

Milledgeville Jan'y 6th 1852

My dear sons

In the hurry of having John's trunk packed I overlooked the fact that I had promised hair brushes etc for you. I therefore enclose in this letter five dollars which you must hand to Mr. Meade and request him from me to be so kind as to purchase for each of you, a hair brush, coarse comb, fine comb, and tooth brush.

I will here [I will have hugs?] _____ upon you the necessity of using your tooth brush every morning and hope you both will attend to this duty when you know it is the request of your father and mother.

We think of you much, and think of you frequently and I can safely say that you have been out of mind but few moments since I parted with John A. Last night was very windy, cheery(?), and _____, and as we sat

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Around a cheerful fire in the dining room. I thought of my little boys as strangers under a strange roof, spending their first evening with their new teachers. Your papa observed that he would like to look in upon you, but he doubted not that you were both diverted(?) by the _____ of your situation, from thinking much of your absence from home.

As he knows better than I do how boys feel from home, I will trust him and believe that your first evening was spent as contentedly and happily as one could wish.

(I asked?) each of you to give me a description of that first evening, describing your feelings, and employment on the occasion.

Did Lamar think most of Uncle John or most of Papa and Mama? Did John A's thoughts (reflect?) to _____ Eliza cousin or did they turn (towardly?) to little sister Mary Ann and Lamar? Write us all about it.

I send (over?) a letter which your Papa received from Mr. Carthers(?), your teaching in Washington City. It contains a kind allusion to you both which we wish you to read. After you have

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Been to Mr. Meade a month or so, I wish you to write a joint letter to Mr. C _____ to show him the progress you have made in learning since you left him.

I wish you to take turns and write us a weekly letter. In February I hope to be able to visit Macon and bring Howell and your little sisters to see you.

Mary Ann continues well except for the affection of her throat. She is very lively and enjoyed greatly your Uncle John Lamar's present of candy. It came on the 5th. Your Grandpapa's 69th birthday and your sister is quite pleased that she could hold the _____ of candy and hand it to her grand Papa and the other members of the family.

_____ you like to know what I gave your Grandpapa on his birthday? You remember Lamar used to be curious whenever he saw a pudding put upon the table, to know "whose burf day" is it?

Well Grandpapa had a “green goose” and mince pies, Your sister Laura is still a good baby and grows daily. She and I have (discarded?) to the dining room, where we remain

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All day. Lamar lies in the long yellow cradle that looks as if it was built for one of Gullivers Biography babies. Howell is very lively. Your Papa and all the family write with me in much love to you, hoping that you will be very good boys and give your teacher no trouble.

Your affectionate mother

Mary Ann Cobb