

in the notion too, we are doing worse than nothing here I have
come to a conclusion to go any where than we be for the
best, I believe I wrote Sacey had a daughter nearly a month old

I heard yesterday Mamie had one too, every near of age are they not?
I just finished my dinner which was creepie fried & had a strong cup of tea - mad
which has made me giddy & I cannot write any more so farwell dear child
I think I will write again before christmas if I can write creepie's kiss
love love to Mrs aunt Mary and the family at Uncle Dachs also Mr W &
B Conway, Adieu your fond and affectionate Mother L Daytop
I tried in vain to get a
parcel of fish to send you LMB

Springfield Dec. 9. 1851

Dear Betty

Mamie received your letter last night,
and has employed me to answer it so stay.
I know you had much rather ~~write~~ should
do it, as her letters are so much more interestⁱⁿ
than mine, indeed, I fear this will be any
thing else but interesting, as I never felt
less like writing in my life. Well the
parties are all over, and we are all at work
again, you know after a storm there will
be a calm, I suppose you are not different
from other persons, you would like me
to give you a partial, or rather a full
description of them, if possible. Ben has
described the first three, only have remains for
me I will commence at Cousin Tom Booths, we
started after candles were lighted, that, Ben

I would ask you a question and now give it no further way

myself, in the carriage to go eight miles,
but the moon shone beautifully, we arrived
there at an fashionable hour, had a very
pleasant selection of people, commenced dancing
at nine, but could scarce make up a
set, Cousin Sarah, Lucy, Alice, Sarah Hughs,
Julia Hughs, Mahler Gear, and Mrs Jay Simons
were the only ladies, who danced, we all enjoyed
our selves very much, about one we were
announced to supper, we had to ascend
a flight of steps, the table was in the
form of a U, and the supper looked
beautiful, my partner was Peter Nelson,
After supper, I danced one set, in order
to make up the set, some of the ladies
being absent, I was sorry afterwards, I danced,
I determined not to dance any more that
night, or at the next parties, I was asked
by every gentleman in the room, enough
of this party, as have others to describe, We
started to Rosewell, much earlier, as we were
invited at a half past six, and the roads
being very bad. Burr, Emory, Bob, and I,
in the carriage left on horseback, he gave
his place to the carriage to Bob, as his
health is delicate, we arrived just in time,
but was detained up stairs, some time,
waiting for the ladies, who were to come down
first, the night passed very pleasantly

My Dear Child

Roxana has not been minute enough in her description of the entertainments, I would have told you all about the articles imported Malaga grapes oranges, candy, Bonbons cornucopias and apples. Tom F had a Barrel of Apples and Oranges, All were trying to outdo the others, in ornamenting their tables, cabbage head cakes were procured for the occasion, Tom F had a pyramid of cake from Norfolk that cost perhaps ten dollars, I think the people are dangled a little on the subject of parties, and what have they received in return nothing but severe colds, Martha has been sick in bed, but is better now Thomas is in bed now attended by Dr. Hugh a Thomsonian. Bunch has lain in bed several days, no new thing for him, every where you go you every on coughing, during the time we had a long spell of rainy weather which makes it worse, I can only say Variety of Vanities all is vanity? I got your letter last night to day my niece sixteen hogs Judy is now in the kitchen attending to the entrails, Mr P has just had a beef cut out and salted up, I have a cough but is better from taking Balsam for and No Six, it is fair that the wind is quite fresh and to cold for me to go out in much, oh yes we know Mrs H was married I have been expecting a letter from her for a long time, she owes M a letter Sarah sent Mr P. back from whence he came altho it is said he carried a pint of gold about him, I think she is without a bean at this time, I have no turkeys to see I have at three, so you do not anticipate Christmas neither do I it is not half so pleasant a season now as it used to be before you were married when all the cousins would get together or even when you were a child and were doted in homespun flannel dyed yellow, anticipating a plentiful supply of apple puffs or as the negroes call the Crab Lantons, with something to pop, my bed curtains surrounded by stockings for old Christmas to put in his donations, which I had some trouble to provide him with, do you remember once I put a piece of money in Luays stocking, and how mad she was when I took it again, but those days are over, you speak of Martha she is very well situated at Dr Miers they are very kind, but she would prefer house-keeping they expected to live at Newington it was rented by Eliza Shackelford from I of he will give it up if he can get a place at the court house John Fields house he expected to get a situation for keeping a tavern in some large city, it is not known, whether he will or not yet, I hope the frolicking is over you say little I can eat a biscuit has she talk yet, if Mr F concludes to move to Texas beg him to try and get Mr Baytop