

[letterhead]
Office of
W.T. & C.S. Alexander,
Wholesale and Retail Dealers in
Dry Goods, Fancy Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots and Shoes,
Also Agents for Roswell Manufacturing Company,
West Side Public Square,
P.O. Box No. 52
Jacksonville, Ala 187

November. Hope the “Polemics” will treat you well and that you will push ahead of that other city. Glad I aint in your phix in relation to getting up etc. Nothing makes me so dog gon mad as to be obliged to do anything I don’t like and getting up soon & sweeping are two things I don’t like worth a [darn]. My hours are about as follows: Get up at 8 o’clock. Get to the mail, comb out my

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matted locks, wash the biggest dirt off my face & hands, take a drink, & go to breakfast at 9. After breakfast answer letters and write around generally an hour or so until I get tired. Fool around generally and do nothing in particular until dinner time – 2 o'clock. Nothing much to do then until mail time – 5:35 pm. Answer letters etc. until supper time – 7 o'clock. Then push my books until

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til about 10 o'clock. Then I'm free. Go on a bust until 12 or 1 o'clock and come home tired sleepy and – so forth. No demerits, no guard house, no home, no funerals no nothing in the B. Penitentiary line. Wouldn't you like to trade positions with me? Considerable fun in Jacksonville lately. Capt. Crooks Dramatic Club (Captain Crooks Dramatic Club) gave an entertainment early in the month. Lon Grant had a prominent part in the

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tragedy, but when he came on the stage whiskey was more prominent in him than acting, so he came near spoiling the business. Last Thursday night (21st) it was repeated. I took Lon Grant's part and if I didn't do well it was not because I had visited George Wilson's refectory too often. We had a jolly old time. The "girl you left behind you" had a part both in the tragedy and comedy

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told me that you did not correspond with her – which surprised me very much of course. What the devil is the matter with you? [Been] having another dancing school here since the 1st inst. Services etc. in order. Fun & gals ditto. Your bro Walter big dog in high rye of course. Had a big old dance at the Hotel last night. I went with Cousin Sallie Forney. Miss Florence Woods has come home again

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Jacky Rowan looked o.k. in his uniform. Don't know whether he as an office or not – had some bars on his sleeve though – sort of 5th Corporal I reckon. But I've got a good one to tell you on Prof. Goober Pea McAuley. He slapped one of the boys' faces for laughing at him and the boy immediately went for him. He knocked Goober down, and was just proceeding to ornament his mug, a la [Hunan]

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when Bro Sam (Brother Sam) entered upon the scene and interfered with his [?] intentions. Aint that huge? Whether the boy was given 5 demerits or 40, or was thrashed, or expelled or put in the guard house, or swallowed by old Mc or roasted alive, [department?] saith not. I'll bet old Goober thought "D- it" and said "Good Hearings!" 14 times inside of a second while that fellow had him down. By the bye the

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Cal is again thinking of immigrating to Egypt. He has had a highly flattering offer from the Khedive and will go if they will wait for him until the end of the session.

I believe I've told you all the news I can think of. Bud and Miss Fannie have about busted I believe Saucy Sam still perambulates around and has not grown much taller since you left. Ben

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[Ben Moody] Moody is o.k. – played for us to dance by last night. Cal[?] has been on a bender about 2 months. Dick Johnson ditto.

I hear that your Aunt Kate is quite sick – nothing dangerous though I hope. Give my love to the prettiest girl in Mebaneville [Mebanesville] and kiss her for me. Write me a long letter some time when you are under arrest and don't cuss any more.

Yours until [cremated]
Tom Isbell

[envelope front]

Stamped: Jacksonville ALA. FEB 18

[Return Address:]

W.T. Alexander, Exchange Broker, Collection and Insurance Agent, and dealer in Merchandise of every Description
P.O. Box 52 Jacksonville, Ala.

[Addressed to]

Ed. G. Caldwell Bingham School Mebaneville N.C. [Mebanesville N.C.]

[envelope back]

Valentine rec'd many thanks