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

Date: January 10, 1844

Location: I-Friends-2008-1

Contact:

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Dear Cousin Larah!

recovering to the prome made in employer at consincto, I now with you that which I hope in the med will prove a long though not torons letter. I have again comparathis lessure as both Tresident Dubin and Bry. Caldenel are about, the me at Philadelphia & the other of Havis my. For Dulin, I blive was preceding and perhaps begging at Phile. and I have that he huste breach there my themeday. In that case he cannot get buch before next must any evening, if so we will get of from anothing his relations. It of Caldwell with four or five of the students his gove to Harristing to a state Femperana commuting the former is one of the delegates from a doeself in town, the other from the colly temperance I voul; We expect them back on finde at noon. By his absence we are prespire one resita tion on each of the mornings until his utern. Longing of whom you have puchaps heard Sim speath is one of om deligator. We instructed one fellows to make a speak to the conventarion ask is copelly smart flow and a my good of hand species he end no doubt sport furth to them in fine style los thought it doubtful Whether prof. Co would be able to go as it comme and to snow yes lade nevering but fortimetal it did not fall so dup as to present the cars from going sound. bur College is the only one I believe that sents delegates to their state convention. It me tell you what has been going on him of late. In you letter I think you spoke of humburgs, we have had some humburging bestern here of lat, find beforethe examination. The wee two feetures on Astronomy; also two or them on animal magnetism, or mesmerism. I did not altered wither and have neverather. ded are of thoutalthe arrival magnetism. As I did not allund them, I can only tell you about the former from hereay, The leturer commenced by telling his audirece, that, agreed to his over swared promise he appeared before them." The result of his experiments was anything but satisfactory, as far as I heard & & Charges there was very letter said about it. Ruffice it to say the whilst be was engaged in making them and recasionally interspensing them with the

quotations from the immortal poets," the comos: "Low, you, I dink so, doo, '& came from from dutahman from a wente corner of the back. On exhibiting les major, with the parvus carris," little dog, riding triumphantly upon his devy mane, the high monster was faluted with a shower of rollin eggs; and aris of turn the monster and" resonated from all parts of thehalf of the Capse of two hours during which there occurred barions other interruptions which the lectures bar with christian fortitude, having perhaps become argumented with the character of the viery generation of Carliste, and knowing that he would fam nothing by repororing them, be announced that he would dwell more upon some of hinexheblins of that night, and in addition give some microscopie views of various small Spices in natural history; wherenken the assembly adjourmed to must at the same place on the wednesday evening following. I heard very little about the lecture on Magnetism, and what I did learn very by no means interesting a different from the most common cases of which I've read. Beside these two humbup throughour two way intrusting between delivered by two of the profesors, Caldwill Allew. The subject of the latter was character, an analysis of which I took on my unistband, having no faker at the time with me therefore it is not as a count as I would wish of I will not therefore seed it to you. It was a my fine offair, under Interspersed with numerous anecdotes. In speaking of excentrications of character be cities Coulile as an example and said that in perusing his late works he asheared are every hope like Henculs tying to fly member to chy. The fulgest of Brof. Calourel was the Gemberance cause as commoted with students: A great many newideas, and a consider able instructive information were produced. About on Examination: this commence I along about the 18th or twentith. There, though not as day people I came of glorous, Contrary also to my expedation I did not fail in a purph department. Holeday continued ensued from that time until intil the second of Land the had a thanksgiving day on Thursday the twenty frest. The weather during the greater bout of vacation was notherdis-

The standing being read out I found that I stood at the lead of the seems see ten, therebeing these into which the case was divided. During on holiday two of our number very well & killed in performing on the bistin severed the family of one of the Professors. The do go Ulman did not hablen to be at home but his pulty red head ed daughter were, they poked their head (like that of their dady paving nothing in them but chips & slavings) out of the windows; and this sevenale was not theups in vain. A few night after this they the violinists) paid a neit down town to severade the joint ladis at the formal boarding school offer playing should time the edges of the of Agen of the white curtains which conend the lower halass of the windows might have been seen to be slightly drawn asia, but all was darkness, their kiety little physiognomies could not be seen. It was swangh that had heard the music, which was induce offered. I was presgut at both of these serenas. In coming back we stopped at the dwelling, of another of the Prop, who is very fond of music of who I think was at that time. After playing are time the fiddles departed, though I, with one or two this par something white standing at me of the broat windows, having the appearance of a ghost. It was near twelve o'clock the usual tum of the aphearance of those nightly insitions. Arriving at the college the study of the Prof. who was last secunded was dack, though it was light when we ushoud forth. Now for a re-perusal of your letter. with respect to the prist question in which you wish to know bow long it has been since you promised writing to me, I am some I cannot tell though I hope the ausmen to this will not be delayed so long. I mote to you, I think, a very little while after I arrived a here, countries olive near three months and a half since the namida letter from father the other day by Mr. Stillining who went home during vacation. It appeared by his letter that mostly was unwell, as she had been when I received a letter from him a letter while before. Father was dong nothing; and said that he would not probably do anything

for two years get to come, and kulaps not then. I think he looks forward to being reinstated. He pays that the members and messengers pay that they did not know how to appreciate his services until he had been turned out. He kays also that ivery thing appears to be out of order I saw by one of the papers as also by his letter that Mr. Limeon Bad-bett has died, after a few days illness - ago fourty-nine. I wish I had a piece of that westing cake of which you st wite. I have a preculiar to Divallow. Friely distressing, ch! I upset to hear by your next better that some young pellow has found in the peason of SiA. C. his better half, as marriages seem to be as thick as blackburning. Sent me the paper centaring the announcement of the same when it doe, occur. How calinat 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 being court, I will endear wor to obtain some mineral of each exercise from that remound and anlight used county, when 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 Denna, limiting I suffere I get you a kine of which old diskinson is made! It apheens by your little to that cousin to be has sent me a bracelet I have not received it. With Room to Som afbetional cousin, P.S. Remember I'm to all the girls } For. V. F Manl.

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.

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 spoke of https://www.had.some.numbugging 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 lecture on animal magnetism. As I did not attend them, I can only tell you about the former from heresay. 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 then was very little said about it. Suffice it to say that whilst he was engaged in making them and occasionally interspersing them with the

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

trying to play monkey tricks. The subject of Prof. Caldwell was the "Temperance cause as connected with students." A great many new ideas, and a considerable instructive information was produced. About an Examination: this commenced along about the 18th or twentieth. There, though not as I expected I came off gloriously. Contrary also to my expectations I did not fail in a single department. Holiday continued ensued from that time until intil the second of Jan.' &c. &c. 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 the 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 thought 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

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 everything appears to be out of order I saw by one of the papers as also by his letter that Mr. Simon Bassett had died, after a few days illness - aged forty-nine. I wish I had a piece of that wedding cake of which you st write. I have a peculiar feeling about my throat - continually swallowing and having nothing to swallow. Truly distressing, eh? I expect to hear by your next letter that some young fellow 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 enlightened 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? 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