

Mooreville Ala July 12, 1851

My dear sister

I received yours of June 27 a few days since, and was rejoiced to hear that you were all well. I was surprised to learn that you had become so corpulent – you can beat me. Not bad either for I expect to be confined myself about the middle or last of August. You say you have concluded to give up your school that you cannot find time to attend to it, as you should do &c and so on, and conclude the subject by saying you think it best to leave off while your names are up, and I would say you have come to a wise conclusion for I think there would be a chance for them to come down. I hope it is all for the best, you both need rest, rest from the school room especially. And were you to continue to teach and improve as you have for several years past you would get so much lurnin into your craniums that you could never relish the society of your backwards kin. Tell little Walter that I think his country cousin can come up to him in all the smart tricks you mentioned in your letter. She noted in these diggens for beauty & sprigtliness. She is very healthy & large of her age.

She talks remarkably plain and sings anything she pleases. She has commenced talking about beaux and sweethearts & says Mr Ben Roberts is her beau. By the by, Mr. Ben Roberts is not to be laughed at by any of the girls. He has improved wonderfully of late years and is one of our nobles in every respect. He has a farm joining Peter's & they are bachelor neighbors. Caroline Roberts has just returned with her diploma from Athens. She is quite a pleasant girl, but I think she will not be often taken by a stranger for a graduate of Athens Seminoles. Martha returned from Jacksonville the last of May and is with us yet indeed I do not know how I could do without her. She will make some man a fortune yet, I think Mac is very much enraptured with her, but it won't take no never! And I am sure I would not exert any influence in the matter if I could. I like Mac and think he would make a kind husband, but if she cannot love him I do not think she ought to marry him. No not for any consideration on earth. Mr. G's health is not very good. He has become very lean. I fear that he works too hard this summer. This is beginning year with us and we are trying to be very dusty. Mr. G sends his love to you both and says he has the best cr? according to his force, in all this region.

Ms Mariah White was married to a Mr Leonard of Huntsville about 6 weeks ago and Mrs Ward died a few days afterwards. She was very sick at Mr. White's when Mariah was married. Old Sam treated Mrs. W shamefully to the last. She left her little son the only child to the Ward family and he give it up very cheerfully. It is said that the Ward family house (though poor compared to Mr White) clothed that child from its infancy. It is about 6 years old and is a very interesting child. What ought to be done with such a man? I can not tell you how Mariah married perhaps she has done very well considering all things. She is now in New York her husband's native state. Martha says she is tired keeping house for me and she will come and assist you when you get ready to try it. Do excuse this scribbled letter and let me hear from you as soon as I shall feel quite anxious until I do. Aunt Harris has another daughter a few days old. Mrs Jack Harris is in very ill health and has been for some time. Mrs. Dilliard died after a lingering illness about 3 months ago. She appeared to be perfectly resigned to death. Margaret Madkins has a fine boy several months old. She is finely

Fixed off in her new home and is doing well. I have not seen her for a long time. Mac sends his compliments to you and says he is single yet but it is not his fault. Little Molly sends her love to you and her cousin Walter. I know you would be proud of your name sake if you could but see her. She has a fine head of hair and it curls on her neck very prettily. She has a beautiful skin, deep blue eyes and a high well shaped forehead & is as sprightly as a lark. Don't you wish you could only get a peep at her pretty face? I know I would give a nice little sum to see little Walter. I am so tired I must stop. I am very weakly, as usual, but don't look much like it just now. Let me hear from you soon.

Afct.

E.M. Garrett