

Milledgeville January 18th 1852

My dear Son

I received your letter of the 10th __last(?)_ and was much gratified at your promptness in replying to us. Howell was some what surprised by your writing. I told him on the day I wrote you that I had written you and Lamar a long letter requesting you to take it by turns to write us a weekly letter. Well, says Howell, "I reckon Bajer(?) will write but I don't know about Johnny." I hope you will continue to surprize him by your regularity in writing every other week.

I received a very satisfactory letter from your Uncle John Lamar the day after he left for Lumpkin Co. He wrote that you and your brothers had been to see him and that you both were much pleased with Mr. Meade and his family and that he had loaded you both with good things and you left him in fine spirits to return to your new home.

When you remember how many hearts will be made to rejoice at your well doing I

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Trust sincerely and confidently that you will be situated to renewed expectations(?) to behave well and learn fast. And remember what I have always told you both, in connection with your education—that whatever impression each you may make in your studies—and however much you may attain in learning. It is all for your own benefit ultimately. Your parents and dearest friends may be spurned to witness the effect of your own personal efforts to learn, but it will be only pleasure that they will experience. The real _____ will be yours.

You say that your Uncle is to be absent 10 days and then he will take you and brother to the plantation—Now how much more did you try to learn for this promised gratification?

Your good Uncle will give every opportunity in his power for reasonable enjoyment to each of you, but I wish you to be just on your part and for every pleasure he gives, you must exudes(?) that much in hard study, there laying up a large fund of knowledge for your future benefit.

Your uncle wrote that he had given your boys a blacking brush and a box of blackingg as he did not specify that he gave you each one, Howell is curious to know if you have one apiece. Howell says if you are to clean your own boots as Uncle John says, you must. He knows they

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Will never be clean. You know Howell has the happy faculty which most young children possess—that of thinking aloud. If he has made a mistake with regard to your skill in cleaning boots you must mention it in your next. I have not put him to school yet an i have no fully determined whether I shall send him to school here or teach him myself. I have as yet made a poor beginning in teaching. I endeavour to have some system with him, but he often reads one lesson in his testament, after which he gets learn to fly his kite with the promise that he is to return when he is called in. Company comes in, or I am engaged with the baby. I of course forget Howell(?) and he flies the kite the whole morning instead of one hour. Sometimes his kite carries him so far from home that the servant cannot find him.

His whole mind is now devoted to kite making and kite flying. From his own account he meets with many kind boys, this one gives home a dog and that one makes him a kite, and another helps him to raise it in the air, but he never knows their names. His answer is always "a boy."

Your sister Mary Ann is well all but the affection(sic) of her throat. The wheezing has been worse for a day or two past, but her spirits are good. Eliza dressed her nicely, and put in her little

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straw hat with crimson trimmings and took her yesterday to see Mrs. Beall, Mrs. White and Mrs. Horns(?). Mrs. Beale sent her to Mrs.(?) Green Gardens. Your sister was delighted with visiting and getting out of doors once more, as she had been confined to the house for more than a week in consequence of the cold windy weather which we have had. She is devoted to your sister Laura. She will clap her arms around her head and kiss her repeatedly. Often she stands by me and kisses the baby's head from one ear to the other. The baby grows finely—notices and laughs a great deal for one of six weeks. You will scarcely know it when you see us again. Your Aunt Mattie sends her love to you both. She is going to McDonough with Mr. Gleeder(?) as soon as the Legislature adjourns which will probably on Thursday next.

Your Grandparents will leave about the same time for McDonough on their way back to Athens. Then I will be alone, and I will ____ time my thoughts to preparing for my visit to Macon.

Your Papa is tolerably well, and unites with me and the rest of the family in much love to you and your brother. Present kindly to Mr. and Mrs. Meade.

Your Affectionate

Mother

Mary Ann Cobb

Your sister kissed me this morning for you and your brother and afterwards she kissed the baby for each of you.