Mr Cooper got out nearly all his goods but a great many were stolen. Other stores that were across the street had their goods moved out & lost a great deal by stealage, especially the bar rooms. About ten o'clock Sunday night Antwine called us to "look at a big fire," we thought it was Genespolis again but it was a negro corn crib in Mr King's field, some one set fire to it. The corn was burned but the wagon & stock that ~~stood~~ were in the shed to the crib were saved.

The only news now is that Mabel & our friend Dr Huggins are to be married, rumor says as soon as school closes she will go to Birmingham have her trousseau made & then the marriage will take place. I don't believe a word of it, cant

think she will marry that white headed
gentleman. He has dyed his mustaches & is looking
quite young they say. "Mrs J T" would be glad to
see that match, she says "I had rather see one of
my daughters marry a man 40 years older, than
your younger," that is for Bobbie's benefit - I believe
I wrote you that since Minnie left or even before
Bobbie & Sarcie have been engaged, it worries "Mrs
J T" so much but she can't influence her daughters
in the matrimonial line that is certain. I expect
Mabel is having a good deal of fun with F. R.,
he thinks her "one of the finest characters he ever
met." I hope she won't serve him badly & make him
change his opinion.

We have had no news from Fred this week, I do
hope the baby is better, perhaps "no news is good news".
I will enclose Linnie's last letter, it may interest you.
We've mentioned that Mrs Clayton is not expected
to live, I understand from his letter that Mr C-
is on a visit to Auburn has been working at the
A & M, Texas. Your Father was at Van Dorn a few
days ago, all were well. Alice is still there. It was

March 21st 1894

My dear Son

As I was going in to dinner your Father came in with your letter, which was read & duly appreciated before taking dinner. I always look forward to Wednesday as your letter day. Time seems to pass as rapidly with you as with me, I reckon it is because we always keep busy, on some accounts I am glad of the flight of time, it means the home coming of my boys, not three months more before I may be expecting them all & I will be as glad - Percy Fard is left out of our gatherings now & he will never more be what he once was. I have not heard from him in a long time am glad to know the baby is much better, have felt very anxious about the little fellow tho' he would have been much better off in Heaven, I think it a pity to try so hard to keep life in a little bit of humanity -

Yes, we are having delightful weather now, the

even is hot today, since the last heavy rains the lots
& hedges are looking so green & fresh, & the trees showing
some green also, by Sunday all nature will be in Easter
dress, my sores are getting ready for the day but unfortunately
they will not be needed in the church, we had
services last Sunday. Mr Cobbs & his Wife dined with
Reuben & myself, your Father had to visit a servant at
Limeville & missed the services. The roads were so bad
for Mother & Alice to come up. Mr Cobbs gave us the
particulars of Dr Avery's sudden death. He has been
suffering from heart trouble & been under the care of
two Drs, but not confined to his bed. Friday evening
he was moved over to Mr Cobbs', on Saturday morning
while the family were at breakfast he got up &
dressed himself, some of the children hearing a noise
went in his room, found he had fallen on the floor
& in a few seconds was dead. It was a terrible
shock to them all, no one realized he was in
immediate danger. Mr Cobbs looks badly, worried &
affected by these hard times as every one else is.

We are very glad you had an opportunity of seeing
Mr Irving, I hope you had a rest this time. A

Mar 21, 1884

book agent was here just now, he said he knew
Wave very well as your Father invited him to return
& spend the night.

Ruben went to Selma yesterday to purchase some
spring clothes, bought what seems to be a very nice
black suit for \$14.50, I think that very cheap. How
do you find goods in Boston? After the morning
promised well Ruben had a wet day in Selma,
and he never saw it rain harder, & for several
hours; he dined with Gertrude & supped with
Watkins Daughen at the Hotel Albert, the whole
family board there. Ruben went to Mother's today, the
Maudsleys keep him & myself frequently working on
them to keep them trained. The grapes & some of
the raspberries are putting out beautifully, some of
the grapes will bear I think. The garden is making
quite a show, potatoes up as nicely & cabbages looking
as well. The Decote pines are in full foliage & are
as pretty. I wish I could go to church with you

Coates Sunday, I can't even get to Hannesdale. Reuben
came over last night with Mrs Wm Seiden, she was
sitting up, (was carried off on a bed) but looking
wretchedly he said. Blund, Bessie & Willie all
went on with her & the girls remained with her
all the time. Matilda from Bessie's was here today
and all were well there. We heard from aunt
Melville yesterday. There is no news, probably when
Minnie returns there will be some excitement,
Robbie & his "two strings" will give the people
something to talk about again. I believe all the
ladies are busy dress making for Coates except
myself, well I am dress making, but it is for a
dusky, making my Coates money. Please excuse bad
writing for some reason my hand is unsteady, with
much love

Yours devoted Mother.

P.S. This is Prof Mc Kay's wedding day, Lavin says he
has had a good deal of work done on his house &
I suppose he has everything in nice order.

Autum, Ala.
Mar 26th, '94.

Dear Ben:

I was glad to get your letter which came to hand some time since. Letters from Mother and Little Alice came to hand a few days since, the former spoke of the very sudden death of Dr. Roby - heart disease. Also spoke of the nice weather and the fair prospects for a good garden, suppose she will change her opinions on both subjects just now if they are having such weather as we have here just at present - Sat. it was rather windy and

rain Sunday morning drizzling
and by dinner was much
cooler and had stopped raining
that night (last night) the ground
was frozen also all the young
peaches, pears, apples and plums
were over a quarter of inch thick.

Yesterday being Easter the young
ladies had decorated the church
very prettily - presume you
saw all decorations necessary
and heard some very fine singing
if you went to church in Boston.

I think Dr. B. - feels safe heard
of his making arrangements in
town about different things for
next year - session.

There is nothing like five actors
never saw one in these parts.

By the way Talmage lectured in
Opelika about two weeks ago - but
did not go to hear him although

was in the place that night; on
my return from Atlanta when
I had been to see Dr. C. (shown
about my eye, stayed in Atlan-
more two days because the Dr.
thought the first ex. not suffi-
cient, the second day advised
what time to get but to get them
on trial which I did.

This was just before our
2nd term ex. began could see
fairly well with the new-
glasses to study for ex. tho'
some nights did little or no study
because of the pain from eye -
wrote to the Dr. yesterday about
whether to keep the glasses or
no for they do not give entire
satisfaction much trouble to write
and read still expect will have to
make another trip to get suited.

Was around at Dr. Brown's last

You will hear it from another source - Stephen Matheson with
 about 13 or 14 more
 leaves are to be
 married and also
 of which and the
 old Boston of New Bra
 You off too.
 OK
 P.S. have heard it
 said that more
 than one friend
 read of my letter
 that can be the
 case.

might be call upon a lady visitor
 from Texas - Miss Cummings - went
 with Shell Toomey, before we had
 seen the long Fulghum came in
 so he and Miss Kate went into the
 library - before my boy spider
 boy came in (Comdt.) to see Miss D.
 to whom he has taken a fancy
 so he monopolized her and Miss
 Bessie was left to us two.

Miss Bessie told me I had
 better call at the "corner" in a
 brotherly way - it is out over
 town he all things are here.
 Miss Annie asked to be remembered
 to you in my next letter.
 Miss Lida is looking fatter tho' not so
 pretty (I think) as before she left for
 Va. as there is no more in town ^{if any} suppose

have only 9 off, & few have sitting as many nests have been broken up, my ducks will stay at - Miss Daines as I

will not get the freight from them. Turkeys I will not attempt to raise this year. Good bye, with much love

Your devoted Mother.

Reuben says please return the pie from New Hope signed "Yd. for Fat"

March 28th 1894.

Reuben has come in bringing your letter to your Father, we are glad to hear from you & to know you spent a pleasant Easter day. I tried to send you a few flowers as an Easter remembrance but the Captain would not mail them the morning I sent them down & when they reached your aunt have been entirely withered, I was right provoked with him, your Father had put in the peach, pear, & plum blossoms, also the piece of daisy rag plant which he said might be a curiosity to northerners. He had some bugs too to send but I did not understand about them & left out the little boy. He was catching turkeys to send off & I fixing the box. We had the promise of such a pretty garden both vegetable & flower but all our hopes like the plants are worse than blighted, we are just emerging

from one of the coldest spells of weather we have
had this winter. Sunday evening it was quite cold
so I proposed covering snaps, tomatoes, &c., we did so
but cover was nothing to a freeze, Monday morning
every thing was hard frozen & of course killed, every
vegetable, all the fruit, the peach buds & the flowers,
even the forest trees much injured if not entirely
killed, it is terrible, all vegetables to be replanted
& no hope for fruit, all the grapes with the little
ones on them killed, figs as large as the end of my
fore finger all gone. The planters are plowing up
the corn & planting over, the cotton that was sprouted
will have to be replanted. Tuesday the ground was
hard frozen too, this morning there was a white frost
& only a thin foggy mist on the ground. There never
was a prairie stand of corn than the planters had
before this spell, it makes them blue, corn is scarce
& it will take a good deal to replant.

I expect you were glad to see Mrs White. I wish
she could tell a good deal about your Uniontown
friends. I have not made my usual spring visit

Mar 28, '94

there, in fact have not been any where except where I could walk.

Mrs. Brewster had Mr North Mrs O'Donoghue (I don't know how to spell it) & Mrs Stewart to dine with them yesterday, wonderful to relate your Father was asked to meet them, they had quite a stylish dinner of 5 courses. I enjoyed very much some of the three kinds of cake & Charlotte which she sent over after dinner. The gentlemen return north tomorrow, I don't reckon Mrs Stewart is sorry as they keep about half tight all the time, Mrs O.D. is her nurse, lives in New York. If you will excuse a yellow envelope I will enclose Lewis's last letter.

I think last year the Auburn commencement began on the 10th of June, if I can find a catalogue I will write you what day.

I have had no more trouble with my face I am glad to say, that was enough to last some time. My

Marshall's rose was full of nice buds but
these seemed to be something to make the buds draw
up, within almost & not open. I found many little
green bugs on the buds, can you tell me what to do
for it? but summer it was the same way & not
a bud came to perfection, it seems to be the only
rose affected that way. I enclose the reply to Bobbie's
piece, it is said Mabel wrote it but I think if
she did, Dr. Huggins helped her, for neither one
would make such complimentary mention of themselves.
I don't think I wrote you of having a visit from
Mrs "John Walter" & Mrs Joe Collins last week, they
seemed to enjoy walking around in the garden seeing the
vegetable, grafts, buds, & that goes Father always
has to show. Little J. F. was getting on very well
when Fred wrote last week. Fred was hoping to
rent a house further out, nearer the country, had
not found one then. Mrs Morris had left, he said
they were dreadfully crowded while she was there.
This is a poor letter but there is nothing of interest
going on. I am showing poor luck with my chickens,

on the railroad near
 Lexington or Centine.
 I have not heard from
 Fred for nearly two weeks,
 perhaps they have been
 moving again.
 I am sorry to send such
 a disconnected letter
 written later, I have been
 interrupted so often & this
 is a terrible pain I must
 write to the other boys, with
 much love
 Your devoted
 Mother.

April 4th 1894.

We did not send to the office yesterday
 as today letters came from Waver, Lewis, & yourself, I
 scarcely know which to answer first, but will begin with
 yours as it will take longer to reach you. I am glad to
 know the endless changes of adventure have not affected
 your health for they are trying on our constitutions, we
 felt the last cold spell severely but suffered no bad
 effects in the way of colds or sore throat. This morning
 we had quite a cold west wind & rain, few was
 pleasant, some think there will be frost this month but
 I earnestly hope not.

I was glad to hear of your pleasant evening at Dr
 Harbor's, such times must be refreshing. I wish you could
 get the fellowship but I suppose we must be thankful
 for the professorship, if you should be fortunate enough
 to obtain that.

Your Father went to Greenboro yesterday to attend the

county Medical Association, he did not expect to
return home last night & I was quite surprised
to hear him coming in while I was taking my lonely
supper, Ruben being away also. Your Father saw Belle
Young, says she is looking dreadfully, she & the three
children are on a visit to Sister Sally. Green is fixed
in the post office, his bond was 1200 dollars, his
friends signed for 50,000 & sent it on, does it that
show a vast amount of confidence in him, the office
pays 14.75 dollars & rent of the building. Uncle Waver rode
up yesterday evening to the blacksmith shop, called to
know how we were, would not get down, he found
me chopping around the raspberries in the grapey, the
dog fennel is about to over run them. I wish you could
have seen him, he was a sight, boots over his pants,
a much worn suit of clothes & to "cap the climax" a very
light grey cap, his face burned red from the sun,
old worn out gloves & two ragged candle blankets, one
showing below the other. No Mother was not at home
I tried to persuade him to spend the night here
& take care of me but he said he had left things

Apr. 24

open at home & sunset return, Mother will be back the last of the week, I suppose she must be at the Hotel Albert for Gertrude wrote her house was full, she occupying the smallest room in it & that with no fire place. She expected to go from Selma to Mobile with Mrs. Holden.

Now the Ambrose folks are telling tales on you, or they may not be tales either, Waver says he was advised to make a brotherly call on a young lady of that place, he thinks (he says) she would suit me as she is an Episcopalian, fine looking & a good housekeeper, does not give her name but says members of the family have been making inquiries about the Duggars, if she is as well suited for my daughter - no. Now I hope their inquiries will be satisfactorily answered. He does not mention his eyes this time as they must be better, he made poor grades last month on account of his eyes. Oh! I forgot to tell you Dr. Huggins was

at the meeting, your Father says he sure is about being married worse than Dr. Waltham's Daughters did when he was a widower. Says "Miss M." is the sweetest girl he ever saw & smart as she can be, & that he is coming down to spend the night with us sometime this summer, we understand that I am afraid Mabel is leading him on just to have her fun & presently just will be his fall. I have no confidence in the Robinson girls they like their own fun too well. I would be sorry for Mabel to treat him badly after he has dyed his hair & whiskers & is making such an effort to win her. Reuben left home Saturday evening to go to The's & return Monday but has not come back yet, he may have found some more grading to do or may be trying to get up orders for woven wire fencing, sometimes he talks of taking the agency. I wish he would, it would be better than doing nothing & he could be making some thing too, especially if he would put up the fencing, as the firm advise their agents to do. Mr. Harris has promised to try & get him a situation on one of Mr. Isaacs's places, he has

April 11th 1894

Very dear Son

Your very acceptable letter came this morning along with one from Fred. I was very glad to hear from both of you. I hope by this time your cold is much better. It seems strange for you to be writing of snow & we having warm weather, Sunday with us was really hot & sultry, in the afternoon there were many threatening clouds but no rain until Monday night when we had quite a thunder storm & the rain poured down, ever since it has been a little cool in the morning but hot in the middle of the day. Things are beginning to look green again & to my astonishment I found about two doz nice strawberries yesterday in my small bed, there are now ripening & the vines blooming also. You remember I told you of the

large ones the Broomers had last summer, they
lost every plant but one, I think any old fashioned
ones stand the summer best.

Now I am so sorry the books you wrote for have
not been sent, your Father said "I will send
them right away" I depended on him & found
a day or two ago that he had forgotten all about
them, he puts off worse than ever & is so forget-
ful, I have to be always reminding him or
nothing is done. Do you want the Delphin edition
of Virgil, or the one with english notes, & which
Cicero? I wish you could have had them in
your weeks recess. You have not mentioned
what time Howard closes. I hope your plans
to make some money will succeed, I should
think it would be quite a job to find out
all the rooms for rent to students, but a great
help to them to have some one furnish them
information on the subject.

Have you heard from Fred lately? if not I will
say he has moved to Mount Pleasant the

northern extremity of Washington, has a house with six rooms, galleries back & front both upstairs & down. Fanny says it is such a comfort to have a dining room & as the weather becomes warmer they will enjoy the galleries & small front yard, have no garden but stable room for a cow & horse, they expect to keep a cow for the baby's benefit & may be a horse & buggy. They are $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Paulo's office & he thinks keeping a horse might be as cheap as car fare, thus too I reckon they want to ride the baby out sometimes. He "wiggled" off a low bed & bumped his head severely, in fact the Dr said fractured his skull but has suffered no bad effects from it, he must be in this world for a purpose, he holds on as to life.

Reuben went in to Pensacola tonight to join the party from Mobile on their excursion up

the river, Minnie will be among the number
& stop on her return. Ralph Smith & Jessie
Collins were invited also, of course accepted. Lennie
joins the party at Denopolis, many think it is
a settled thing that she & "Ben Ralph" will
make a match. But the greatest thing of all is
the match making in the Robinson family.
Saturday night Fanny came down & Sunday at
the baptist church your Father heard she had
resigned every thing in Birmingham & come to
be married to Mr. Calhoun Allen. Since, we
hear Jessie & Bobbie will be married at the
same time, have a double wedding, Jennie is
said to be the time. Now if Mabel & Dr. W.
would fix up their matters they might have a
triple wedding, have all the trouble over at
once & "Mrs J. T.'s" mind at rest. The first
& third match would delight her as much.
I think she would forget her opposition to Bob.
If Minnie comes I don't know about Bob, he
may go back to her; so much for the matrimonial

APR 11, 94

news, now let me give you some of another
sort, Willie Barndes is going to run for the
senator, what do you think of that, dont it
beat all? Of course he will stand no chance.
Your Father received a letter from cousin Jerry
Field asking him to stay with him during the
Medical Conventions, I dont know what he
will do. I went Monday to see your Grand
Mother, she seemed quite well, Alice is in
Mobile now. Mother made quite a long visit to
Schma stayed with Gertrude. Yes, Uncle Waver
has laid aside the duties, the cap is sufficient
to distress him. Yesterday his horse Mary
was quite sick, sent for your Father to see her, I
expect her diet has been too low, we had a
heifer down this evening from the same cause,
5 or 6 heifers, a colt & two sheep in the school
house lot & nothing to feed them on but

honey-suckle vines & weeds from the garden, when
they are exhausted. I don't know what will
become of them, the 4 acre pasture is in oats,
but "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

I think by Sunday the roads will be good
enough for aunt Melville to come down to
church, your Father visits a patient at Mrs
Harris' tomorrow, I wish I could go with him,
today he visited a servant the other side of Spring
Hill, seems worn out by the long ride & is fast
asleep. I took this evening 30 guinea eggs out of a
nest in the grapeery, I left them hoping the guinea
would set but they became too numerous, we
have only found three nests, one of those was
robbed of a good many eggs. Well, I have written
quite a long letter so good night, with much love.

Your devoted Mother.

you come on board? I wish this took your wish, your father says it is the one he and
 I think I write you with. Brother is out for the Doctor against Mr Dr. (Goffin) side
 of my friends, all evils
 I think he will be better
 & that he is only being worst as
 "as I can't hear" but Willie
 I wish the same to see
 that Mrs Joe Collins advised
 him not to see & his father
 was much opposed to it,
 he was out working for
 himself all last week.
 Miss Ann & Mrs Joe Collins
 went up on the cheap
 Trip Tuesday. Gordon has
 brought a lot of fruit
 a house in Birmingham.
 With much love
 Your devoted
 Mother.

1894.

bringing your letter which I always welcome with
 pleasure. Your walk was a long one, I think a stroll
 on Sunday evenings is very pleasant tho I never take
 one as I have no one to accompany me, usually spend
 the afternoon or part of it writing to Fred. Last
 Sunday afternoon Uncle Waver came up early, in fact
 about the time we finished dinner & remained
 until sunset. He went Tuesday to Birmingham to
 the Veterans reunion. Reuben is staying with
 Mother during his absence. I was to see Mother Monday
 she was quite well, says she made the contract
 for her house & the man promises to have it
 ready for her in about eight weeks, quick work
 if he does. Alice is still in Mobile, rumor says
 Watkins Vaughan & herself fell in love at first

eight & are engaged to be married, but that may
be like many other rumors we hear, however he &
all the family paid her a great deal of attention
while in Salem on his way to Mobile. The mention
of Selma reminds me - Portia Pope wrote
begging me to go over & stay with cousin Sam while
she makes a visit to New York to bring Alice home
of course I could n't think of going, there would be
no one to attend to my matters if I leave.

The play you mentioned must have been grand,
why did n't you go to see it? they are always
having something nice up there, I don't know how
you will ever stand a quiet country life again.
I am glad you have no time to take part in those
violent exercises, I am afraid of them, tho it is
well to know how to row. You will be later getting
home than the other boys, will find it pretty warm
when you do come. This is a lovely day, every thing
is looking so fresh & green, the gardens are beginning
to make a good show, my animals have improved
so much lately & the woods are full of birds again.

I will put two in this, see if you can tell me what is the matter with them if you have time, these two are from the Paul Revere & I am so sorry to have them that way.

Mr Lee was married this morning to Miss Mrs. Carty, they had a special car attached to the freight to take them & their friends to Marion. This is the night for Miss Sadie Webb's marriage to Mr. Harrel, a cotton buyer & a Romanist, they are to be married by the priest, great preparations have been made tho' the family object to the match, Mr Webb has put up a temporary dining room for the supper, very few around here are invited & few in Danopolis, I don't know where the 600 invitations went to.

I don't know whether I wrote you of Mrs Collins being here one evening last week, spoke of Samuels being married but said there would not be a

double wedding & she hoped the other (meaning
Bobbie & Sue) would never be. She said she
had no idea that Mabel & Dr. Higgins were
engaged, she knew he was "mighty nice to her".
The Dr. was very quiet & low spirited at the
Medical Conventions. Your Father had a delightful
time, dined & supped out extensively, Doctors Davis
gave a breakfast to 40 of the Drs, had it at the
finest restaurant in the city, sat down at 8 o'clock
& left the table at 11 1/2, had every delicacy, wines,
strawberries & every sort of thing your Father said.
Toasts were called for, he was once called upon, I
would like to have heard him. His address was
much complimented & he returned home very well
satisfied with himself. He spent a night with
cousin Jenny, dined one day with Dr. Whelan.
I am glad you mentioned hearing from Fred. I
have not had a letter for two weeks.

We had a fruit drummer to stay with us last
night a N. C. man, I don't think your Father
could resist the temptation of ordering a small bill.
Have you any idea of stopping to see Fred. or

you will not feel uneasy & every thing is looking so pretty, the birds are singing so sweetly
& it is such a lovely day. I
wish you were here to enjoy it.
You & Mr. Allen were getting ready
to make final arrangements
for the meetings, we have
now not had the result.
I called to see Henry, on
having whispered to her
that if I could assist her
any for the coming week
to call on me, she replied
well you need not be
surprised if I do. "Minnie"
& Mrs. Hatch were here a
few days ago. Please
Beverly excuse the writing
I intend being away so to
finish. With much love
1891
Your devoted
Mother.

I am very glad to know the place in the
Annex is a certainty, your mind will be at
rest on that subject. If you come through Va
will you stop in Petersburg or Richmond? You

Uncle White's wife (Lore) would be delighted to see you, Alice also, she frequently writes to Waver, seems very fond of her Father's relatives, if you have any idea of stopping in Richmond I would like to give you the names of my relatives there. Alice sent Waver her photograph not long since. I was quite relieved yesterday to hear from Jack as three weeks passed without hearing from him, all were well. I feared he was sick & Fanny too busy to write. He has bought a cow, milks & feeds her himself for the present, of course they will sell the milk the baby does not use.

We sent papers yesterday containing accounts of the weddings in Danapolis, I cut out some pieces from Virginian town which I will enclose, thought you might be interested in them or maybe you have correspondents there who keep you posted. I was in Union town Saturday, it was a bad day for chopping but I could put it off no longer. I spent the day with Mrs Waver all inquired about you, Mrs Wren has fallen off more than I ever imagined she could, & is looking dreadfully, I am as sorry to see it, don't

May 3, 1894

what the others would do if she were to die.

Your Father & myself spent Friday at Tarnesdale, I went to see a dress maker & spent the rest of the time with Lucy. Some one Carter happened in to dinner & in the evening Berrie C. came with the children & Nell Jeffries. I would have called at Minge Wilkins but heard cousin Margaret was in Sheffield. Returning from Winton on the train I found Lottie & baby, also Mrs Walker & Mrs Selden, the baby is a fine looking little girl, eyes like her mother. Cousin Bettie Seldens is much better, able now to move about the house.

Uncle Wams made quite a stay in Birmingham, returned Monday evening, dined with us yesterday came for your Father to see about his arm, he stepped out of the street car too briskly for an old man, fell & hurt his arm Dr Henley fixed splints on it but he removed them & put on a bandage of his own which your Father promised

aches, and all his aim needs now is to use it
to get rid of the stiffness, he took a very bad cold
so I don't think the trip was at all beneficial.
He asked Ruben to go in town with him today
but I think it will end in his sending Ruben
in for Louie, she is expected on today's boat.
I am much obliged to you for telling me about
the sore buds, suppose I must try fertilizing the
buds to get it in better condition. If we could
only have a shower my flowers would grow off
so rapidly, the animals are really suffering for
rain. A few pretty roses have opened if you were
near I could send a bouquet sometimes.
I almost forgot to tell you, we had the pleasure
of having Mr Harris, aunt Melville & the children
spend Tuesday with us, all were looking so well.
even Mr Harris has fattened a good deal.
Well! the butter came, & breakfast was ready
before I finished my letter so I could not get it
mailed this morning, I am sorry for I like to
be "on time" but sometimes I can't as I hope.

St. Michaels church, they went to friends paying for winter boarding & promising they had
done, their guest is always at work, now is about at a standstill. Will I not
say good night, with much
love from devoted
Mother

May 9th 1894

My dear Son

It is very close & warm tonight, quite
a temptation to be out on the porch but you must
not be disappointed about your letter. The mail
came late, I had a letter from each one of my
boys & it was quite a treat, I sat on the porch
reading them until too dark to see. They were all
interesting but it was singular to notice how very
different. Fred wrote of the baby, the sick cow,
& three changes in cooks, Waver gave an account
of the drowning of the Spaniard in a mill
pond & Lewis letter was full of the trip to
Columbus on Memorial day. Perhaps you heard
of the Spaniard who went to Auburn as a student
without being able to speak a word of English.
He with some "kids" as Waver said went bathing
in the mill pond he stayed in longer than the

others & must have been seized with cramp,
called for help, the boys tried to help him but were
unable to save him, the pond was drained & his
body recovered.

I am very glad you think of applying for the
place in Miss. I think having graduated there
you would stand as good a chance as anyone,
they know too what good use you have made of
your time since graduating. To leave you there, &
Fad at Auburn would suit us as well, if Col
Bordman is dropped he will apply.

We have been moving about considerably this week,
Monday Reuben drove me to Hamden to have
a dress fitted, the lady was sick but it was so
warm we remained to dinner with Lucy, came
home soon afterwards that your Father & Reuben
might have the buggy to go to Danvers that
night to hear Col Cutler speak, they returned
about 1 o'clock, but were up next morning &
ready to join him on the train to Minutemen
where he spoke. For Minutemen they met Uncle

May 9, 1894

3

John, he asked Reuben to stop at Tannedale, go home with him & take care of the place until his return from Texas. Mrs. Leonard's is ~~expected~~ to die & Beacie wanted to go to her, they left this morning expect to be gone two weeks. Reuben sent up today for clothes, had on his best. Today your Father has been visiting patients & tomorrow I hope he will take me to Tannedale again to see about the shoes. Beacie had sent me word she would spend Tuesday with me, Lucy & her sister were coming with her to spend the day with Mrs. Joe Collins, leaving Monday ^{evening} of her Mother's illness she decided to go to Texas & of course did not come, Lucy & Mrs. Doughit did, made me well, I was so disappointed not to have Beacie, she has not been here since last summer.

You asked about Willie Wren, he was cured at the Keeley cure & I was in hopes his Mother would

improve in health & spirits but she looks dreadfully.
We had a little sprinkle of rain this evening but
not enough to do any good. I do hope we will have
some more tonight, the gardens need it so much.
We had our first sick of peas today, would have
had them some time ago if we had been blessed with
a good rain. We have not put out a tomatoe plant
have been waiting for a spell. John is our gardener
now, we have all his time. My handy maid
only stayed a week so I am maid again, the
Washington cooks & our maids are about on a
par. Oh! I must tell you how Farnedale is
improving, Coleman & Walker are building a large
brick store in fact I think two stores, down near
the oil mills. Mr Brown will pull down his
old store & build one of brick. I think the house
Mrs Peckles lives in has been built since you
were there, it is near the Methodist church.
I have not heard from Grand Mother for some
days. Tomorrow night the Episcopal ladies give
a silver tea at Mrs Wuthens for the benefit of

May 15th 1894

My dear Son

I was very glad to hear from you this evening, while resting after a hard days work I enjoyed your letter. The county convention met in Greenboro today, your Father being very much interested went up late yesterday evening & returned late this evening. Hale & Co went for Johnson, Willie Browder beat Mr De Graffenriede, all north Hale went for him, he will be more "stuck up" than ever now that he is elected. I heard from a servant today that Charley Whelan would take Willie's place down here when he is absent, 'hold the fort' for him, Charley has not graduated. Your Father dined with Mr Cobbs today, he received your letter this morning said he did not know any one in the University office, he will write you I suppose.

After so long a winter it is not surprising as

many Cambridge people were out a pleasant day,
spring weather must be delightful to them, the
weather here has been very hot, the recent showers
improved everything very much. I wish I could get
to you fresh, some of my Marshack's bird & Malabarism
rose birds, they are so pretty. The rain came too late
for the raspberries, they are small & dried up.
I had a visit from Mrs. Betch & Minnie yesterday
evening they say June 6th is the day appointed for
Harry's marriage, it will take place in church in
time for them to leave on the evening train, 5.30
Lucie will be maid of honor, Lizzie & Mabel
bridesmaids, I did not hear who would act as
grooms men. Jarvis Collins was my protector last
night, he is quite a large boy now, rode by this
evening & kindly offered to come again tonight if
I wanted him, I thought your Father would be
home & told him so.

We have not heard from Reuben since he was
up Saturday, I would like to hear from Mrs
Chadwick. Your Father drove me down to Fannestale.

May 15, 1874

Friday to have a dress fitted we then went to
Winnitown made some little purchases & returned
home to dinner at half past one. We found Lucy &
her sister capping a crate of strawberries to preserve
they were very nice & we enjoyed a canner after our
ride & early breakfast. The Silver tea at Mr Watkins
turned them out 22.50 clear, & was very enjoyable.

A letter from Lewis this week says one of his eyes
is quite sore, both by this time I reckon, it will
be a great inconvenience to him just now.

A note has just been handed in from Uncle Waver
asking us to go up to dine with Lewis Sprague
tomorrow. I will have to excuse myself as I will
have a woman to finish my spring cleaning
tomorrow & the ladies meet at the church to make
& put down the vestry room carpet. I will leave
orders about the work at home & go to the church
to help. Bishop Gascoens will be in our parish

Friday week; Mr Colbs here on Saturday so I am
having my house put in order, took up dining room
carpet today & had a good deal of cleaning done, I
almost wore myself out helping, that accounts for
this poor letter tonight. I felt I must write for there
would be no time tomorrow morning, household duties
occupying me until late in the morning.

If you want the place in Miss I do hope you will
get it, don't you know the Episcopal minister there,
I wonder if he could help you? Lewis's friend Spinks
has a Cadetship at West Point. I am very sleepy
& tired so excuse a rather shorter letter than usual,
with much love

Your devoted Mother

May 28th 1894.

My dear Son

Just at dinner time your Father came in bringing me quite a budget of letters, one each from Fred & Harry enclosing Friele testimonials, one from Lewis, sister Sally & your self, it was a real treat & I had to keep dinner waiting to read yours & Fred's as I had heard recently from Lewis.

I am so glad you wrote fully of your plans, nothing could interest me more, it certainly was gratifying to you to get a better scholarship besides being a help financially. If you should get the place for July that would still be a help but would make it a month later before we would have the pleasure of having you home. Like yourself I scarcely know what to think about the Vice position, this seems a good time to continue

at Harvard & yet if you had the place in mind
would it there be a chance of getting a years leave
of absence to study at Harvard; but then you
would not have the scholarships perhaps & that is
quite a help. Your Father says if you want to
continue at Harvard another year you shall have
the money if he has to borrow it. Enoch Lewis
what Geo Lee thought of your applying for the
place in Vassar (he had mentioned it to Lewis)
he said you might apply but he thought your
age would be against your getting the position.
Fred is anxious for the place in Auburn should
Col B- be put out. I do hope he can get it chose
such he the case, living in Washington is so
expensive, how & Fanny are kept pretty busy now
she says she has no time for letter writing now.
I suppose she tries to do the cooking but with Mrs
Camp's help I should think she would not be so
pushed for time. The baby continues to improve &
nurses a good deal as his papa says, knows each
member of the family.

This has been a very cloudy day & we hoped

May 23, 1894

for a good soaking rain but have had only
showers, not enough to more than dampen the
top of the ground a little, I do hope we will have
more tonight. John is watering the holes & putting
out some tomato plants, every thing needs a good
rain; for several evenings I have watered the
squash, hoping to have a dish Friday but ^{am} I think
I will, did not start in time. We thought last
Saturday we might have had the weather turned
so cold. Friday evening Reuben sent for your Father,
the boy said he was very sick so I went with him,
it was not going down but late in the evening a
cloud came up, afterwards it turned cold & returning
home Saturday morning with a cold west wind in
our faces we suffered from cold, the I borrowed a
cloak & from Father one of Uncle John's coats to put
over his. Reuben was suffering from the prevailing
bowel trouble, had fever the night before but that
I think was caused by a fall on his head as he

had no return. Feeling very unwell he went out to Fannedale in the carriage with Nell Jefferies to get some medicine from Dr. Mc. Garity, coming home, in crossing a steep ditch the 5th wheel broke, in making the ascent the wheel came apart & Reuben was thrown out on his head, (he was driving) for a minute Nell said he did not move & she thought he was senseless, I suppose he was for the time, but he held on to the reins, got up, put the cushions on the front wheels & they rode on them home, that was enough to give him a fever. He was much better Saturday morning & as we have heard nothing from him I suppose he is well. So many persons have been sick in the same way he was, we attribute it to eating vegetables, they are tough from slow growth.

Saturday Mrs. Cobb, Grand Mother, Uncle Waver & Lovie dined with us & yesterday again we had Lovie to dinner, we all went to clean the church & yard, Lovie came in Mother's place, we put every in nice order & tomorrow evening we went to

May 23, 1914

arrange lights for Friday night, the Bishop (Jochum) will preach at 11 in the morning & again at night, we will not have him this time, Mrs Smith claims him for dinner & Mrs J T Collins for the night. I hope to have the Harris family & perhaps Lucy & Benny. We ordered strawberries from York for dinner but I am afraid they are pretty well over & I will be disappointed.

Unless Kolb beats him Oates will be Governor, the Kolbits are using a great deal of money & a plenty of lies (expense the oppression) with the negro & poor whites. They are trying to keep the negro from registering too.

There is a fine photographer at Gallion, your Father had his picture taken, I tell him one matter how he sees hard times he can always find the money when he wants to use it. The cold spell has been terrible on my little chickens, about half

of them have died. I have not heard Louisa say
how long she will stay but not all the summer
I am sure, she may come up again.

It is time to feed my chickens so I must close, I
am glad you see some ladies occasionally. With
much love

Your devoted

Mother.

brides that would not be seen in public after her invitations were out but she promised to be present, does sit mind spending of the affair. There are a few flowers I saw ahead we will I don't be able to pay for the compliment of decorating the church for the ceremony. We had a letter from Harry today, all were well & baby continues to improve. I think I must help to meet him, one day he writes while baby is lying in his cradle taking in his

after the mail came, your Father did not get in until dinner was ready, it is now about three o'clock but I may be able to finish my letter & get it off this evening. Your Father says he will write to you in a few days, has gone to the store with some medicine for Susie, she had high fever & was quite sick yesterday evening, rather better this morning but not free of fever. the whole family there have been very complaining but too rainy to call in a Dr until now, it is to be hoped Susie will recover in time to be present at the wedding, today week.

This is Mr Harris' wedding day, (Samuel Hays) Miss Bettie Edmonds is the lady, perhaps

you have seen her, they were to be married in the Baptist church this morning I think. Mr Harris has the place for three years & has added to the comfort of the house, could afford to do it as he was certain of the place for a long a time.

After dinner there was every indication of a good rain but we have had only a shower, the clouds have passed around, I sincerely hope they may return & give us a good rain for we are sadly in need of it in the garden, corn & cotton are looking remarkably well — considering the dry weather.

Reuben has not returned home the good uncle John came back Saturday, he must be visiting his friends around there, has not let us hear from him since we spent the night at Johnny's. I was as much in hopes he would come to hear the Bishop, he preached two splendid sermons, at night held baptism & confirmation for Mrs Tarkie's benefit, no other

May 30, 1894

"Baby away sleep better, & suppose they never trust him in a room alone now if asleep. Wave & Anne were quite well when they wrote. With much love
Your devoted
Mother."

candidate. Mr. Cobbs, the Bishop & Miss Annie stopped here to rest before services Friday morning. They dined with Mr. Smith, Uncle Ben, aunt Lucy, & cousin Minnie Nelson, bro. Waver & Louise dined with us, Mother was not feeling well enough to come. We had our first fried chicken & the finest straw berries I ever saw, ordered them from York, the man who grows them is a Yankee, made a tremendous crop of Irish potatoes & other things too I suppose, we heard he ordered at one time 2800 bushel crates to ship his potatoes, he saved them from the March freeze by hiring all the plows he could & covering them with earth Sunday evening. The neighbors were so pleased with the berries they insisted on our ordering another crate for Saturday to be divided among us.

I am afraid you will miss seeing Louise, she

will return when Alice comes up after
encampment. She spent night before last
with us, Brother went in town to take a
look at her house which has gone up rapidly,
is now being shingled. Sunday we spent the
day with Mother, I was glad we went for
brother & Louisa had gone to town for commu-
=ment sermon & she would have had a long
lonely day, in the evening we went by Gallion
for the mail & started to Mr Smith's to
express our sympathy for him in the loss
by fire of his corn crib but we met them
driving out as we turned around & followed
them to Gallion to await the evening train,
the neighborhood was there, buggys, carriages
& horseback riders all eager for the mail.

The young men give Harry a dance Monday
night in Tank's Hall, over the two stores
he built at Gallion. It is a queer idea to
me to wait until two days before she is
married to give the dance, in my day a

June 7th 1894.

My dear Son,

Your letter for this week has not come yet but I hope to get it this morning, will not put off writing any longer as I want you to have your ^{home} letter on time. Your Father said he would write but a week has passed & his letter is not written. He left this morning soon after breakfast to see old Mrs. Komeyay, is staying a long time, I wish he would come for a long expected carpenter is waiting to begin work. I thought I could find a job but it came to an end in rather an unexpected manner. I took him around to the out room to fix the floor, he raised up a plank to see about the sleepers & there was a nest of pole cats, as he & I were the only persons on the place & had not an idea of how to secure them all he quickly lowered the plank & vacated, that accounts for the disappearance

of my chickens, hardly any left.

When I commenced this I had just returned from the church where Mrs Collins, Minnie & myself had been cleaning away the yesterday's decorations. A great many were there to witness the putting up, but few to clean up. The church was beautiful I wish you could have seen it, any quantity of pot flowers & more cut flowers than I had any idea we could get. I will try to give you some idea of how things were arranged. First the altar, in the centre we put a box about the size of a chair seat, on that a beautiful fern, around the box & on the marble slab were pots of white geraniums, around the wood part of the altar white cloth was tacked, right against that on the little step we placed three beautiful ferns we then filled in the spaces with bracken cane & mock orange concealing all the pots & white cloth, into the cane we stuck quantities of the white holly leaves & alder berry blossoms making the whole a mass of green & white that was beautiful. In the corners we put the

June 7, 1894

large chairs, in each a pile of bricks, on them, pots of geraniums, covering pots & chairs with vines, above the chairs we had palm-trees. The channel seating was covered with white cloths to which beautiful vines were pinned. The lecterns were placed in the corners near the pulpit & front to make room for a small pyramid of pot flowers where the lectern stood, then the lectern had pot flowers on them & palm-trees as back ground, the font was beautiful, filled with cut flowers & pines, the front rod across the church was festooned with vines & a wreath festooned from the middle of the channel arch, altogether it was lovely. The church was full & punctually at 4 o'clock the organ struck up, (Charles Hance playing) & the bridal party came in, first the mothers Allen & Jessie, then Mabel & Lizzie in airy dresses of white muslin, white hats & veils, then Susan alone, (maid of honor) Fanny &

Jimmy bringing up the rear, the groom & his brother came in from the vestry room. The congregation remained seated until the bridal party left the church, then nearly every one followed them to the depot. I forgot to say Fanny was married in her travelling suit, dark blue trimmed with white lace, & very becoming to her. Mr & Mrs Colbo & Annie dined with us as we came from the church with them but as soon as they left we went to the depot too & had some time to talk with them all before the train came, the platform & steps were crowded with the neighborhood people & nearly every one had a little bag of rice which was plentifully showered on them as they moved off to the train, of course the old shoe was thrown after them too. Fanny was in very high spirits, seemed not to think of those she was leaving behind. Mrs "J T" & "Mrs Chindles" are two happy women now. Reuben came over for the wedding but returned to Uncle John's yesterday evening, says he will be home tomorrow to get ready for arraignment, will probably

June 27, 1894

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start on Monday. Your Father leaves Saturday for Auburn as I will have a lonely time until about Friday night, think I had better write for Mrs. Wain to come stay with me tho it is a bad time to have company, no vegetables.

Yesterday there were dark clouds & every indication of a storm but we only had a sprinkle of rain afterwards it turned so cool that the girls in thin dresses suffered, your Father went off & borrowed a shawl for Susan.

Dr. Huggins came to the wedding, we expected him to sleep here but he did not come, stayed at Mr. Collins'; in that crowd yesterday evening he looked lost, could only stand by, & look at Mabel without saying a word. Your Grand Mother, Uncle Waver & Lizzie were up to the marriage. The boys gave out the dances they spoke of having.

I stopped here for dinner your Father came in after I finished, on hearing of the cats he took

his gun out there, killed one old one & four
young ones, just as fat as could be. I am glad he
secured them. He found Mrs Koenig very sick, did
not go to the office. I reckon I might as well
close my letter now & try to get it off this evening.
With much love

Yours devoted Mother.

June 13th 1894

My dear Son

For a rarity I was dining out today & consequently did not write, but while Louise is entertaining Mrs Buckley, Mrs Gates & Davis Collins I will begin my letter, may have time to finish as I expect they will stay late. Louise has been with me since Sunday, I dined with me, the she spent Monday night with at Farnedale & last night with Mrs Tucker. We went up for her Sunday evening, Reuben took her to the military ball Monday night at Farnedale, yesterday evening Mr Torbert called for her to ride & took her on to Mrs Tucker's. This morning Reuben went down for her & brought her to Mrs Hatch's, when he went to the freight train I accompanied him & we both spent the day with Mrs Hatch by special invitation, Mrs Chick Hatch & Lena have been staying there, leave tomorrow. Reuben went over to Farnedale to go off

with the Co tomorrow, instead of Brigades encampment
as they expected. Gov Jones has had a regiment at
a time, at Caneby City near Birmingham to
keep the miners in check, I should have said
the strikers, they threatened to blow up the mines.
I hope there will be no trouble with them while
the 3rd regiment is there. Uncle Ben & Oley
both belong to the Co & will be obliged to go.
Your Father left Sunday for Auburn, I hope he
will be home Friday evening, the exercises close
tomorrow. Davis is kind enough to stay here
at night as our protector.

Your last letter was a little behind time but
none the less acceptable on that account. I
expect you are very busy as I have not heard from
you this week, had a letter from Fred today
not much in it, said he had not heard from
you in some time. I am glad you will not have
much longer to work as hard as I expect the
weather is getting very warm. It is very warm here
now & the most pleasant weather, sometimes
cloudy & an east wind but no rain, the whole

June 13, 1894

atmosphere looks as tho it is full of smoke, at night it turns quite cool & the clouds are all blown away.

I heard from Lurie yesterday he is one of the speakers for commencement. I hardly thought he would be "on the stand" addresses seem not to be his fort.

"Ralph" is quite devoted to Lura was to see her this morning & expected to be there again tonight, gave up going to any entertainment in town to be with her the last evening of her visit.

I have been busy since your Father left getting in hay, have bought 10 or 12 loads, bought 6 this morning before breakfast, it is not very pleasant work for me but I must buy while it is going. Our nine acres turned out 4 loads of oats for our share, I have the cows driven down there every day & they have improved so much in milk.

Old Mrs Chadwick died a few days ago. The
Minge girls have returned home.

Your grand Mother is watching with interest the
progress of her house, goes in about once a week to
see it, the plastering is nearly finished.

The bride & groom stopped in Shrewsbury where
they had a reception. Mr Allen's friends furnished
his room very handsomely in his absence, they
were much surprised to find it so nicely fixed
up. Fanny had some very handsome presents &
here, have not seen them, as they will not keep
house, she left them with Mrs Collins.

I am so sleepy please excuse this poor letter,
must take a nap on the sofa until the
young men leave, with much love, good night

Your devoted

Mother.

June 20th 1894.

My dear Son

I was very glad to have your letter this morning, your Father & my self were ready to make a call on Gordon & his wife but I stopped to read my letters, yours & Lewis's, he will be home tomorrow morning. I need hardly say how sorry I am that you will not soon join us, but I know you think it best for you to remain & under the circumstances I must make the best of it. I had no idea the weather was ever so warm in Cambridge, we have had it too, very hot in the sun, but then we have a cloud nearly every afternoon & a threatening of rain which cools the air a good deal, no ruin of any consequence yet & the gardens entirely burnt up, not even Irish potatoes - We found Gordon

& his wife looking better than usual, he has a
very black snoutache & very black hair, I think
he must see a little shoe polish as Mrs
Hause calls it; the little girl is not pretty
but has a fine face, they make a short
visit, return tomorrow.

I think you must feel relieved to be through
with your examinations & I hope you will not
study so very hard in July. You have taken
so many languages this year, what will be
left for next?

Well! I will go back a little & give an
account of ourselves, there is no wedding to
write of or any thing exciting - Just to think,
I was at Mrs Collins' today & forgot to ask to
see Harry's presents, might have written you
about them. I heard they were on exhibition
in the parlor, we sat on the porch. I reckon
Mrs C - forgot I had not seen them - But
to return to my subject, I wrote of Louise
being with me part of last week, Wednesday

June 20, 1894

we dined with Mrs Hatch, driving ourselves home in the evening as Reuben left that morning for camp. Davis Collins came that night as our protector & Profers Beasley & Geter dropped in after supper remaining until 11 o'clock - but oh! I believe I wrote to you that very night so please excuse my repeating. Well Thursday morning early, aunt Bessie, the four girls & Doris drove up to spend the day. I greatly enjoyed having them, about the time for them to start a very threatening cloud came up, a good deal of wind but very little rain, however she did not care to risk going out so they spent the night, Lonnie was here & Willie came to take of us so there were 9 of us, more than I have had to spend the night in a long time. After Bessie left Willie drove Lonnie up to Sam Down, as Mother had written her to return, that evening

Wave & your Father came, he latter looking much
"the worse for wear" had been very unwell all
the time & one morning fainted in the
library, but he was well enough to go to the
ball & criticize the girls, their looks, dresses,
se se. Col Bondurant & all the other Professors
whose terms expired this June were retained
& Dr Brown was not re-elected as some hoped
he would be. Col B- it was thought had
not had a fair trial as they gave him
another year. Your Father thinks it will be
his last, he heard through a pet of Dr B-
that Dr B- had been making particular
inquiries about Fred, & had said a man
of 60 would hardly do for that place, he
wanted a young active man, the pet I
don't know his name, had no idea Fred
was Dr Duggan's son. Your Father thinks Fred
will stand a good chance for the place
next summer. Of course we do not mention
these things except among ourselves. He wrote
Fred all about it. Wave brought home his

June 20, 1894

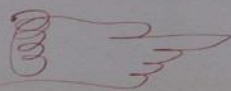
diploma, 41 graduates including three young ladies.
This morning Wave went to Mrs J T Co's for
Louise, she had been spending a day & night
there. Tomorrow there is a pie me gotten up by
Mrs Burke in honor of the Dr's niece, Louise &
Wave will go from here, terribly hot to be out
doors all day I think.

Aunt Melville lost her 4 gallon Jersey cow
the other day, the only one she had. I want
to lend her our black cow until she can do
better, she gives about 2 gallons a day.

Tomorrow your Father goes to Uncle John's to
assist in a surgical operation on a negro,
I will have a lonely day but will busy
myself sewing. Your Father brought me a muslin
dress & Beebe two pieces to make waists of
so I have a plenty to do. I must stop now &
scritch off a few lines to Aunt Melville, it

is after dinner & every one but myself is
taking a nap. I hate to think it will be
so long before you come, with much love

Your devoted Mother.



Menu.

Articles

Explained -

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 What Every one should possess. | = Back bone. |
| 2. Unruly Member. | = Tongue. |
| 3 Causes neighborly Contention. | = Turkey. |
| 4. New England brains. | = Chicken Salad. |
| 5 Food for the spinning wheel. | = Rolls. |
| 6. The last of "Old Trot." | = Sausage. |
| 7 What a boy calls his sweetheart. | = Honey. |
| 8. Most delightful age of Childhood. | = Cabbage. |
| 9 Women of grit. | = Sand-witches. |
| 10. What occasioned the fall of Mankind. | = Apples. |
| 11 Widdow tears. | = Onions. |
| 12. Tree cake. | = Nut cake. |
| 13 Love's young dream. | = Chocolate Russe. |
| 14. Changeable Politicians. | = Turn over. |
| 15-What asthmatic people are. | = Coffee. |
| 16. Boston's overthrow. | = Tea. |
| ^{A Spring offering.}
17 What asthmatic people are. | = Water. |
| 18 Diana's Nectar. | = Sweet Milk. |