

Kingston Ga
Jany 3rd 1858

It is with the greatest pleasure, My darling Kate that I now acknowledge the reception of your letter of 28th [...], which came to hand on the day before yesterday and would have been answered before, but for the fact that Frank and I started down to the vicinity of Cartersville a short while after the mail arrived. We went to Col. Watts' and spent the night, next morning, we went to Col. Tim Youngs, remained until after dinner and then proceeded to Mr. [...] to call on Henry Hanon[?] and lady which done we returned to Kingston

Both of us enjoyed the trip finely and I returned very much enlivened, this being the first recreation I have had. Every body down that way seems to be faster up in regard to our affairs. How they farm out anything I am at a loss to imagine unless Henry heralded it abroad in the land. He & Lady seem to be in the full fruition of an enviable state of felicity.

When we returned we found Mrs. Johnson quite sick and all of us sat up with her nearly all night. She is much better now and I think will be able to resume her household duties in a day or two Her disease is asthma.

It makes me very happy to know that you enjoyed christmas I frequently imagine that I see you in some stage of your enjoyment and wish so much that I could have been with you but alas there seems to be little of that sort of pleasure in store for me nor does the tenor of your letter contain any very cheering intelligence I have always felt that the consummation of my hopes would be too highly exalted happiness to fall to my [...] and it seems that my forebodings are about to be verified.

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Your best of mothers flatters me very much in interposing but one objection to our union and I do assure you that to be able, consistently to remove that objection is the object I most earnestly desire. I am sure that the estrangement in which I now live from my God is far from being my choice but it certainly would be a flagrant violation of duty for me to unite myself to a church without a regeneration of heart. Whenever it becomes my duty to join the church I shall not hesitate to do so.

Your father undoubtedly has a perfect right to object nor am I surprised that he should regret your leaving him. Did you write his own words? I long to know the worst. If he never intends for you to marry any one. I have not a word to say and must bear my affliction as philosophically as possible but if he even intends for you to get married I feel that I have the best right to your hand since your heart is already mine own_ I must think that he has your happiness at heart, and if he find that our union would [...] it, he will, I hope, yield his consent. At any rate, as soon as you

go home, I shall make an honorable application to him, if it meets his approbation I shall be the happiest of mortals, if not I see nothing in the veiled future but wretchedness, I know that all lovers talk in this way but in this case, it is the sincere expression of my real feelings. I know my own dear Kate that I can never cease to love you, and to love without a single gleam of hope, is quite sufficient to embitter one's existence. If I could cease to love when my last lingering hope shall have departed it would not be so bad.

If there proves to be no insurmountable objection to our union, I shall expect a future full-fraught with bliss. I know live for you alone. Your happiness is my first aim, but if I am disappointed in my desire to devote my life to you, I shall devote the remainder of it to the gratification of a laudable ambition

If your father positively refuses me your hand it will be best for both of us my sweet Kate, which God forbid, that I should leave this country, I shall in that event, go to Paris, to prosecute my studies as soon as I can get off

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and there I will remain until one of us dies or until you will have forgotten me and bestowed the heart, ones my own on some one more blest, but not more true. It makes me shudder, my heart sinks within me when I think of these things but, Kate dear, I can not help it, I am not of a desponding nature but I know that I am so utterly destitute of claims to your hand, that I not only would not be surprised but actually expect your father to object seriously to it.

In regard to your going home, Kate, I could not enjoy an hour of my existence If I thought I had been the means of depriving you of a single moments pleasure and although I am suffering intolerable suspense, I will bear it stoically while I know that are happy at Mill Creek. I want you to remain with your sister just as long as you wish. I do not regard it indifference to my suffering but whenever you do conclude to go, I would like to know it as early as possible I do not want to consult your parents, for reasons that must be obvious to you while you are absent.

I began this letter last night, but had to stop and go to see a patient and this is election day, consequently, there are dozens of men talking all round me and I scarcely know what I am doing

There is nothing of any interest in the way of news. I went to a party on New Year's Eve, made the acquaintance of several ladies, but did not fall in love, it was the first party I ever attended in Georgia and presented quite a contrast to what I have generally see in SCa

Kate I shall have to conclude this hasty scribbling for some goose is continually slapping me on the back and talking to me

Do write me a long letter as soon as possible. It makes me so happy to read your letters. I wish I could get one three times a day, no need you be stall afraid of marrying me for anything from your pen is sweet to me I have made [...] good wishes this new years, would like to see a few months Ahead at this [...] time. Whatever transpires I wish you my Kate all the happiness that life affords With all my love I remain Your own

P.S. never neglect to present my regards to Dr & Lady & many [...] to ...attie Tho. ... Jones