
Home, Sunday, January 3, 1886

My Dear Ma,

I have been intending to write to you for sometime, but we have been out of writing material for some time and we would forget every time to send for any but now we have a supply so we will try to do better. We received your good kind letters and the box of nice things you sent us everything was so nice. My aprons were so nice I think they are just beautiful and the children are so proud of their things and so is Brook. We can't find words enough dear Ma to have express our gratitude to you for your kindness in this as in past kindnesses as you have always been so kind and good to me and I assure you dear Ma that I do appreciate your goodness, if I do have a poor way of showing it. Brook has been suffering a great deal with tooth ache this winter so he concluded to have it pulled. We were invited over to Anderson's Christmas to dinner and B got Uncle Jim to pull his tooth. It was very hard to pull he has suffered a great deal with his jaw since he thinks he got a piece of the jaw bone out yesterday. It is some better today.

We got such a good kind letter from Aunt Mary Gex. It was so kind in her to write to us give our love to her and tell her I think I will answer her good letter someday. Louly is in Maryville visiting Laura Frank. Cousin Eve insisted on my letting her come up to make Laura a visit. I told her to write to you while she was up there. She will come home tomorrow on the hack.

We haven't had much very cold weather this winter but have had a good deal of snow and rain. It is snowing now very hard and oh Ma it is so lonesome here. How we miss our little darling so much and Brook is so low spirited he don't seem to care for anything. If you remember Ma she was quite a favorite with him. Oh, how hard it is to think about all her smart sweet little sayings and now to think we can hear them no more. When it was a little cold she would come in and say "I freeze to deaf" mama. Oh what helpless creatures we are. This may be all the best but oh how hard it is for us to see it that way. I hope we may all try to do better so that we may be prepared to meet that sweet innocent little darling in, I trust, a better world than this.

Grandma Sanders [*her grandmother*] is at Ma's now, she is very feeble but is still able to walk out to her meals. Ma and grandma both said to give their regards to you. Mary is getting better now but is very weak yet I think now she will soon be well.

Well I will have to close as the baby [*Laura Ellen, their 7th child*] is beginning to cry. Mr. and Mrs. Hopper will move this week and then I will have to do all my work the rest of the winter. Ma you must write to me often you have so much more time to write than I do and your letters are so good and we are glad to get the papers you sent. We get lots of news out of them.

Give my best love to Pa, Louis and Aunt V [*Virginia*] and cousin Florina's family also Aunt Mary with much love for yourself and all. I will close hoping to hear from you soon as ever your loving daughter

Bettie Gex

Everything was all right in the box, Brook's Gun coat came all right. He is proud of it. Johnny (*John Anthony, 8 years old*) is so proud of his lantern he lights it to go to the cellar after apples every night.

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