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Title: Letter from a Dickinson Student to Sarah A. Currier

Date: January 10, 1844

Location: I-Friends-2008-1

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Lickinson College, Jan. 10. 1864.

Dear Cousin Sarah:

According to the promise made in my ~~last~~ ^{previous} communication, I now write you that which I hope in the end will prove a long though not a wrong letter. I have again comparative leisure as both President Dublin and Prof. Caldwell are absent, the one at Philadelphia & the other at Harrisburg. Pres. Dublin, I believe was preaching and perhaps begging at Phila. and I hear that he has to preach there ^{twice} next Sunday. In that case he cannot get back before next Monday evening, if so we will get off from another of his visitations. Prof. Caldwell with four or five of the students has gone to Harrisburg to a State Temperance Convention; the former is one of the delegates from a Society in town, the other from the College Temperance Society. We expect them back on Friday at noon. By his absence we are free from one recitation on each of the mornings until his return. Conroy of whom you have perhaps heard Jim speak is one of our delegates. We instructed our fellows to make a speech to the convention, and as he is a perfectly smart fellow and a very good off hand speaker he will no doubt speak forth to them in fine style. We thought it doubtful whether Prof. C. would be able to go as it commenced to snow yesterday morning but fortunately it did not fall so deep as to prevent the cars from going down.

Our College is the only one I believe that sends delegates to this state convention. Let me tell you what has been going on here of late. In your letter I think you speak of humbugging. We have had some humbugging lectures here of late, just before the examination. There were two lectures on Astronomy; also two or three on animal magnetism, or mesmerism. I did not attend either and have never attended one of ~~the latter~~ ^{on} animal magnetism. As I did not attend them, I can only tell you about the former from hearsay. The lecturer commenced by telling his audience, that, "Agreeable to his ever sacred promise he appeared before them." The result of his experiments was anything but satisfactory, as far as I heard & therefore there was very little said about it. Suffice it to say that whilst he was engaged in making them and occasionally interspersing them with the

quotation from the "immortal poets," the words: "Law, now, I drink so, doo," &c came from some Dutchman from a remote corner of the hall. On exhibiting les majors, with the "parouscaris," little dog, riding triumphantly upon his dewy mane, the huge monster was saluted with a shower of rotten eggs; and cries of "turn the monster out" resounded from all parts of the hall. After the lapse of two hours during which there occurred various other interruptions which the lecturer bore with Christian fortitude, having perhaps become acquainted with the character of the rising generation of Carlisle, and knowing that he would gain nothing by reproving them, he announced that he would dwell more upon some of his exhibitions of that night, and in addition give some microscopic views of various small objects in natural history; whereupon the assembly adjourned to meet at the same place on the Wednesday evening following. I heard very little about the lecture on Magnetism, and what I did learn was by no means interesting or different from the most common cases of which I've read. Besides these two humbly ~~there were~~ two very interesting lectures delivered by two of the professors, Caldwell & Allen. The subject of the latter was Character, an analysis of which I took for my waistband, having no paper at the time with me, therefore it is not as accurate as I would wish & I will not therefore send it to you. It was a very fine affair, indeed. Interspersed with numerous anecdotes. In speaking of eccentricities of character he cited Carlisle as an example and said that in perusing his late works, he appeared in every page like Hercules trying to play monkey tricks. The subject of Prof. Caldwell was the "Germanian cause as connected with students." A great many new ideas, and a considerable instructive information were produced. About an Examination: This commenced along about the 16th or twentieth. True, though not as I expected I came off gloriously. Contrary also to my expectations I did not fail in a single department. Holiday continued usual from that time until until the second of January. We had a 'thanksgiving day' on Thursday the twenty first. The weather during the greater part of vacation was rather dis-

agreeable and we were thus for the most of the term confined in the College.
The standing being read out I found that I stood at the head of the second sec-
tion, there being three into which the class was divided. During our holiday two of
our number very well skilled in performing on the Violin serenaded the family of one
of the Professors. The old gentleman did not happen to be at home but his pretty red head
ed daughters were, they poked their ^{pretty little} heads (like that of their daddy having nothing
in them but chips & slavings) out of the windows; ~~and~~ this serenade was not
thence in vain. A few nights after this they (the violinists) paid a visit
down town to serenade the young ladies at the female boarding school. After
playing several times the edges of the ~~edges of the~~ white curtains which cov-
ered the lower halves of the windows might have been seen to be slightly drawn aside,
but all was darkness, their pretty little physiognomies could not be seen. It was
enough that had heard the music, which was indeed ^{delightful} ~~pleasant~~. I was pres-
ent at both of these serenades. On coming back we stopped ^{dwelling} at the dwelling
of another of the Prof., who is very fond of music & who I think was ^{at home} ~~at home~~
at that time. After playing one tune the fiddlers departed, though I
with one or two others ^{stopped} saw something white standing at one of the front win-
dows, having the appearance of a ghost. It was near twelve o'clock the usual
time of the appearance of these nightly visitors. Arriving at the college the study
of the Prof. who was last serened was dark, though it was light when we ushered
forth. Now for a re-reading of your letter. With respect to the first question
in which you wish to know how long it has been since you promised writing
to me, I am sure I cannot tell though I hope the answer to this will not be
delayed so long. I wrote to you, I think, a very little while after I arrived
here, something else near three months and a half since. We received a
letter from father the other day by Mr. Stettinius who went home during
vacation. It appeared by his letter that mother was unwell, as she had
been when I received a letter from him a little while before. Father was
doing nothing; and said that he would not probably do anything

for two years yet to come, and perhaps not then. I think he looks forward to being reinstated. He says that the members and messengers say that they did not know how to appreciate ^{the value of} his services until he had been turned out. He says also that every thing appears to be out of order I saw by one of the papers as also by his letter that Mr. Linscom Bassett had died, after a few days illness - aged forty-nine. I wish I had a piece of that wedding cake of which you ~~at~~ write. I have a peculiar feeling about my throat - continually swallowing and having nothing to swallow. Terribly distressing, eh? I expect to hear by your next letter that some young

MISS CURRIE

Miss Sarah Ann Currier,
Amherst,
Mass. to

CARRISLE
MASS

Jan 10, 1842
Dwight

follow has found in the person of S.A.C. his better half, as marriages seem to be as thick as blackberries ^{among you}. Send me the paper containing the announcement of the same, when it does occur. Your cabinet you say is making slow progress, I hope it may be a sure one. If I make a journey over the mountains (to the north of us) into Perry County, I will endeavor to obtain some mineralogical specimens from that renowned and enlight-ened county, where the people think that if they can work half of Sunday if they go to church in the evening. Would you not like a specimen of Penna. limestone? Lately I got you a piece of which St. Dickinson is made? It appears by your letter that Cousin Abba has sent me a bracelet I have not received it.

With love to your affectionate cousin,

P.S. Remember him to all the girls

Jos. V. Folwell.

Dickinson College, Jan. 10. 1844

Dear Cousin Sarah:

According to the promise made in my letter to cousin Jno., I now write you that which I hope in the end will prove a long though not borous letter. I have again comparative leisure as both President Durbin and Prof. Caldwell are absent, the one at Philadelphia & the other at Harrisburg. Pres. Durbin, I believe was preaching and perhaps begging at Phila. and I hear that he has to preach there twice next Sunday. In that case he cannot get back before next Monday evening, if so we will get off from another of his recitations. Prof Caldwell with four or five of the students has gone to Harrisburg to a State Temperance convention; the former is one of the delegates from a society in town, the others from the college Temperance Society. We expect them back on friday at noon. By his absence we are free from one recitation on each of the mornings until his return. Lovejoy of whom you have perhaps heard Jim speak is one of our delegates. We instructed our fellows to make a speech to the convention; and as he is a pretty smart fellow and a very good off hand speaker he will no doubt spout forth to them in fine style. We thought it doubtful whether Prof. C. would be able to go as it commenced to snow yesterday morning but fortunately it did not fall so deep as to prevent the cars from going down.

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quotations from the "immortal poets," the words: "Yaw, yaw, I dink so, doo," & came from some dutchman from a remote corner of the hall. On exhibiting leo major, with the "parvus canis," little dog, riding triumphantly upon his dewy mane, the hugh monster was saluted with a shower of rotten eggs; and airs of "turn the monster out" resounded from all parts of the hall. After the lapse of two hours during which there occurred various other interruptions which the lecturer "bore with Christian fortitude, having perhaps become acquainted with the character of the rising generation of Carlisle, and knowing that he would gain nothing by reproving them, he announced that he would dwell more upon some of his exhibitions of that night, and in addition give some microscopic views of various small objects in natural history; whereupon the assembly adjourned to meet at the same place on the Wednesday evening following. I heard very little about the lecture on magnetism, and what I did learn was by no means interesting or different from the most common cases of which I've read. Besides these two humbugs there were two very interesting lectures delivered by two of the Professors, Caldwell & Allen. The subject of the lecture was Character, an Analysis of which I took on my wristband, having no paper at the time with me, therefore it is not as accurate as I would wish & I will not therefore send it to you. It was a very fine affair, indeed. Interspersed with numerous anecdotes. In speaking of excentricities of character he cited Carlisle as an examble and said that in perusing his late works he appeared in every page like Hercules

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-agreeable and we were ths for the most of the time confined in the college. The standing being read out I found that I stood at the head of the second section, there being three into which the class was divided. During our holiday two of our number very well skilled in performing on the violin serened the family of one of the Professors. The old gentleman did not happen to be at home but his pretty red headed daughters were, they poked their pretty little heads (like that of their daddy) having nothing in them but chips & shavings) out of the windows; ~~and~~ this serenade was not therefore in vain. A few nights after this they (the violinists) paid a visit down town to serenade the young ladies at the formal boarding school. After playing several tunes the edges of the ~~& edges of the~~ white curtains which covered the lower halves of the windows might have been seen to be slightly drawn aside, but all was darkness, their pretty little physeognomies could not be seen. It was enough that had heard the music, which was indeed ~~splendid~~ delightful. I was present at both of these serenades. On coming back we stopped at the dwelling of another of the Profs., who is very fond of music & who I think was at home at that time. After playing one tune the fiddlers departed, though I, with one or two others, stopped & saw something while standing at one of the front windows, having the appearance of a ghost. It was near twelve o'clock the usual time of the appearance of those nightly visitors. Arriving at the college the study of the Prof. who was last serenades was dark, though it was light when we ushered forth. Now for a re-perusal of your letter. With respect to the first question in which you wish to know how long it has been since you promised writing to me, I am sure I cannot tell though I hope the answer to this will not be delayed so long. I wrote to you, I think, a very little while after I arrived here, ~~something~~ where near three months and a half since. We received a letter from father the other day by Mr. Stettinius who went home during vacation. It appeared by his letter that mother was unwell, as she had been when I received a letter from him a little while before. Father was doing nothing; and said that he would not probably do anything

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can work half of Sunday if they go to church in the evening. Would you not like a specimen of Penna. limestone? Suppose I get you a piece of which old Dickinson is made? It appears by your letter that cousin Abba has sent me a bracelet I have not received it.

Write soon to Your affectionate cousin,

Jos. V. F [Meinsch?]

P.S. Remember Jim to all the girls