

Glen Villa. Jan. 23, 1877

My darling brothers:

I sent you a postal last week and write now, to advise you Jackie, about your studies. Why did you give out studying Latin? We all say for you to send to Knoxville for your books just as quick as you can, and begin Latin without farther delay. There is no reason why you should not study it, and if you ever expect to be a Dr. it will be of great benefit to you. Don't waste your time and money doing nothing; both of you ought to apply yourselves closely to all your studies and be as diligent and earnest as if your life depended on good lessons. Your letter was mailed Tuesday, and reached us Thursday. We were so glad to get it, it was a very good letter, and I was proud of it. You must not get into the bad habit of writing with a pencil, and be more careful, and don't write on the wrong page. You must also Punctuate, and when you ask a question, always put an interrogation mark after it, like this? You did right to send the card to K- to be mailed. We rode some on the chairs after you left. The sleigh never came back to ride us. Jo was down Sunday, he came to the River several times while it was frozen. The ice began to break up here Saturday, and the River was clear Monday. J.C. and Bob tried to catch a canoe on Sunday, they got out in the River, and the ice came down behind them, and they had to land at the little cove, and climb up the cliff.

Harve Covington walked on the ice from Hudson's to our Springs, a few days before it broke, he had a sled and a dog, and got a bushel and a half of corn from Brother, and put it on his sled, and went back on the ice. Brother hauled the "Flying Betsy" up, and put her under the ~~ouch~~, so she is waiting for her Capt. to launch her in the Summer, for the Georgines to ride in.

Jim Scaoper passed here today, dressed in a new suit and a paper collar. Irene did not go to Knox Co. Until the Thursday after you left. We had a long letter from her, she is much pleased, says the family are plain, nice people. "Rinctum" stays in her room a great deal, am afraid she will get tired of him.

Mr. Kirkpatrick is talking about taking on about Mrs. Sanders, says she is prettier than any of the young girls, he went to see her Sunday.

Charlie has been working Nellie and Baylesx in a four horse wagon, says they work like old horses.

Henry Delaney was at Uncle Lile's last week, he came over and sat with us several hours, said he would be very glad to see you boys. He says he never saw such a place for whiskey as the nobs, Jake Garmon, a great whiskey maker, died out there not too long ago. Henry says he wishes you were out at his house to hunt with him, wild turkeys are plentiful, and deer came near his house. Frank has been tending your trap John, he caught five partidges and one rabbit in it, he offered to give them to us. Frank went to Knoxville last week with his Pa.

We are buring hackberry wood, it burns fiercely. Trotter keeps enough to keep us from freezing. We missed our two babies keeping up the fire. Hope you have good warm fires. I want to see which one of you will write the nicest letter home before June. Try your best every time. Don't go off to stay all night, be good and sweet, and don't forget, while you are

preparing to make good intelligent men of yourselves, that there is a future life after this one is over. You don't know how much you are in my thoughts my darlings. All send love.

Your ever loving Ellen

Is my letter too long? do you get tired reading it? You must write again before many weeks. Baby why didn't you put a line in Jack's letter?