

Dear Mary

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It is with a great deal of reluctance that I commence my first epistle to a new friend with an apology, but in this instance I feel myself in duty bound to do so, but where shall I find my excuses for my apparent neglects? First at the head of the list (as I am a married woman) I will say that my domestic duties, not having been eased for during my absence, have required more attention than usual since my return and consequently occupied a great deal more of my time. Then the great difficulty we all experience in commencing a new acquaintance without having anything interesting or entertaining to communicate must be overcome, to which I will add a natural disposition to be a very little lazy and the least bit in the world careless and I think I have brought forward an all sufficient excuse, and if you are a very kind good girl (and I doubt ^{not} it in the least) you will excuse me - now, if a letter will be acceptable at this late date I will do my best at trying at all events. We did not fare so badly after leaving your little village as we expected to - we had but one "break down" and that not a very bad one, it did not detain us more than half an hour - we reached home about ten o'clock at night after being out all the night before - you may know the consequence of that night was great in sweet sleep.

If it were not for the visit to my friend Helen and the many pleasing recollections that float in my memory in the short time I spent in your quiet little family I would think me well repaid for all our fatigue and discomfort - but I am sure I will ~~not~~ remember your kindness and attention and that of your worthy parents with the warmest wishes of gratitude and hope we long to have the same pleasure

of embracing you to our own little hearts and saying once again for your
kindness. Sister Luby, of whom I have spoken to you, and another,
we were comfortably seated by the kitchen fire, one on each side of a
large breakfast table awaiting us as best we could. But our stop to
talk a week that number of us who were present, it is, after dinner, a book
and I do not wish you to retire therefore had to get out and please
be sure that you -

Kinda Darling - I am now as you will see by the commencement of my letter
at New Orleans, some months in the future. You are enjoying the society
of dear brothers and sisters and have every thing around you to make me
happy, and would be just as if it were not that there is one want
that you have not mentioned, but which has gone home and left me at home,
over a week and a half, and being necessary. You must not therefore think
of my letter as a substitute for (although I am afraid it would be more
than a hundred times) for I feel almost like getting on sitting out, for one
that week at least - take back and I spent some very pleasant
and relaxing over the many little incidents of our trip, and in brief days
and pleasantly upon the few days we spent with you for those we all
enjoyed ourselves much, and although during our fall that signs of our
old familiarity that we felt in place also. Do not get out but to the spring
since I have been here - yesterday it rained quite hard but this was bright
every morning, and I think it will soon be dry to such to almost of our
plans that we are not hope to have many pleasant walks there with
our friend Mary - I do not want to disappoint you by coming for me
anticipate a great deal of pleasure to be going to housekeeping next month
and hope to make your stay in the city pleasant, and think we can do so;
down here I know you will enjoy yourself for you are fond of
walking and every thing is pleasant around here to let you to come if you
have an opportunity. I think you would not be so much taken you had it you
would come, and it is not I wish - I am a girl to be a good friend, and
to know that I think of me that I would like to see you, and I

as long as you'll let me see you, I'll be as good as home and all others
who may come after me. I must stop for this time, as I promised to get up
the remaining papers, and she is waiting. Adieu. You are kind but
do not fail to write very soon for I have not heard a word from you
since we left and am very anxious to hear from you.

Yours affectionately
(Signed to my father)

Wm. L. G.

Monday, 20th March 1845

Dear Mary, you see when Lily has left, we nothing more
re than a short husband and to have had one half the short of
a little while, I will have her before we write together again, as you
will think her selfish; I will commence next time myself, then see
if she will consent to do so, and you may see such a string as she has
upon about her domestic duties; now I wish to have a good
number of such orders to perform them she has thought coming
offer the same apology for being, however, how much we married
folks have to attend to, and must have you now a few moments
to Mary to prepare some drink for my father.

Oh what a bright beautiful evening, how much I wish you were
with us, or at the very farthest next month, and the ^{night} after. In-
formants will then be bright with joy fresh flowers, all things will
be done in our own comfort, with you not there, Mary, for I feel
your half made promise to visit us, yet you must all things
will make you welcome, then we will make our trip to see the
father, how very lucky to have that note to throw into the water
among other business, I will endeavor to make you enjoy
yourself as much as we are sure with you, you will come and
you, you cannot withstand temptations, ^{the} you do not choose
what shall I do, my dearest are tonight, that I cannot bear
I have not the face out of my hand, what shall I do
my love to your dear kind parents, all should hope our pleasant
will not be broken off thus abruptly, it was so pleasant to
be done.

