

Oak Grove, May 21, 1859

My dearest Cousin;

I haven't been very punctual in this response, but it was rendered so, by unavoidable circumstances.

With regret I must decline, for want of necessary means, of visiting you at present, but will make all efforts to get there, before the Summer ends. Aunt Mary speaks of going and, the latter part of Summer, and wishes me to accompany her, but I guess that's a doubtful chance. She keeps as closely confined, as if she had a large family to maintain, when in fact, it's not incumbent at all, to wear herself out, for other people's benefit, Well Cousin, since I wrote to you, I've been in John's presence, three times, and each time, he appeared uncommonly friendly. But my letters are still unnoticed. You know, he has always expected me to take one look, or word, as

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meaning volumes; but his actions of late have been such, as to require a lucid explanation, and nothing short of that, will be satisfactory. Can you give credence to my words, when I say, the same fervent love burns in my breast for him, even after such indifferences. It pains me to know, and feel, that this passion, which has been kindled by loves inspiring words, can never be abated, or forgotten, so long as there is life in this frail body. Lillie Brooks looks very thin, and no doubt, its caused from her unreciprocated love for John. She cant have the courage to battle this storm with such independence as I have looked, for the last seven months. Before I would evince such weakness, the passion might burn out unfed by hope, even if it consumed my heart, in the great struggle. Lizzie Arnold's glimmering hopes will soon be extinguished unless she gets, new materials to resuscitate them again. I understand she is engaged to

Dick Walter, but I haven't confidence in the [...]epart. She has been shopping in Columbia,

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and whilst there, made Dr. Templeton's house a place of convenience remaining no less than two weeks. Don't you think it sp[...]ing by the whole\_sale? I attended the May- [...] in Greenwood, and had a delightful time with very old friends. Jinnie Smith was there, looking very well, and sweet as ever. She expects to visit Meridith, who lives in N.C. and stay until October. So you will not see Jinnie this Summer. Perhaps, she will fall a victim to love's shrine, [...] her return, and take to herself, a Better half. I do hope J. will get a husband, who can appreciate her many worthy qualities. Sallie Smith has grown to be beautiful. She is the reigning belle of Greenwood. Bennet is awfully smitten, but doesn't show it, only by distance looks. [...]lick has a great fancy for the girls, but is too bashful to make any advance. Jinna Mosely looked charming the night of the party. John Riley has a notion of flying around Jinna. Jim Riley, and Sallie Waller, will marry the seventh of next month. Lizzie

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Boozer looks very pale, and remarkably thin. John D. McKellar is stationed in Greenwood. I went to the picnic, given by the Greenwood, people, at the Old Forte, the next day after the party and I assure you, the above mentioned Gentleman, bored me no little. But I endured his foolishness patiently, feeling full convinced that his days on earth were short, unless a decided change in his health soon. I don't think he can possibly live through the Summer. Lizzie Blake, is engaged to one of the Sem-inarians from Columbia. It is believed that Jack Cain, and Anna [...]ott, are engaged, but he positively denies it, although his actions does not corrob-

rate his words. She has gone to Florida to improve his feeble health, but some think to run out of the [...]. Jack Cain, and Bud, are carried high in Greenwood, about their courting sprees. Its right laughable how many quirks, and turns Manie, and Bud, devises

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to find each other out. Manie is anxious to know, whether Bud is in earnest and Bud, whether she will have him, or not, as she cant bear the idea of being rejected. I tell him, it will be no disgrace, but all his pride will suffer. I am inclined to believe that she never intended to marry. Although a great many believe that she will accept Bud's offer, but Bud, cant coincide in their opinion. She is one of the greatest mysteries I ever met with. I sometime think, I know, her true nature, but again, she will say, or do something that throws me in utter darkness. Whoever marrys her, will take a desperate leap in the dark. Its rumored Ann M[...] is engaged to Mr. Maulding of Anderson. I hear also that he is a drunkard. Uncle Peter has written to her about it, but I haven't heard

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her reply. I had the pleasure of seeing Sallie Brown about two weeks ago. She looks very well and has fine son. I tell Father he must let me go to the Anderson commencement, if he wont to Georgia, but he would let me go in a minute to Georgia if he had the money, and will to do, soon as he can get it. This is a hard time of year to get anything. I attended the burial of Sam Perryman's infant son yesterday. She was sick only a week. She mas much prettier, and smarter, than the eldest son and one of best children

I ever saw. Sam is quite sick with the same disease, diarrhea. It is prevalent through this country. Jack Griffin's wife is very sick and has been for the past two or three weeks. Uncle John Barratt has gone to Virginia near the Chesapeake Bay to take sea-bathes. He has been there about two weeks and his health has improved considerably.

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Milt Coleman is courting Mollie Brooks, And I believe he will be successful. What do you think, Jack has began to fix up, and thinks strong of flying around the girls. I am truly glad of it, for he will carry me now to my place. You would be surprised how much he has changed in appearance. Your Brother Johny is growing very handsome. Sallie Reynolds told him he was the beauty of the family. Sallie is very pretty. She didn't graduate as I expected, She speaks of going back again, but I doubt it, for she has stronger notions of marrying than studying. I bid Cousin [...], and [Page torn] Sallie good-bye, last Monday morning, and would you believe, I felt as if all my friends were gone. Aunt Nancy will meet Cousin [...] in Columbia next week, and off they will be, for Empire State, Old Greenwood.

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looks so lovely every thing is as fresh, and gay as beautiful May could make it. Your flower garden has been very pretty. Mine was beautiful I had some roses, large as my two hands. You must continue to write to me, [...] domestic affairs, as I feel [Page torn] interest in that as you [Page torn] [...]ld, Give my love to Dr. Jones, and [...]

a due portion for yourself.

[...][...]soon your devoted  
Cousin Kate