

My dearest Mother & Sister;
Poor Miss Fenn.
Feb. 13th 1863.

Good,

Agreeing to my promise
I will write you a few lines to day;
and ~~the letter~~ to be more certain of
succeeding I shall commence a good
while before Mr. Hughes comes. I am
writing under Mamma's protest; she
almost forbade me to sit up. I have
been very much worse.

Feb. 16th / 63

Well Good, I commenced wri-
ting to you last Saturday, but
soon became so ill that I was
forced to go to bed. I feel again
like I was on rising ground,
but the change is so small
that I can almost afraid
to believe that I really am
improving. My weakness is
surprising. It completely ex-
hausts me to walk across

The floor, I have not visited
Mamma's room but three times
since you left. But I will
less your patience with these
long disquisitions on the subject
of my health. Now for other mat-
ters. Papa tells me that Nan is
boarding at Poss. I am sorry of
that, and I will tell you why.
Nan is predisposed to talk too
much, and to say things concerning
other people which she ought not
to say. Boarding at Poss, you
know, she will be thrown in
great deal in the company of
one Miss Nan Summons, who is
most eminently calculated to
lead Nan forward in the
mysteries of tattling and gossiping.
My opposition to Nan's boarding
with Poss arose from my fears
of the influence to which she

would be subjected. Had Pass
not been the close neighbor she
is to the family of Mr. Gannon,
I should have offered no objec-
tions to her's boarding with her.

Item third — You will
please receive my most grateful
thanks for the pickles. They were
the first good pickles I had gotten.
As soon as my health will
permit I hope to thank you in
person for them and so justify
to some word of them at your
own table.

Item fourth — The Bow-dit
may be good for the stomach, but
it certainly is not very palatable.
However, since it is calculated to
do me more good than the pickles
please accept my acknowledg^{mt}
for the Bow-dit also.

Item fifth — Query — are you per-
suing the studies I proposed, and

does Miss Eva approve the work
on Botany I gave you? I shall
be glad to find you deep in the
mysteries of Domestic Economy,
Botany &c, since I shall expect
you, ere long, to put in practice the
theories of the former, and you
ought to study the latter Science;
since ~~it is the~~ Nature's Vegetating
beauties, and the inspiration of
that ^{Poetry, that} springs so freshy from the
heart of woman.

Item sixth - query and injunction -
Have you spoken to Uncle Crockett
and Aunt Sally concerning our en-
-gagement? If not, please do so before
I come down, I want you to report
to me immediately the extent of
success or failure we may expect.
It is time we were knowing
what sort of ground we are
walking on. Write to me
soon. Oll.

Poor Will
Feb. 20th 1863

Dear,

As Time hangs heavily on my hands, you will, I hope, pardon me if I snatch a few hours of pleasure, from his covetous grasp, at your expense. 'Tis a pleasure thus, to me, to sit down daily, and bid my pen hold sweet converse with thee. Books cease to please or interest, conversation with the many who call, when taken in over doses, becomes a load, walking is out of the question from my weakness, riding is not to be thought of in consequence of the inclemency of the weather — so you see you are necessitated to learn an early lesson of patience with my whims, and read long letters from me just because I love to write them to you, and have "nothing else to do." (you understand the quotation). But you dislike or disapprove sentiment

So I will ever avoid another expres-
sion that will tend to betray my earnest
feelings and strive to write as you do,—
that is, ~~and~~ give the news and quit, (for
the present.) So here's the news.— I had for-
gotten, in my previous "items"; to inform
you that Sis Lipton is with us on a
visit. She came the next Saturday after
you left, the day papa came home, and
will stay several weeks. Papa is con-
siderably better. He was very much fa-
tigated with his journey home, and for
several days was unable to be about
very much. ~~A~~ Good, please talk to
her about associating too much with
Nan Gammon. Give her some useful
advice as to her selection of associates.
She is young, and may be easily led
astray by those who have grown old in
evil doing, and callous to the upbraiding
of Conscience. Papa has gone to Collicofer.
Write to me in time for next Saturday's mail.
Yours,
O. U.

Poor Hill Tenn.
Feb. 21st 1863

Miss Soad Kettledge,
Blountville,
Tenn.