

my
you
would
Fayette Ky. Tenn. December 15, 1861

My dear Parents

I hope you have not thought hard of your Mary, for not writing to you before this is my opportunity is a bad one to write a letter at all times, but if I cannot write a letter I will write something in the form of one, to send you. Knowing that ~~you~~ ^{you} are always pleased to hear from us & will not expose my bad writing - My dear Parents I wish I could tell you how much I think of & want to see you but that is impossible. I sometimes feel as if I never can be satisfied to be so far from you but when I reflect that we are separated & to be dissatisfied will do no good I am convinced that it is wrong to give up to such thoughts & try to indulge in them as little as possible. I have almost despaired of ever seeing any of you ~~and returning~~ here yet if nothing happens I hope to visit you next summer, I anticipate much enjoyment in that visit. I am every hour thinking of something to tell you & what we will do when we are together. Catherine talks as much about Montgomery as I do & frequently wants to know what sort of dress she is to wear when she goes there.

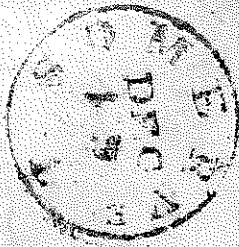
Mother I have learnt to stay at home as much as you ever did, since I have 6 children I feel that it is a great undertaking to go from home, & sometimes visit Cousin C & Mrs Ellington & they come to see me sometime

delusions about as little as ever yet I believe they are
well. Mrs Littlejohn spent the day with me last
week Mrs Wainwright has not ^{been} here since Martha Frances
was a few days old, Mrs Wainwright & Mr Palmer enjoy themselves
loves finely painting deer & wild turkeys notwithstanding they
succeeded badly, Mr Palmer has killed only 3 turkeys. ~~What~~
~~fall~~ but has not become disheartened - ~~Lincolnton~~ he says
he intends to have fine fine fishing next summer
tell Cousin Sally Ann her old beau Mr Perry has gone into
the ~~general~~ ^{business} & expects to make a fortune I do not
know how he will succeed it is thought that he takes
as very good likeness. Mr Ogain has married & rented
a little farm & gone to hard work. they are the happiest
people I know.

I wish I could say something that would interest you
but I never was more at a loss for something to write
in my life. Our family has enjoyed fine health for some
time, the children grow very fast My baby never was sick
a day, she can walk across the floor & speak several words
but she is a real ugly child, Batty is one of the worst
in the world. Tell Cousin Batty I am very anxious to compare
my ugly girl with her pretty boy we will let Aunt
Patsy decide which is the best looking. Tell Cousin Sally Ann
& Melissa I have been expecting a letter from them for
some time. & I think it is time for Aunt Elizabeth
to answer my letter. Tell Aunt Patsy I have not forgotten
her although I have not written to her. - I think of her every
day, tell Frank, Martha & Mary Anne they ought not to
be so sermonious about writing

Give a great deal of love to all, for me I receive my
dear Parents a portion for yourself write me as soon as you
receive this Betty sends her love to you all I must now bid
you farewell my dear Parents I remain your sincere &
affectionate Mary

Kiss all the children for me tell them not to forget their
step - Tell Uncle James he would be delighted to
receive a letter from him



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