
Camden Pl
July 31st 1883

Mr. and Mrs. Gex,

My dear friends,

I have been wanting to write to you a long time but I have scarcely had a well day since I parted with you. I was taken sick the day after I got to Louisville, I suffered terribly with rheumatism for three weeks was hardly able to travel when mama got a telegram from Papa stating that he was very low with flux. So on to Memphis we went found Papa very sick indeed. Mama nursed him by the hour day and night just about the time Papa had got entirely well we got a letter from sister urging mama to go to Aunt Mary as soon as possible that she was sinking so rapidly with consumption, and they wanted Mamas' opinion as to what would be best to do. We took the first train left Memphis on Wednesday night and arrived at Independence [*Missouri*] Friday morning found Aunt Mary very feeble. Mama insisted in her going to Cleveland to the water cure, but Dr. Bryant advised a trip to Colorado. We have little hope of her ever getting well. Mrs. Gex you would not know Aunt Mary she is so thin. From Independence we came on to Camden to see sister, got here just in time for the big day the commencement. If I had been well I would have had a delightful time but my ? always comes on just at a time to prevent my pleasure.

I think that Mo. [*Missouri*] is a beautiful country but oh the storms we have here. We have not had any big cyclones but a lot of young ones. When we go to bed at night we feel like we will be blown away before morning. Mrs. Gex how in the world did you get your consent to go home without Louly? I know you miss her so much I would be delighted to see her before I leave Mo. but I don't expect I shall get to Maryville. Cousin Effie and sister left us last Wednesday morning and arrived at Brother Frank's that night at 8 o'clock they will be gone about two weeks.

Mama had a note from sister yesterday they are having a splendid time plenty of beaus and lots of fun. Sister said that she would be so glad to have Mr. Gex step in while they were there. When I get back to Memphis I think I will take a trip up to see you I shall never forget your many acts of kindness during my stay with you. Oh, that good buttermilk I have never had any to equal it.

I am feeling so weak I can't sit up any longer so I must close. Now Mrs. Gex you and Mr. Gex sit right down and write me a long letter you don't know how I will appreciate it. Give my love to Mr. Louis tell him I will never forget the duck picking. Love to Mrs. Satchel and her little boy. Goodbye for this time I am so tired. Your little friend

Bay D Matthews

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