
Carroll County, Kentucky
Betty Mason

February 17th, 1853

Thursday ~~Wednesday~~ morning at home

My dearest Princy,

How are you and all this long long time? It has been a long time indeed since we were together. Joe [*her sister Josephine*] and I got already three weeks ago, sent up to borrow Carrie's [*her sister Caroline*] pony thinking, of course we could get it. But she had sold it. So we had to give up our long talked of visit. So dear Prince, you see we do all we can to get to see you. I have no horse we can ride and the road is too narrow for us to venture in the buggy. But I will make it up to you this summer, I hope.

Since I saw you, I have been quite sick with cold, which I still feel the effects. Our children have kept well with the exception of colds. I am now looking out every day for them to have measles. Mr. Staples and wife have been very sick with it and so close. I think my children will not escape. Our son Louis has been fretful for a day or two. I gave him a powder last night which has helped him this morning. I must prepare the children having them [*measles*] now I can keep them indoors. Joe and Mr. Price's children are all well. Mr. Price is in a business in Cincinnati, which is a great trial for Joe to be separated, but he will come down every two or three weeks. Dear Princy, I wish you could come bring the children stay some with us. Cousin John could come with you and go back home. Oh, do try, come, we are so anxious to see you all.

Uncle Collett stayed last Thursday night with us on his way South. He has had a severe spell of sickness and is very much reduced. We were much surprised to see him not hearing of his illness. He left all his children in Louisville with Anna, the nurse. He remained with us till Saturday eve when he had to go to Carrollton to get the boat. He regretted very much he could not get to see you all, said he stayed all night with your Ma. She had a sick headache when he got there. All the rest well. Your mother received a letter from you that eve, which was very gratifying. Your Pa read it and remarked he intended coming down to see you. Grandpa will be with your Ma in March to see us all. Won't it be a nice trip for him? No news of interest in Mount Sterling.

We got a letter from dear Carrie four days since. She says, our dear afflicted sister is in the deepest distress. [*She is probably referring to her sister Priscilla who lost her daughter, Mary 3 month previously*] will not be up till April. My dear old father stopped on his way up to see her. She was so overcome while he was there, did not say much. Your good Ma has written to her and all her friends. The day Carrie wrote, Mr. Higgins had two of the most valuable men drowned in the lake in front of his house. All had gotten over the chills, Lizzie looking very thin, had to wean her babe but it was fat and healthy. Carrie sends her best love to you. Joe received a letter from our dear Ma on Monday. Ma has been quite sick with cold but was better then, all friends were well. I have much more to write but not time. Boy waiting. You must come as soon as you

can, you know my inclination for going to see you all – in haste affectionately as ever. Yours
Bettie

My love to Cousin John, kiss the dear little children, remember me to all

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