

Snatchin Missi Jan^y 11th 1860
Miss Callie Anthony

Dear Cousin

Your more than
welcome missive of the 2^d Inst was handed
me this evening and as some circumstances
are about to transpire which call me to the
Old Dominion and there will be a possibility
of my passing both Springs within the lock
of this or the first of next month; I have
concluded to answer you immediately, or I
may not have an opportunity even I return;
besides if I should call ~~at~~ on you, I wd
wish to surprise you & likewise wd prefer your
recognising me, so I give you at least one
chance in advance, but I expect I have grown
old so fast since you saw me that Cousin
Homer's features have well nigh been effaced.

So now to the letter. I was much pleased to hear
from you all - and that Uncle & Aunt were in
better health than usual - That Benj and family
were well & that he was adapting himself to
the demands of secular business etc - and that Johnny
was doing well at school; I have ever felt a
deep interest in him, as much as as if he was
my own Bro, and I hope he will not abandon
school until he educate himself; as upon that
hangs much of the prospects & happiness in life
and without it, we are but little qualified
to meet the varied positions consequent upon a
life in the 19th Century + more anon

I am glad you like the school at the Springs;
you are better qualified to conduct a school than
old Charlie; though I can't say that I ever admired
his disposition or that of Mrs C: although I was rather

treated as a favorite by them & no one ever
endeavored to assist & forward a student more
than did Mr. Le the 2 years I was under his charge
and I have often felt thankful that I was ever taught
the importance & the how to study, by his constant and
untiring perseverance in behalf of my classes
but other branches of your school. (Prof. W. H. Pleasant)
I shall ever think a very little man with a very
little soul and a mighty heap of pretensions etc
I will hate him as long as I live: but enough -
I saw Hallie Herb Xmas, she gave a fine description
of the Cooper of Teachers - The most of whom I have
to be men of intelligence & learning. She was
regretting having to leave them and I am sorry
she did as Sister Bettie will go there some time
next year I judge, if Papa does not conclude to
keep her back for Bernitta, who is but little behind
her although she is but 11 years old - Bettie is 14 less
of how tall - she is an irregular at college & dislikes
very much. I judge your Mama wishes you much
but was I in your stead & I was advanced by
being at school I wd certainly continue another
term during summer any way.
Cous. Anst. family are at W. H. G. & well the last time I saw
any of them which was some days before I wrote you
last, I was from home & was well, returned 2^d and
have been engaged night & day ever since; so that I
have not had an opportunity of seeing any of them
W. H. G. lives about 2 miles from me, but was it
not for his wife I am very certain my shadow wd
never darken his doorway: yet for the sake of his
family I will never expose the puerility of his
many acts & will envelope memory tablet in order to
shut from sight such things as would cause me
as far to forget myself as even to let him know that
I am cognizant of his many secret endeavors to

injure an innocent unsuspecting personage, one
who had not only regarded but had in many
respects treated him as a brother - How hard is it
for us to change our opinions of one we have once
loved? but still how much harder is it to dissemble
opposite feelings, when they have been generated as
mine have to him - I will say to you a little more
of his case as you are aware of some of the deceitfulness
which he has used towards myself & which he knew to
be as base his when he did it as the serpent did
when he tempted Eve in the garden of Eden
Of this I have been aware this 2 years, and how oft
has the idea "that "one may smile and be a villain"
flitted through my mind, in meeting him, and
it has been with the utmost difficulty I could control
myself at times so as not to let him know my feelings
& have never sought to injure any one white or black
& why he has made me the chosen one for his love
I cannot conceive. A man from Bedford told me
first of how he abused me about business of which
he knew nothing & in which he was not the least concerned
and he even came here and tried with my friends
to make an impression by the which I gained
an insight to the whole affair. Had I the time
I would give you the whole affair to a letter, but
tis not possible now. I wish him well and so
far as I am concerned he certainly will ^{enjoy} but I
will ever cry hands off if you please - I was
^{never} so perfectly handled with gloves on as I ever
been by him; but still where ever we meet
there has been no one like our Homer, so here I
will pop him along. Please dont speak of this. If I
come to Va I will tell you all, as you know a fortnight
you alluded to Phil & and as you entertain imprudent
erroneous, I will say our word in regards him
which may remove some reflections against

attire and place the shoe on the right foot
It wd take a 12 mo to give you a history of the affairs of
that family & a majority of all of it has been caused
by Phil during the past 30 years & this I have
from out siders who did not even know I was in
any respect acquainted with any of the family even
him & to say the least for him he has cost his father
more trouble than all his family together besides has
almost dragged him to penury by his sordid lusts
for the out side appearances of life see he is very
intelligent I admit but when one uses this gift
of heaven in a way to disparage every one but self
and for selfish ends exclusively, better had it been
for him had he been an idiot at birth.
I am not interested in any one of the family more
than another but as the Children of Israel knew
Cains posterity by their mark, so do we judge
and appreciate mankind in this day, relatives
or not and I am frank to say that I never
knew a kinder, more hospitable people than his
other brothers & I know they all saw those have in
every way endeavoured to pacify the wild
spirit of fanaticism existing between & with them
& to heal the wide breach in their family & Phil
has been in every instance the promoter of it
I am like yourself - I feel sorry for him, I pity him
but he deserves but little sympathy - I wish I could
tell you what I know. We are often led through
pity to misjudge or rather to sustain the one and
condemn the other when vice versa should be the
case - but enough now - I have no idea of marrying
any one Cous Philicia is a pretty girl & had she
improved her opportunities would have been intelligent
but as it is she has thought too much of the Beaux
and too little of decorating the best of Heavens
gifts to mankind a good comprehending faculty