

Ocala Fla  
12/3/83  
Dear Father,  
I wrote Mama

from Callahan telling her of  
our delay on the road etc.  
Well, we got to Ocala at  
10 O'clock on Friday tired  
and hungry. We had been so  
long on the road that our  
lunch was among the things  
that were owing to the state  
of our finance we practiced  
as much economy as possible.  
My cold troubled me a  
good deal on the way, but  
with the aid of cough syrup  
I have about broken it up.  
I sent you a paper with

account of the fire here

suppose you had seen it in others however before it reached you. It was a big fire from all accounts, and has ruined Ocala for this season. All of the best buildings in the town were burned. When we got here Friday the smoke was still rising from the ruins, and great crowds from the country were standing around looking on. Twenty special Police have been on duty since watching goods saved and trying to recover those stolen. It is said that, more trunks clothing etc. belonging to winter boarders were stolen than were burned. Some lost everything they had. I learn that Mrs Andersons piano was burned in the Agnew

hotel. The furniture was all  
in and they were just ready to  
open up. The Brown house  
the finest in South Fla was  
the third house to burn, and  
Every thing in it was lost. The  
Proprietor Mr Thayer of N.Y.  
lost \$15000.00 worth of new furniture.  
It is said that he would have  
made a fortune this winter as  
he had nearly all of his  
rooms engaged for the season  
by northerners. My friends  
Robinson and Bro were burned,  
but will not loose more  
than Ten Thousand. Most  
of the sufferers seem hacked,  
but "Brown has hands at  
work already cleaning off, and  
says he will rebuild right  
away. Robinson Bros will  
do the same, and I think  
a number of them will go

to work soon. The city has

Fire limits, and none but brick or stone buildings will go up. I have seen quite a number of Alabamians since I got here. Yesterday I went to church and saw nearly all of them. I intended to write home in the afternoon, but had an invitation to visit the Misses Williams who live about two miles from us, Alex was writing and did not go, but I enjoyed it as they set up plenty of oranges. The crop is short this year and they are being shipped out very rapidly. Our place has been in bad fix, but Mr