



Mrs Mary S. Gibson

Woodford Co

Versailles

Kentucky

New Albany July 4th.

Dear Cousin Mary,

It has been so long since I heard from you, and two letters in notice, that I hesitate somewhat in writing, and more in asking the question my son App requests me.

He is going to Dix for Dr. Gandee to see little Charlie Voshies, in a few days, and wishes to take our poor little fading Beauty with him, to see if new air and changed scenes will help her, and he wishes to know if you are so situated as to conveniently receive them for a few days. He does not like to take the sick child uncertainly - and we know so little of you whereabouts - that he would rather hear from you, if it will suit you.

Beauty has been sick for months.
and the Doctor says Country air is the
only help for her. She is very nervous.

I have been very ill for a fortnight
have a congestive chile, and do not re-
cover as I should. tho' I sat up yesterday.
Ma is well as usual. very thin
but not suffering as she did in winter.
She is distressed and not healing from
any of you. Not a word from Sarah
since she was here in Dec. I wrote to
her till my heart failed.

I am afraid Cousin Hart was offended
at my last letter to him. I did not mean
to show all things are changed and
I have been so used all my life to see
farm products given away to him and
friends. at my father and my own home.
that I never thought of paying them
to one of Aunt's sons. for me to ask him
for anything for Ma. (supposing)

if he had none. he would simply say
so. without an idea of money.

App wishes to go next week and if you are
at home and can believe him please
drop me a note. I do not know if
Beauty can go. She is being well.
App is now being in Louisville. Burton
is reading Law with Gen. Marlan. and
Honora is all we have with us.

Hart is asquiver this month. He has
been in an unhappy for us mood of
late. I was forced to interfere with his
treatment of Beauty - via Honora. and
he became so indignant that he has not
spoken to any of us since Burton and
App for four months. I feel it much.
but I could not permit him to outrage
all decency in his treatment of all who
were too feeble to fight him.

So troubles gather round Maury
and my path was dark enough before.
I had hoped my children would spare
me. but temper destroys everything.

and my poor son. Will I fear
mar his own happiness for his.
By a want of consideration for the
feelings of those near him.

I do hope you are all well and
happy. With love to one and all.

Believe me your affectionate
Kinswoman J. P. Vance

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to

Mrs Mary D. Gibson
Versailles
Kentucky



July 12. 79

Dear Cousin Mary.

Beauty has been so very unwell that I could not reply to your letter. for which I thank you. App was so delighted with his first holiday - and only visit to relatives that he seems nearly upset. He is as near faithless as people get to be. Never has he given me one hour of sorrow or one pain - except to see him work and suffer so much hardship.

He loves you all, and his visit has given him a new view of life.

I was so opinioned that he could not take poor Beauty. But he had only the bare sum to go and come.

Her life depends on leaving here - and I am doing all I can to gather means to send her with Howard to your home - or to a farm in Henry Co -

(Mr Beckwith's) if I can only do that -
I want Ma to go with them - for I do
not think she will ever go again if
not now.

Beauty is sick in bed now - but
will go over to the Alexanders this
week if she mend - for a day or two -
and I hope I will get money on tuesday
to send her to you. I would go with
joy - but I can do no more.

Hart is on Campbell's Bay - yet - but
as his time is out today - he will leave
there - for what place of assignment I
do not know - We do not hear from him -
When you write to him - I beg you will
make no allusion to what I wrote
you - Never seem to know anything
as a matter with him - unless he tells you -
For his sake - and mine - I ask this -
He is so peculiarly tempered that
no one can do any good with him -
and I request you to remember

this - for I should not have written
of his exhortation - except I deemed
you ought to know it - as you might
have sent me messages through some to
me. Write as if you had never heard
it - and I hope time will have touched
his higher nature - I have been able to
my children - that was in my power
and if I meet with disrespect and
want of love from them - I can best do
as I have done in other ties - bear it - till
I am at rest - I am very tired of life
without Mary - and cannot suffer much
more - I made an idol of Hart -
and am only grieving for him - for
he is too true to see through tempers
long - He loves you very dearly
do not hold on up to him - but
be gentle and kind for my sake -
He is very lovely - and in his madness
threw away what he needed so
much - and will miss - the evidence
of my intense devotion to him

I am in very Roben health - Much
worn, with the constant mussy of
ten months - But I get through our
work - and Honour has a good crop
enough to keep a cow all winter -
I will have some flour made of your
wheat for Ma - She was much pleased
at it. You are so kind to my children
that I scarcely know how to thank you.
You know I do -

I will write soon - if I find my
poor little one can go -

If Honour goes - Louie must spare
him - Will she craye all my boys?
App is silently worn than wait about
Lee - Love to Cousin Hart - and all
your children - and Lucy H.
and ~~John~~ the most truly yours

J. P. Vance

I do hope Toke's Laly is Lettie - App
thought it only teething -



Mrs Mary D. Gibson
Versailles
Kentucky

New Albany Feb 20 '77

Dear Cousin Mary,

I know your moments are full,
and with such sad tasks. But I feel so
anxious about Louie's poor little one, that
I must beg you for a note - a few words -
telling how how the babe is - and how
they are trying to raise it. My heart
aches for the dear child.

Have you heard from Sarah. I dread
to hear. She has been so worried of late
and this shock she never dreamed of,
will almost destroy her. I have never
had a line from her since she left here,
and now I am afraid to write to her.

Where are your children? I hope you
sent them out of reach of Scarlet fever.
When will Cousin Hart come home?
I did not write to him at Washington
for I felt too shocked and distressed.
Who will keep the poor little baby?

Mamma has been very sick & sleepless and
troubled - and grieving for all
It seems so strange to her to know
of death among her young kin.

She asks me to write to you kindly
and is very much worse than usual.
She is so troubled about Sarah.

Wart has not been assigned yet. But hopes
to go next month. I do not know what
we will do if he does not get employed -
for I cannot get a house unless some
of us have work. And I had to sell my
machine - so I can get no sewing
Lorson and trouble - among us all,
and I hardly know where to turn.

So write, dear Cousin, if but a note.
The days seem so dragging and sad,
and I am so anxious about you all.

God Bless you.

J. B. Vance



Mrs Mary S. Gibson
Lexington
Kentucky

N. Albany Ind May 1st
1878.

Dear Cousin Mary.

A long speck of neuralgia in
my eyes. has prevented my writing to you.
No thank you for the pictures of your
precious children, I can say nothing of
resignation to you when I look at the
face of ^{the} "Angel-Boy" as Aunt called him.

We submit. because we can do nothing.
and thenceforth hope for a meeting
with our children. all life one yearning.

I do wish you could come down and
stay a while. We all want to see you.
and the very effort would do you good.

Try to make it out. Ma wishes so
often to see you. She is not well.
has sore throat. and is very lame.

She takes deep interest in Ap's work.
waiting on hearing of every patient

and as very much gratified as I am
at his so far. Wonderful success.
Wart and Beauty were to see him yesterday.
found him with two new cases
and about his whole time filled.

See sent him letters to Dr's Van Buren
and Polk of N. York. Thanks to some
Wart - and if he can only pay his way
on the City - I think he can go on.

If I can get my bill passed he will.
He is in fine health and full of hope.
Howard is disagreeing with Wart daily.
But his thoughts are at Horttance and
wishes too. He hopes Duncan will
write to him.

Tell Duncan Beauty's pigs are
wonderful - even the little runt.
Which she petted. But I do not like
half-breeds - and value them less.

I suppose you are gardening now.
I had a long letter from Sarah H.
last week. All - feeble and low spirited.

Joe at home - not well enough to leave.
I tried to induce them to camp with us
this summer. We have beds - corn bread
and milk, and I fear the climate is
wearing them away.

When is Sally? Her mother does not
mention her. I heard she was at Waverly.
Lizzy Alexander is at home, delighted
with her staying in N. York. She had
a feast of attention. Sight-seeing. much
luxury. She is Susan's idol, and is very
lovable as well as admirable.

We have had a Mrs Cowan visiting us for
a month, a divorcee, and a German.
French free-thinker - free-lover &c &c
You may suppose she did not fit in
our home - despising all home ties. She
 sneered at my "kindness" for my children
and wanted me that I would see in a
poor house, as all men were so selfish.
I think she detested Wart's tenderness for
Mary, her daughter. Poor woman.
She doubtless all love became she made a

life mistake. She is in Louisville now,
I wish she could know your sister -
as a lesson of an unselfish life.

I wish you were here today. It
is a perfect May day, and Beauty
is going to the woods for a tramp.

Do get Duncan to write me how
you all are. I feel so anxious to
know about the children.

And when you can - please write,
but if possible come down for a
little change. It is healthy here now,
and we will be so glad.

My love and deepest sympathy
for dear Corrie Hart, and you
all.

Truly I Love
L. H. H. H.

Ben Albany May 16th 78

Dear Cousin Mary.

I had written to you the day
your letter came, and have waited till
I was better before replying to it.

My health has been more shaken than ever
before, and I fear is seriously affected.

But generally I am able to do my daily work.

Mum has been depressed by the gloomy
weather. She hopes daily, that you will
come down to see us. Her heart is very
warm to you, and yours. I wish
she could be near the sun she loves.
For we are so wretchedly isolated here.

I see Ap rarely now - an hour or
Sunday - and in such a hurry. He is
well and busy, getting a good many
patients, and very kind letters from Payne
of N York. urging him to go on. But I do not
see how it can be done, unless Congress
passes my bill.

Honora is frail again. Suffering with
terrible head aches when he is fatigued.
Why does not Duncan write to him?
I wish he would. For Honora was more
cheerful with Duncan, than I ever saw
him. What is Duncan doing? and how
are his eyes? I feel so deeply anxious
about him, we all grew so fond of him.
Will you be at Watloose all summer?
I am trying to find work. Do you think
there would be any chance of my getting
a place to teach in Sage's Institute?
I must do something, for Ma and
Beauty, and am so much better fitted
to teach than to sew, I know no one
to ask in Lexington - unless you can find out.
I have lost all hope in justice from Congress,
and we grow poorer every day, and I do see,
so I must make an effort. While I can work
as well as try to get some teaching for
Beauty. I have worked so hard, hoping
that by this time her father would be

able to pay her schooling, but I fear
her fate will be that of all other sisters.
Having no rights, except to work for these
fathers, and be scolded and unthankful.
Beauty is much better in health, and
I am getting her a dress to go to the farm
of a friend, to Ann Widd a while.

I have sowed the garden and lot, as Honora
has no work, as I feed the cow, and
Beauty's pigs, when not sick - see.
What news have you of Sarah H.? and
where is Sally? I am afraid they
will suffer from stagnation, another
summer at Lee's Oak.

What are you doing? I hope you are
busy. My only cure for heart-ache -
not cure - but relief for the time.
Minnie has asked for an unhappy
woman who has been here a month -
the most hopelessly wretched I know
since I am. Mrs. Coman, of whom you
have heard that speak. She has gone now
and will go abroad I guess for life.

The pigs destroyed my Chamberlains.
and Ma says - please make her a
jar of preserves - if you have them to
spare - She loves sweets so much,
I wish you could come down soon
dearly - for I feel lonely and sad,
and more hopeless than ever in my life.
Still it would comfort us both to be
together.

My love to Cousin Hart and those
of your children at home. Tell
Duncan to write to some of us.
All send love to you.

Truly as ever
J. Vance

New Albany April 15.

My dear Cousin.

I cannot help writing to you. Tho' I know it will be but a new pang. I grieve with and for you, that is all any human can do now.

I have felt all you feel dear Nancy, five times. in such fearful ways. I have prayed to die for them - and after thirty years, it is just the same. No words - no prayers - has shuted the agony - so I never speak of comfort or resignation. You have to live for those left - and to live you must bury you dead in your heart and make life as bright to the precious ones left - as God helps you to do.

I have thought of you constantly, wishing I could be with you all, if but to feel near to you

I hope Ab has seen you all. He loves
you every one

I have not seen him for two weeks but
know how you loss his precious smile.
We had wondered at Duncan's silence
and my heart was sore for I felt
something had happened of sorrow.
and was afraid to write.

I want to hear from you Nancy
and from the children. Will you
ask Duncan or Louie to write
if but a little note. Saying you
are all well. Our thoughts are
with you so tenderly, all the
time.

I have been ill for a week and
am now very sick with fever.
But am up today, and wish you
could be here with Nancy and
Biddy. The change of air
might do you physical good

and be of service to them.

It is so hard to stay still.
I will do all I can to make you
comfortable - and comfort you.
You know we love you.

May God comfort you.

Yours as ever
L. B. Vance



ADVERTISED

Mrs. Mary D. Gibson
Lexington
Ky.

June 12. 78

Dear Cousin Mary

Ten days ago I wrote to Cousin Hart to get for Ma a paper from Surrenal County Clerk enclosing \$1.50 to pay for the copy. Fearing the letter did not reach him - or that he was from home.

I write to know - as the papers were all ready - and she only wanted for that marriage certificate to get her pension -

She had to go to Louisville last week about it, and made several pleasant visits, to once humble friends. Who are now able to offer her hospitality - to prove gratitude for many kindnesses in years past.

Hart may remember our housekeeper

Elizabeth Sprague - My Uncle Peter Lee,
M.D. - He is living in a beautiful home
elegantly fitted - silver, china, picture
flowers - The daughter receiving
a salary of \$2700 - Another nearly
as much - and a son prosperous -
educated - accomplished people -
was delighted to please Ma -

So - some kind of kindness is now
and then gathered again -

Louise's school shows now
and I do wish you would let
Lee and Duncan come down.
We all want to see them, and it will
be a change to them - So try it,
and come with them -

I am not well - always suffering
with my head and eyes - almost
blind - Beauty is not well too -
I write in haste - to ask if my
letter went - and to beg an answer.
Love to all, your own - and so

Your Mother and Sister
I long to know Miss Lily.
God Bless you

S. B. Vance

Tell Duncan Howard says he
will forgive his not waiting for
me having Louise down.

Had as yet now - in the intense
stage of a loose fit - for a pretty
quit here - So Louise need fear
no danger to my Fort Howard
and he is just now full of
making a him by hand work.