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February 18th 1871

Dear brother Brooking,

Your letter was received several days since but Mrs. Mosher has been here all the week and I have had a little time for letter writing. You know of her great affliction and anyone situated as she is feels a slight so much more than anyone else. I have been feeling real badly since I came back from Cincinnati but suppose it was because I had to take so much exercise.

Did you receive any valentines? I got four and sent several. Bud Louis is going to school to Mrs. Vaughter, a (?) man and I think he is learning rapidly. Last night he brought Willie Montgomery and George Owen home with him and this morning they could not go to school for the rain and teased Ma awfully but at last she bundled them up and started them.

I saw Herbert Marshall the other day and he told me he had received a letter from you I think he is such a nice boy if he just wasn't so bashful. Miss Gaby was up here day before yesterday begging for the "Good Templars." I suppose you know they have organized a lodge in Ghent. Everyone has joined excepting Horace Means. Someone told me the other day that a petition had been sent in for him and when he discovered it he was "furious" declared he "wouldn't join em." We enjoyed the magazine you sent us but hope you are not one of the boys who stole the lamps were you? Ma and Pa received your letter yesterday and will both write soon. I have written quite a disconnected letter for I am in a great hurry to get through. I hope you will not forget my diary for I need it very much and Pa says it will only be right for you to replace it. All join me in love to you.

Mariam

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