

Mount Hope, Ridgeway

1965.180.1: Six letters, type-scripts (not originals), from Miss Harriet Couturier Thomas, Mount Hope Plantation, Ridgeway

Six letters written by "Hattie," Harriet Couturier Thomas (later Mrs. Robert Hayne McKelvey) of Mount Hope," Fairfield County, Ridgeway, S.C., to her cousin, "Lize" or "Lizi," Elizabeth Catherine Palmer (later wife of the Rev. Isaac Keith Legare, Presbyterian Divine of lower South Carolina) of "Cherry Grove," St. John's Parish, Berkeley County, South Carolina. Letters sent to Aiken, where Lize was refugeeing with her aunt, Mrs. Richard Yeadon, wife of the Editor of "The Charleston Courier."

"Hattie" (Harriet Couturier Thomas) worked in Columbia early in the Confederate War as a "Treasury Girl" signing Confederate currency as long as it was printed in Columbia and before the presses were moved to Richmond.

She is referred to in "Tante's" Diary as the Harriet who was keeping house for her brother, Col. John Peyre Thomas and his wife at the Arsenal in December 1864 after the birth of their son, Benjamin Gibbes Thomas at the Superintendent's house at the Arsenal, now the Governor's Mansion, the only building of the old Arsenal Academy that was not burned by Sherman's Army in February 1865.

Charles E. Thomas
200 Fairview Ave.
Alta Vista
Greenville, S.C.

Mount Hope, Ridgeway
Colonel John Bratton
Henry Gaillard
Dr. Horlback
Marion King
Magwood family
James Thomas
Mr. Yeadon

1965.180.1a: Letter from Harriet Couturier Thomas, Mount Hope, Ridgeway, to Miss Eliza C. Palmer, Aiken, July 1, 1862

Hand-made Envelope. Re-used. Inside addressed "Miss Hattie C. Thomas, Ridgeway, Fairfield Dist., South Carolina." Postmarked "Winnsborough, S.C. 13 April, with two "Five Cents. Confederate States," blue stamps. Jefferson Davis, full face.

Outside of envelope, for re-use; addressed, "Miss Eliza C. Palmer, Care of R. Yeadon, Esqr., Aiken, So. Ca." Postmarked "Ridgeway, S.C., Jul." in longhand dated "6" Handmarked "Pst. 10" on cover. On reverse side, holding flaps of envelope in place, blue stamp "The confederate States of America. Postage 10 Cents," profile of Jefferson Davis.

Mount Hope July 1st 1862

My dear Lize,

Now that we have received, at last some of the particulars of the Richmond battle, I feel as though I can sit down quietly to write a letter. Our community has been indeed blessed for out of the company of one hundred and ten but two yielded up their life on the field of battle & but one, so far as we have learned, seriously wounded, several have come home with slight wounds. John Thomas had been sick for three weeks but when the fight commenced he joined his company [possibly Company C, 12th Regiment South Carolina Infantry] & all day Friday was in the hottest of the battle but by evening being completely exhausted he was sent back to Richmond. He did not have a scratch & wrote that he thought after a few days out he would be enabled to rejoin his company. Somehow I can't feel satisfied about this battle, such an immense sacrifice of life & where is McClelland? In a strong position & under cover of his gunboats. I think we will all have to acknowledge that he is a great general, from the way he has conducted his retreat. Those dreadful gunboats, they are always in the way. I heard from Winnsboro some days ago. Mrs. Gaillard has not heard a word of her sons, not a thing from Mr. Means. Janie, poor creature still clings to hope, Miss Marion wrote Sister. She says Henry Gaillard saw Mr. M. when he was convinced that he was dying & he himself felt no doubt, he was in a most beautiful frame of mind, said he resigned himself with perfect trust & confidence into God's hands, he gave Henry a little prayer book of Janie's, which he always kept in his breast pocket, telling him to return it & tell her what a comfort it had been to him. Miss Marion said she could not think that such perfect assurance & happiness would have been granted him except to support him in a dying hour & she felt no doubt but that he had fallen asleep in Jesus soon after Henry left him. Bettie has heard from Dr. Bratton, he said his wound was doing well & that he was treated with the greatest kindness & consideration. Gen. Harney had sent him his sword & pistols and two hundred dollars in gold, with the request that he would not hesitate to call on him for anything he wanted. Is it not astonishing? I am sure I would not be so kind to any Yankee, would you?

I suppose Peter C. was in the recent battle; hope he has escaped. Where is your brother, J[illegible] now? I am sorry to see Beauregard has retreated, hope it is not true; our other generals are throwing him quite in the shade. I felt a special dislike to the western Yankees for they have cut off from me one of my dearest friends; her property is all in Holly Springs & I suppose will all go, she herself just

married & gone to Jackson, Tenn. They seem to have given up the attempt to take Charleston for the present. I hope the time will be improved to render the city impregnable. How comes on the gun boat? We heard some time ago that 'twas almost done. Frank does not mention it at all. I was surprised to hear that Marion King was in Charleston; Cousin Rebecca says she sees him every day & that he is improving. She will stay in the city as Mr. B. thinks if that falls no part of the state will be safe, a strange idea, I should think but I trust the city never will fall.

I have heard a great deal of joking about Mr. H. & Miss Taft. The other day he was staying here & I came to the conclusion that he must be engaged to her or some one else, he espouses the cause of the low country ladies so warmly; it seems they & the up country don't get on very harmoniously. Mr. H. says the latter complain that the former don't "walk & don't hold up their dresses" like the up country. Did you ever hear of anything so ridiculous? And he seemed to think 'twas such a great matter. As far as I can see I must say to use his own favorite expression, "he is a very little man," a good, earnest preacher though & I doubt not will do much good. I wish you could hear him abuse the President. I did wish so that some smart person was here that was not afraid to differ most positively. I ventured to laugh at him for changing his opinion for he used to be enthusiastic in his praises, but this he positively denied. He says Dr. Horlback's family is one of the pleasantest in Winnsboro'. Our neighbors, the Magwoods, have gone, as they could not get a house to please them. I expect they think this a most miserable place for I don't think a soul called to see them; our carriage was broken & we could not get it fixed; might have gone in the buggy for I am very bold & drive all about, but I did not like the idea of calling on strangers that way. Sister E. says 'tis mausing to see me. I am so dreadfully afraid of the horse but I deny it, he used to run away, whenever he was startled which was very often, but he has given up that now & inclines to be very lazy. Mother had been feeling rather better but is sick again now. Almost all of us have had very severe colds with fever & several of the negroes have been & are quite sick. I had no fever I believe but felt too miserable for three or four days, am almost well again now. James Thomas passed here a few weeks ago on his way home from Vir. Having been very sick & obtained a discharge. Anne happened to be on the cars & saw him, Mr. Yeadon too, on his way home. J. seemed very happy she said & talked much of his wife & baby. In intend to make my envelope go again on its fourth journey. I fear I am making this unreadable so good night. Much love to all. Your's affectionately,

Hattie

(Latter lines written across face of opening of letter.)

Mount Hope, Ridgeway
Bettie Bratton
Colonel John Bratton
Peter Couturier
Marian Porcher

1965.180.1b: Letter from Harriet Couturier Thomas, Mount Hope, Ridgeway, to Miss Eliza C. Palmer, Aiken, Sept. 1st 1862

Dear Lizi,

If you only knew how much pleasure your nice, long letter gave me you would be tempted oftener to take a large sheet, when you can fill it up too so interestingly. I hope you are feeling better than when you wrote, did you try the Arsenic? & with what effect? Let me prescribe Burdock tea; take cold three times a day, a wine glass full & I am sure 'twill do you good, & make you clear & easy too; but I think the very least thing you can do, will be to come and pay us a visit; that will cure you sure & give me so much pleasure too. Try it, do. Where do you think we went yesterday; to Winnsboro! To church, ten miles, in the carriage; Anne went too & Miss Logan who is staying with her, & they and I came back just after service, so I feel right tired today. Sister & E. staid; our Bishop preached & many were confirmed. Bettie Bratton was at church, looking, oh! so badly. I felt like crying to look at her; there is a report that Dr. Bratton is dead, but she has not heard it. God grant it may prove false, but someone writes that after being exchanged & put on a transport he was taken with fever & died, before reaching his destination. As he is a Colonel, it seems as though, if true, twould have been mentioned in the papers, & yet this letter to his brother in law. I do not know what to think; fear 'tis but too true. Janie Means is better. I saw Mrs. Porcher (Marion) for a little while; she is astonishingly cheerful: 'tis cheering to see such good Christians as that family, so sorely stricken & yet so submissive & each striving it seems to me cheerfully to resign themselves to God's will. Annie, too, is looking very badly indeed.

I wonder if you have had the rain, rain, rain, which has visited us, the sun is out now, I don't know for how long, he is a rare visitor her lately, but seems inclined to take a peep this evening. We went to Church yesterday in the rain, wanted to turn back badly, but Sister E. would not consent. Peter has had a great deal of corn on the low lands washed away, but then we have not lost near so much as our neighbors. I often think of the poor soldiers, no tents, how must they feel; no news from "Stonewall" yet. As the battle must be fought I often find myself wishing, it could be over at once & then I shudder to think of the death, suffering & sorrow for which I thoughtlessly am wishing. Oh! when will we see the light of peace breaking through the dark clouds of war which now hang over our land! I am glad to see Beauregard has got well; I do hope he will do something with the army which it seems has been idle so long, always excepting Morgan, he and Jackson are my heroes; the other generals are so slow. Numbers of soldiers have passed here too; day & night for a long time the trains were constantly going & occasionally they come still; night before last some went up; we can always tell, from hearing them cheering as they pass, poor things! outward joy to keep down the inward sorrow, for they must be sad as they pass away from the homes to which many may never return. Mother & I have each had nice, affectionate letters from Peter Couturier lately. I am sorry I have not written to him before; often wished to do so, but then he has always taken so little notice of us. I did not know that he would care to hear. He seems in good spirits, was at Hanover C.H. when he write. We have not heard a word from Frank for about two months, suppose he must still be in Charleston, but can't imagine why he does not write. I feel so uneasy about him.

I did not know, rich people like you would think of knitting stockings. I don't think 'twill take you very long, you go so fast. I have very little time for it. I have so much other work to do, & I am slow about it too. The only kinds of stocking I would ever finish is the Confederate. Have you ever seen

them? I think it a beautiful idea, particularly for slow, lazy people, like me. Will send the directions. They are very pretty for children. Every body here is knitting stockings, except me. Sister E. has knit two prs, almost as fine as bought ones. I think the Aiken Association does wonderfully, money must be far more plentiful than here. Are you thinking of wearing homespun yet? I am going to have a dress made for there is nothing to be had for less than a dollar a yard. Anne has one, which is very pretty indeed; fortunately I have the thread. The Gibbes factory is sold & the price of every thing raised by the new owners, thread now four dollars, for five lbs. Poor "Little Porchers" you have no charity no charity for them; is it Mr. William who has come home sick. So the gun boat is actually finished. Will do one great thing & then be destroyed I suppose. The Arkansas is gone now. I can't see either how Tatnall got off. I actually felt provoked when I saw he had got off without one word of censure even. I can't think him anything but a traitor or else the Virginia was not what was said. The government certainly took her destruction very quietly. My paper looks like the first days of a young republic, eh? So. Car. production.

Love to all

Yours aff.

H.C.T.

Confederate, or Railway Stocking

Cast on the needles as many stitches as for an ordinary stocking, knit around once then rib for an inch & bind off, taking care to pull the thread through the last loop to prevent raveling. Take up the stitches & knit straight around plain stocking stitch until you have two fingers in length, then knit once around, dropping every other stitch off the needle, then stretch out the stocking & the stitches will run down until it reaches the ribbed pieces, forming a beautiful, open worked stocking. Having kept the remaining stitches on the needles finish off the toe by knitting straight around, narrowing every time on each needle. It will shape itself on the foot, & be sufficiently long.

Indelible Ink

Take green persimmons & mash thoroughly, then add water enough to cover the pulp & press out the juice. Boil down about half, taking care not to boil too long & add a small portion of copperas. This is an excellent writing ink & cannot be washed out of cloth. Have tried this & find it excellent. H.T.

Mount Hope, Ridgeway
Willie DuBose
Lizzie Dwight
Edmund Gaillard
Frank Gaillard
Mrs. Mary Thomas
Miss Juliet Elliott Thomas

1965.180.1c: Letter from Harriet Couturier Thomas, Mount Hope, Ridgeway, to Miss Eliza C. Palmer, Aiken, Sept. 1st 1862

Small, apparently hand-made envelope. Addressed "Miss Eliza C. Palmer, Care of Mr. R. Yeardon, Aiken, So. Ca. Postmarked Ridgeway, SC. On reverse side of envelope, two stamps, Confederate States, Five Cents. Blue with full face, head of Jefferson Davis.

Mount Hope Dec. 25th (1862)

My dear Lize;

Through a letter from Peter C. the intelligence of your loss had just reached me. Would that any words of love & sympathy, for comfort I cannot attempt, might come as soothingly to you as did your letter of two years ago to me. May God comfort you, my dear friend, for he only can & teach you the "need be" of this and every affliction. I had so hoped that your brother would have been spared to you all; cousin R. having written us that he was slowly improving & hoped soon to come home. He must have had a long & trying illness, borne I have no doubt with Christian resignation, for we heard from Willie DuBose that he had become the faithful & earnest soldier of the cross, as of his country; I rejoice with you for this consolation, the clang of arms & roar of cruel war may no more disturb him; he has entered into rest & enjoys that blessed peace which passeth understanding. Peace! peace! oh! how my heart longs for the echo of that blessed word through the length & breadth of our once happy land. Peter wrote me on the day of the late battle [of Fredericksburg] Just as his Rgt. was on the point of starting for the scene of action; he had just returned from Warrenton where he had gone to visit you all, seemed distressed that he had been too late and says he passed you & Cousin C. in Culpepper without at the time knowing it. He seemed so anxious to come home; poor soldiers, it is so hard fight on & no prospect of an end as far as we can see. Cousin John T. has been at home on furlough & just got back in time Jackson's dreadful march to Fredericksburg & passed safely through the battle there. Mr. Frank & Edmund Gaillard have both come on wounded slightly, Willie DuBose, also in No. Ca. The DuBoses' have all moved into Winnsboro. Janie has a beautiful little baby, so bright looking. Lizzie Dwight was to have paid us a visit last week, but this battle stopped her, she has not yet heard from Moultrie a few days ago.

This is a bright beautiful Christmas, every thing calm & still, it is hard to realize where all is so quiet, the scenes in Virginia. I can not realize that Christmas has indeed come; the children being the only bright, happy faces you see. Mother has just had a letter from Charlie, he seems to be feeling sad & unhappy at his first Christmas away from home; we are far apart now, the first time that so many have been away at this season. Brother in Columbia, Mary expecting every day to be sick. [Mary's daughter, Juliet Elliott Thomas, was born January 9, 1863 in Columbia.] Frank now at Mobile, where he seems quite pleased, & Charlie, drill master in the 7th Regt. Reserves, at Mount Pleasant now. I have been thinking much of you today, & the gap in your affectionate family; are you at Cherry Grove or not? I hope Lottie will visit us while she is so near. I have not written to her as I knew she could not come just yet, & Sister E. is expecting to go down very soon & will see her. You do not know how I have missed your letters; often wanted to write but did not know how to direct. Has your brother Joe become a Col.? I

have several times seen mention a Col. Palmer at or near Chatanooga. Much love and sympathy to
Cousin Catherine.

Every Yours affectionately,
Hattie

Mount Hope, Ridgeway
Dr. John Palmer

1965.180.1d: Letter from Harriet Couturier Thomas, Mount Hope, Ridgeway, to Miss Eliza C. Palmer, Mount Hope, July 4, 1863

Mount Hope July 4 1863

Here is Saturday, my dear Lize, and your letter, which I have been wanting to answer each day, not replied to yet, but I have been suffering so all the week with pain in my back & side that I could hardly move my head, my only peace in perfect rest. I am almost rid of it now, thanks to my own prescription blue pills & salts. Our good old doctor is so far off and hard to get that I never send unless I am very sick. Mother is now employing Dr. John Palmer, who lives in sight of us & though he has been successful, I don't think I could make up my mind for a Doctor with so little experience; he has just commenced to practice. We have been & are still having, so much sickness, we will have to give up the idea of our place being so healthy. Ella was sick with high fever some time ago but we thought nothing of it at first, as she is so very apt to have fever from eating green fruit, but after waiting three days & she getting no better, Dr. P. was sent for & pronounced it scarlet fever, she had not been out of the yard for a long time, so can't imagine where she got it, and the same day one of the little negroes, or rather a girl nearly grown took it too. It spread rapidly among the negroes and two died after a few days sickness & within two days of each other, one the Dr. did not see at all, was sent for in the morning but could not come till evening when she was dead! There were a great many cases most slight, but now many suffering much from the effects & two new cases yesterday, not very bad yet. Three weeks after Ella was taken, Joe had it, he was very sick, one night we became so alarmed that we sent for the Dr. about one o'clock, but before he got here, Joe had fallen asleep for the first time in three days. He was dreadfully frightened & I suppose that made him worse, he was perfectly restless and fretful, the very opposite of Ella, she slept soundly all the time. I hope the others will not have it but Dr. P. says they will. You would laugh if you could see how some of them are peeling, there is one boy who can slip off the whole foot, exactly like a slipper only the toes not yet loose, a thick skin & another with his hands just the same way. Joe and Ella did not peel like that, though very thoroughly. There is a regular case of fever too, on the place, only the second Typhoid. We had a short but very pleasant visit from the bride and groom; we were all so pleased with Peter, think he has improved so much in every way; he is actually a man at last. Lizzie, I think, is exactly the same. I like her, think she is very amiable and whenever she has been here has made herself at home and very pleasant, except in company, when she is very uninteresting, she says 'tis bashfulness & I am sympathetic with her there, though no one will believe that I am bashful. Strictly between ourselves, for 'tis an uncharitable speech, I can't divest myself of the idea that she married him because she could get no one else, not that I mean to say that she is not fond of him, because I think she is, and very happy in her marriage but at the same time she is not in love to my notion, (don't you think there can be that difference?) She does not look up to him, indeed how could she & feels I think older and wiser, though she says she feels very young. She had a sick headache the day after they got here, and I don't think got over it entirely while she was here. Poor thing! I think she is in trouble already, but don't for the world say anything of it. She spoke of coming back up here and spending the summer but wrote me a few days ago that she thought P. would prefer her remaining down there. I am sorry, 'tis dull & lonely here though I am always so busy there is not much time to think. Have not seen any one for a long time, people are dreadfully afraid of us, & I suppose we will have to stay away from Church tomorrow. I have been having holiday from teaching since E. has been sick and enjoy it much, though she is a nice little scholar. I have plaited one rye straw hat, have not yet made it up as I am dyeing it first; it looks only tolerable nice & I found it so troublesome I don't think I will do any more; there is so much twisting & turning and fixing to be done though about other things, that one has to be sick about the war

for that reason, if no other even. Charlie writes very often, he has been sick with fever in Yazoo City, but is again with his Rgt. near Vernon, & he thinks on the eve of great events. Their knapsacks have been taken away & they entreated to make up in courage what they lack in numbers. The troops suffer much from want of water having sometimes to go thirteen miles without a drop. Poor C. talks very sadly of never expecting to come home again & is grieved at getting no letters. We write very often but he has received but one letter since he has been there. Poor Hattie, how uneasy she must be, if Mr. Dwight comes through though 'twill be a glorious thing to have been there. Am glad to hear Cousin V. is so much better. We have numbers of blackberries & the prospect of an abundant crop of figs; will not have a good peach or apple, I think, all dropping & rotting. They are waiting to carry this to the office so good bye. Love to all. Yours truly as ever,

Hattie

Mount Hope, Ridgeway
Dr. John Palmer
Walter Robertson

1965.180.1e: Letter from Harriet Couturier Thomas, Mount Hope, Ridgeway, to Miss Eliza C. Palmer, Mount Hope, August 7 (1863)

Addressed: Miss Eliza C. Palmer, Care of R. Yeadon, Esqr., Aiken, So. Ca.
Manufactured Envelope, postmarked "Ridgeway, S.C. Aug. 15"
10 Cents The Confederate States of America postage; bluish green; face of bearded Jefferson Davis; hand cancelled with "X". A dried leaf (possibly from a violet plant) enclosed in the letter.

Mount Hope August 7th

Many thanks, my dear Lize, for the most acceptable book which reached me this morning, it is exactly the novel I most wanted to read & although very busy I could not resist the 'temptation of reading' three chapters, which I found so interesting I could not with difficult put the book down. Charley has just written Mother that if she did not send him shoes & clothes very soon he would be without either, & we have only three days in which to get them ready, an opportunity offering in that time to send them on. Thinking things would be cheaper in Winnsboro, we went there to get some calico to make shirts, he will have no other kind, & had to give three dollars & a half a yard, is it not enormous? & hear now in Col. 'tis a dollar less; and we are now busy making the clothes. There are so many of us, we can easily do it though. We had quite a pleasant day in Winnsboro' & paid several visits, went in the carriage, started early & got to Mrs. Couturier's soon after eight. I believe I told you of Mrs. Robertson's baby, a fine child, but not pretty, named Walter. We called at Dr. Bratton's too, & saw all the Roseland people except Bettie; she had just got home from Vir. With her husband, who is a little sick, & was lying down after her journey; her two children are very large & fat, the baby unfortunately ugly, but Willie was too when an infant & now is a very pretty child. Janie looks thin, more cheerful than I expected, her baby looks very badly, has been very sick, but is now better. Annie has given up Mr. Roberts' children, because she says everybody said she ought, they were dreadfully distressed at going, the little boy is still there with his grandmother, she wants to keep him but I don't believe Mr. R. has agreed to that. I saw Lilla for about a minute, she was going to a prayer meeting, she looked pretty, the picture of life & health. Ella is sick again with bilious fever, two weeks today & I see no improvement, except that now the fever is not on all the time, for the first nine days it never left her. Poor child, she looks so badly & is so good & patient, lies there day after day & never utters a complaint, from a baby she has always been remarkably good & quiet - when sick I feel very unhappy about her & no confidence whatever in Dr. Palmer as a physician. I think he is fairly puzzled & won't give up, proposed a consultation last week, but the next morning early, he came again & said 'twas not necessary, she was doing very well; but I can't see it, every day the fever comes on & of course she is getting weaker. Mother has every confidence in Dr. P. I wish I could have too, one must strive for resignation to God's will, but 'tis harder when you fancy human means have not been used to the utmost. We have been having very warm weather too, but today has been pleasant & we are now having a little shower. Do you happen to know if fine numbers of yard can be procured at the Grambville factory. We can get none in Columbia. I want to learn to spin & spin filling for a dress if I can get the warp. Sister E. and Mary can spin very nicely & find it fascinating work. Somehow I never find time to learn, but I hope to soon. Frank has been sick in Mobile with chills & fever, says there is no chance of getting home, we are afraid he will be sick all summer. Brother is going to Town again, without his Battallion this time. Much love to Cousin V. & M.V.

Affectionately Your's,
Hattie

Too late to sew, so I have an excuse to get at my book.

Mount Hope, Ridgeway
Mary Edmunds
Mary Walter

1965.180.1f: Letter from Harriet Couturier Thomas, Mount Hope, Ridgeway, to Miss Eliza C. Palmer, Mount Hope, December 21, 1869

Small, manufactured envelope. Addressed "Miss Eliza C. Palmer, Care of R. Yeadon, Esqr. Charleston, So. Ca." Light blue stamp, showing locomotive engine. Printed "United States Postage Three 3 Cents." Long hand cancellation in ink, and written beside stamp, "Ridgeway, S.C. Dec. 23."

Mount Hope Dec. 21st 1869

I was delighted, my dear Lize, to hear from you once more, but am provoked that you did not write more; the idea of your talking of my not having time to read your letters, as if that could ever happen. I am only too glad to get them. Well our wedding passed off very pleasantly on the eighth, and I wish so much you could have seen the bride, she looked so beautiful and sweet. She was dressed in white alpaca, but square neck, and filled up with puffed illusion, & a square of illusion for a veil, fixed in a point over her face and as long as her trail in the back. There were five brides maids, Mary Walter did not come for some unexplained reason, and four of them were in blue merino and Ella in red. M.W. was to have been in red too, but as she was not here I made them stand in a semicircle around the bride, Ella forming the center immediately behind the bride. Brother carried her in, and gave her away. M. could not come, not being in a presentable condition just now. The bridesmaids were Mary, Ella, Anne T., Mary Edmunds, the groom's sister, and Minnie. We got back from the Church a little before dark, the attendants & the two families, and had a very pleasant party. They played games & danced until twelve o'clock, and every body enjoyed it; there were no strangers, except one of the groomsmen, who was very lively and entertaining, and no one felt under any restraint. The only drawback was that the groom was so sick he could scarcely hold up his head, had a hot fever and dreadful sore throat and headache and sat in the corner all the evening, & A. staid with him, dancing only once. The ladies staid here the night of the wedding & we had twenty-two to breakfast next morning. We had supper last night at nine o'clock as no one had had tea; had a beautiful table to everybodys astonishment; we thought we had very little and Anne and I fixed the table and all were so surprised when they saw it altogether. The bridal party, Brother, Frank & Charlie, Joe & Ikie all left next morning after breakfast. Mr. E. asked Mary to go home with them and the day after we went to bring her home and found that he had had to go to bed soon after getting home and was very sick. He was up by Sunday though and at Church & last Friday he and A came and staid until yesterday evening. He has promised to bring her back Christmas. You can't think how we miss her. Mother minds so much giving her up. Anna helped her so much in every way and was so bright and lively she will be peculiarly missed. Ella will find it dreadful, she has had Minnie with her since the wedding and went to Col. with her to-day. She brought A. here on Friday, she went to see her and just because A. said she felt perfectly at home at the Edmunds' she burst into such a passion of tears that they could do nothing with her & A. had to come back with her. She is very anxious that we should know nothing of this, but A. told us. Harry's family are devoted to A. & are all petting her up a great deal. Mamie is going off to school soon though and I fear she will be lonely for Mrs. E. is in bad health and Harry will be a great deal at Ridgeway at his store. Joe is to keep it for him next week.

I suppose Mona is married now, hope soon to hear from Gussie all about it. I had not heard of my loss of "B. & B." Why did you not break it to me more gently! Really though I like Julien very much and am glad he is going to be married. I don't think a man can be happy otherwise. Thought the Dr. would have been married again long before now. I would have liked so much to have seen Hattie, my only acquaintance with her was that visit she paid us one summer with Auntie and I quite fell in love with

her, she & you I always wanted for sisters of all the people I have met. That you wouldn't be, is the only fault I have ever found with you. You see I might have been living with you now. I cooked dinner today, our cook having begged a holiday and you can't think how tired I am though my dinner was a dish of hominy and plate of spare ribs. I thought every body ought to enjoy it very much but they wouldn't, said my hominy was raw & my meat too salt, wasn't it too bad?

I would like so much to see Lottie's little ones. Can't you send me some likenesses. I would like so much to have them. Mother sends love to you all. We are so sorry to hear of Cousin V.'s health. Please write soon to

Your devoted Friend,
Hattle