

Dear Cousin,

I have just come in from school, and as Aunt Kate is writing to your ma, I thought I would pen you a few lines, I have written you several long letters, but have always failed to send them. Well, I'm going to school of course, we have an excellent teacher, and about fifty pupils. We've been preparing for a Concert for some time, but are obliged to postpone it several weeks, on account of the stage; the owners of the Hall are going to have a permanent stage, and will take two weeks to put it up. There is to be a grand ball at the New Hall on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Aunt K. and I are invited, but will not attend. I love to dance dearly, and would like very much to go, but Ma and Pa do not want me to attend such places while I am going to school, and there too 'tis a public ball. The small-pox is not in town, but there is a car-

about half a mile from here. I wish you  
could see Aunt H - now sitting in the corner  
waiting for her European servant to come and  
take her to Mrs Bagley's to tea. She is quite a  
belle and is captivating all the gents  
especially the old bachelors and widowers.  
Give my love to Cousin Estlin, I suppose he is  
having a gay time, flying around at the  
weddings. Tell Uncle John, when he goes to  
Washington, he must pay us a visit. I'm not  
long of your ma, and tell her that I can't  
sympathize with her in the loss of her flowers,  
or her first crop of wheat. I would write you  
a longer letter but Aunt H - is waiting, and  
Puss, Ebenezer, Cousin Eliza Joe, Bro Kate, Little Kate,  
Texas Kate, Jake, Buck, your cousin Dr & Et of  
Cane Creek, and all the rest of the Dear  
kin send love affectionately  
yours  
Josie