

Springfield Dec 28

Dear Betty

I received your letter last Saturday and must answer it to day or not for some time,

Tomorrow I will take my seat in the kitchen I dread it very much, you know the first day is very disagreeable, the second day I work as hard as any of the servants, I mean what I can do, cut up fat, dip off lard and Christmas is over and I never spent a dixer one in my life, you did not miss much by not being down here except seeing all your relations and friends, We spent Christmas day at Fisters, the next day Sister Lucy Martha and Sister Sarah dined with us, We are all very jealous of Martha, you spoke of her being in the neighbourhood, she has been here four times since she was married, She is all the time visiting the Bones. I expect she will be a very good Physician soon, she takes the rounds with Cousin Walker some time she goes to see three patients in a day, There is a great deal of sickness in the County, Colds and Pleurisys are very prevalent, we have had several deaths from them, Mr Nathan Wilkins and Mr Charles Maffy, the County will sustane a great loss one as a Dentist and the other as a ginger,

Tom Armistead will commence housekeeping next year,  
I do not know who he is courting, there is no one in the  
County to suit him, I expect after next year he will  
not be so hard to please he will spend so lonesome a time  
by himself. Miss Ann Martin was married last Tuesday  
night, both of the Pullers are married, we have had a  
Bride at Church nearly every Sunday since I came down the  
County and we are not through yet, Old Mr Brushwood  
is married, I do not think O Major Saunders ought  
to despair, but he was a widower and they will marry  
any thing, do you not think I am paying you a great  
compliment, A great many persons have filled their  
ice houses, I have not seen so cold a spell for a great  
many years, ice was five inches thick day before yesterday  
and now it is warm enough to be without fire, I expect  
Colds will be more prevalent than ever, I have emptied my  
shed of its contents so I must pass it over to Ma  
Give my love to Mrs Lane & and tell her I thought of her  
and would willingly spend some of my time with her  
instead of going to so many parties, My love to Miss  
Mary F and ask her has she succeeded in gentling that  
dark sores horse, ask Ellen if I write to her will she  
answer my letters, I never saw such a correspondent as  
Virleinda is in my life, I wrote to her the day after Martha  
was married and she has not answered my letter yet,  
give my love to every body who may inquire after me.  
Kiss the baby little Gibbon and Cesar your affectionate  
Sister Mary Indiana Wambleson Boytop

December 30 51

Dear Hetty

We received your letter two days after  
christmas Indy has given you an account of how we spent  
it, Lucy came up and staid with us untill yesterday, Mr Lincoln  
went to hampton and returned Sunday night, on particular  
business with his brother, his affairs have come to a crisis  
he will sell Wilsons Creek, and also most of his negroes young  
ones, he has not procured a home yet but talks about going  
to Hampton, Lucy bears it like a heroine, althou she shed tears  
at the thought of losing Sukey, the children are so fond of her  
we gave her Ekra to be secured to her and her children, she is nearly  
gone and a very useful girl, I have left caring for Martha in  
the more painfull situation of Lucy, she is all patience and  
resignation, and seems to grieve more for her faithful ~~old~~ cook that  
will have to part with Dary, than for the loss she will sustain  
in her servants, I think whatever her destiny is she will be  
happy, or ought to be, she is one of the most amiable of human beings  
his children tell they only regret the loss of fortune for little that  
Manners sake, I have been very low spirited and am now, but I  
can do but little for them I have none of the sordid dust to give them  
Mr I has a great many friends apparently, this is a time to prove them  
I can only commend to god in prayer, but this "a two melancholy a theme  
I will change the subject Martha I is at her wits end to know where to  
live next year to be convenient to a school, Rowena will not confine  
herself to teach Martha alone ~~the~~ Pocahuntas, the remuneration would  
be ~~very~~ small & without its being an every day business she would get  
no pay, she has just returned from the court house been to get a  
wrapping, the weather has become more mild, we are fixing the ice house  
to put ice in should we have another freeze, we are always behind

time, but hope we shall get file it, I suppose your troublesome  
business is now over hiring out your servants, you say nothing  
about your tobacco I hope it is very fine and will command  
a good price, will Mr J go to Richmond with it will me  
all about in your next, there is now a great dearth of news  
I like to have forgotten to tell you there was a division of  
the Concord negroes, my part is 2 hundred and fifty dollars  
but I have not received it yet, <sup>Sick</sup> Fitz & Bush are both from home  
taking a hunt, Mr B was quite Christmas like and could not go  
with me to see Ann but insisted on my going, he took a blue pie  
and is now quite well, and talks of a trip to Washington the  
middle of January to try and get the military claim, you know  
how large his bump of hope is he is quite sanguine about it -  
but that time is passed, I have a plenty of work to do, but to day  
on the spur of the moment, I set to work on a carpet for my dining  
room, it really wants one, I need some stimulant a poor one you  
might think sewing rag, I am now surrounded by them, writing in the  
chamber among them all, Eugenia eating chestnut as hard as her  
jaws can chew them, all hungry dinner late we heeled eight  
hogs to day and hindered Esther, I do not know that I have much  
more to say my back according to custom has began to pain me  
my most sincere love to all your kind friends that I become acquaint  
ed with, more to Aunt Mary than any of the rest, I hope little Lucy is  
now well her grandmama would give a heap to see her, kiss her many  
times for my love to all the servants not forgetting little Henry and Talor  
our desert at Christmas had liked to have been a failure the cake was badly  
baked, the one was <sup>not</sup> needed was not there to direct, I must now conclude  
write soon, & cheer the heart of your devoted

Mother L of Daytop