

Asheville Jan 9th /61

Good morning, Newyears gift dear cousin, and will
you be permit me to name the gift I wish you to bestow
on your absent Cousin, tis this, that when you prostrate your
self at a throne of forgiveness that you will then and
then remember one who loves ^{you} with a sisterly love, I
have this morning been traversing the haunts of the past
so forcibly impressed on my mind, and while retros-
pecting my past life, especially that part which was
spent at dear old Pleasant Retreat, it causes my eyes to
overflow, to think, that I am so far from the scenes of
my childhood, and from all of my dear associates
and that I shall never again behold any of the
dear friends of my childhood, but I must have
had a lonely life among strangers as I may call
them, for I have never met with any one since I came
to this state who can equal the dear good people of old
D^d although I have some very dear friends here, yet I am
often changing my home and each time I have to form
new acquaintances, but enough of this for I know you are
beginning to scold, What for I we I was did you? spend?



a pheasant and I hope, I was in Leesahona when I received
yours and did not return until yesterday, I had fine
times while I was gone, attended six parties and a
large ball, spent several days in Holly Springs & Waterford stayed
one week in Leesahona, while there attended a concert
at the Seminary and there saw the most beautiful Xmas
tree that was ever made in North Miss, and more than
that was honoured with six present on the tree, that you
know was nice, there was said to be two wagon loads of
present on the tree a young lady who teaches music in
the Seminary received 130 present on the tree and all of
these were nice, the young lady of whom I am speaking
gave Vallie Hunt a fine set of jewelry; Vallie will not go
there to school any more, as she is going to keep house for
her papa, it is reported that Buck is to marry a Miss Penn of
Va some time this month, as he will leave for Va in a
few days. Ma has gone out visiting today and taken May with
her Miss Vallie has gone to school, Nannie is at Sister H.
so I am all alone with the exception of a negro girl, and
you may know I feel lonely, but not as much so as I
would have felt two months ^{ago} had I been left all alone
for I have gotten to be more cheerful than I was then, I think
my trip did me great good, I ha'nt had a child for five weeks
and am now looking tolerably well weigh 110 lbs, I think
I have at last found a cure for chills, I expected to have taught
school this year when I said last, but while I was gone I declined
the idea of teaching any this year, I will rest one year and see
if I cant permit my health as confinement does not suit
me, What do you think of the idea? I have concluded there is



no use in my killing myself for the sake of a little money
and after it is made not be able to enjoy it, I will try and
support this year on what I made last and when A. rolls around
take a fresh start. You said something about the star man, in
your last letter to me, wanting to know if I could not take
pity on him and be a mother to his grown up girls, then
you were mistaken for he has but one child and that is
a girl and one of the nicest little creatures you ever
saw, just let me tell you, I had the pleasure of his company
home, all of them said here that they did not know what to
do with such a sick and stylish star fella, he told Mamma
that I had been flying round in Marshall visiting all of
my new kin on his side and that he had come down
to his kin, on my side, she asked him how he looked then
looks, and his reply was very much indeed, he called her his
Mamma all the time, he is a nice star man but too
old for me, he will be down in two weeks and bring
Patsie with him, she will stay there several weeks, I am
anxious for Mamma to try and captivate him I think
they would suit very well, Will have you ever known such
a political excitement as is now prevailing through our land
I saw so no, you have learned in this that we are no longer
one of the united States, I tell you cousin it fills my very
soul with horror when I contemplate the dark fate that
hangs over us, it is the last thing I think of at night and the
first in the morning, God I am fearful we poor helpless
females will have to encounter many dangers and
hardships we know nothing of, Brother William
was here this morning, he is very much complaining.



has a horrid cold and cough. Charlie has been quite sick with something like Diphtheria which has been prevailing through this portion of country for some time and has proved fatal in many ~~many~~ instances. Marnie has been sick for several weeks but is improving she is a poor frail delicate child, but is a very intelligent child for one of her age, and I must here say a very bad spoiled one, and I am sorry to say has a most ungoovernable temper. I often wonder what will become of her she is so self willed, if you ever read Beulah I think you have some idea what kind of child may be for their dispositions are very much alike at least I think so, and I hope she may be as intelligent as she was but it is vain to make such a wish. You must write me as soon as you receive this let us try and be more punctual in future, you must excuse me for writing this dull thing for I have had the head ache for a week. Give my warmest love to your Pa Ma, & Johnny also Bens Family Kifs the little ones for Cousin Sue, All sends much love to you all Marnie says Kifs little Charlie & Willie Goodby for her
Yours so fondly
Sue Gilmore

Miss Callie Jennie Anthony
Walnut Hill