
At Home Thursday Evening

My Dear darling Child

We arrived home safe last night and I know you will be anxious to hear. Well my child after leaving you at the Institute gate your brother and I watched the stage until it was out of sight and then I could not control my feelings any longer. We walked slowly to the house and Mrs. Allen and the family all were very kind and polite to me and soon dinner was announced and I was so sick, I could scarcely hold my head up, but I went in to the table and tried to eat, but I could not and went back to Mrs. A's room and she had a cup of tea made for me and as soon as I tried to drink it I commenced vomiting – and then she sent me upstairs to a nice comfortable room and let Brooking stay with me. He laid on the bed and talked to me and I tried to get to sleep but oh my head and heart ached so I could not. Late in the evening I got up and washed my face and dressed and went down in the yard and to Brooking's room but I was too sick to stay long. I soon went upstairs again and went to bed; and Mrs. Allen's niece, a nice young lady came up and bathed my head with camphor and cold water and was so attentive and kind. Brooking slept with me, poor child, he was so delighted to see me, he would not leave me a minute. He had so many questions to ask and so much to tell me.

I tried to get a good night's rest but I was so nervous I could not sleep and early in the morning I got up and went down with Brooking and he showed me all over the grounds. I was in hopes the fresh air would make me feel better but my head still ached and my stomach sick. I was afraid I would be too sick to meet your Pa at the stage at 2 o'clock but about twelve o'clock Col Allen made me a brandy toddy with peppermint in it and I drank some. It was the first thing that would lay on my stomach. It seemed to strengthen me and I felt a little better, so about half after one Col Allen, Brooking and I started down to the gate to wait for the stage. We had not been there more than five minutes before we saw it coming. Your Pa saw Col Allen and talked a few minutes to him and Brooking, and we soon got to Frankfort and on the cars for Louisville. And there I was so sick again and my stomach so empty. I kept sick all the way to Louisville. We did not arrive there until dark. We went to Mr. Wingate's to stay all night. Mrs. Wingate and Mrs. Threlkill was glad to see us and very kind. They had a waiter brought up to my room with a nice boiled egg and a warm cup of tea and a piece of broiled ham and I felt as if I could eat. As soon as I tasted the ham I felt better and I eat all on the waiter and felt almost well. Had a good night's rest and in the morning I felt well. At ten o'clock we started for home on the Buell. I stopped on fourth street and got a few little articles. I got a nice set of napkins for your Aunt Virginia, white with a pink border and some candy and nuts for Bud Louis.

But Oh my Dear Child you can not tell how my poor heart felt as I came back. I stayed in my stateroom all day thinking how I would feel with I got home and how I would miss my Dear Daughter, the ---- only one I have on this earth – but my child I am willing to sacrifice my feelings for your good and you must be happy and make yourself lovely and amiable to your teachers and companions and you will soon feel contented and happy. Your Pa told me you would room with Mary Brand. You must treat her like a sister and tell her I will write to her. I loved her Dear mother, she was a good Christian.

We got to your Uncle Abb's landing about 8 o'clock, they were not expecting us until today, but soon got to the river to see us up. We stopped and talked awhile and came home Catherine and Georgia had taken good care of everything and the little bird is as lively as a cricket. Georgia would not let Laura take it home, said she wanted to keep it herself. I brought it some lettuce off the boat and this morning I cleaned the cage and gave it to him. It is so cheerful, been singing all day.

Now daughter you must write to me as often as you can and write long letters and tell me what you need and I will try and write to you once a week. Your brother said he would write to you in a day or two. Your Pa will write soon, he says he is too tired to write today.

Picknig has been asking about We all day, goes to the back parlor door and calls you, says poor We. I must write to your brother too this evening so I will now draw your letter to a close. You must not get tired reading my letter and say; I wish Ma would not write me such a long rigamarole. When I get letters I want to hear everything whether it is of importance or not, so when you write to me, recollect and write everything you can think of. Laura says she will write to you.

Your Aunt Virginia came over this morning to ask and talk about you and Brooking. Bud Louis says he is going to be a good boy, he is all the child his poor Ma has got now. He was so glad to see us last night. Catherine and Georgia has just come in and says I must tell you something for them----- As I have written all I can think of, goodbye my Dear Child. Be prudent in all things, don't expose yourself and get sick. Write to me as soon as you get this. Kiss Dear little Mary B for me and tell her she must be good to my Daughter.

Your devoted Mother

Remember me to Mr. Williams and family. Daughter you must write to your brother Brooking.

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