

"Thanksgivings"

Thanksgiving is a day appointed by the Governor of each state for the people to return thanks to God for all the gifts and mercies they have received during the past year. In some portions of the country it is made a great day ~~###~~ whilst in others very little notice is taken of it, so far as merry making is concerned. It is customary with some families to have a family meeting on this day upon which occasion all the relatives spend the day and dine together. There are the aged grandparents surrounded by their children and grandchildren, there are aunts, uncles, and cousins, nieces and nephews, who perhaps have not met since the previous Thanksgiving. Now they are all present and the family circle is complete. Each has a bright face and happy heart. The younger children are

around their grandparents - two have managed to scramble into grandfathers' lap one upon each knee - and now they seem perfectly contented - a third is trying to braid his grey locks - another is pulling at grandmother's cap and trying on her spectacles - her knitting has fallen upon the floor - and one more mischievous than the rest - has pulled out the needles - and is unravelling the work - the remainder of the company are variously employed.

We have just experienced a ^{at} Thanksgiving and a happy one it was - one we shall always remember. Thanksgiving is a day looked forward to by every one with great pleasure - especially by the student - who always rejoices at its arrival and wishes every day was a Thanksgiving.

Mary Duncan

Dec. /5-5.

and he loves you too -

I must now say good bye and
dress for dinner - I hope to hear soon
from you - ~~That~~ writes with me
in much love - affectionately & ~~good~~
devoted daughter

Mary Duncan Gibson.



25th Avenue Hill.
Oct. 7th 1859.

My dearest Mother

I wrote to brother
yesterday in which I explained
why we had not written ^{often} - and really
there seems very little to say - although
we are in such a large City - I
and spent the evening at
Hewitt's yesterday - found it quite
pleasant - tomorrow I intend returning
My calls many of which I have been
so unfortunate as to lose - We are
very much at home in this hotel
it is a place I should like very much
to board in - though people will

become tired of having nothing to do. our room is a private parlor - converted into a bed room on account of the house being full. the furniture is handsome - there is one large window curtained handsomely - a large mirror - center table - figure - chandelier with five burners & a drop light - the only objection it is too high - but there is one advantage in this - ^{having} the air -

I forgot to mention having seen Robert Ford - at Mr Hewitts for the first time - we left our card at the Brevont - but he being at another hotel did not receive it - Annie is not yet well - Robert says she is very nervous - they leave here - the last of this month - about the time we expect to reach home - Bob said his mother was quite sick after she returned home from trip - having taken cold - he is as pompous as ever - which to me is very

disgusting - he asked me if I would call - I told him after he had - I mentioned in brother's letter having seen Luss - and her being here at a French school - she was so delighted to see me - she is quite near only three squares off - I intend going to see her after I finish this letter - her brother sails for Europe next week - but will be absent for so short a time that Luss - will defer her trip - her cousin Charles is now in Europe - he leave here next week for Boston - I scarcely think Lizzie will be there - but we shall only remain a few days - and would not be worth while to return from St Louis on that account.

Art - is reading while I am writing - it seem strange to have a man in my room - yet - he is so very kind to me ~~rather~~ I know you will love him for it - would you?

Ligerville Dec 15



Mr^r & Mr^r Henry G. Duncan.
Lexington.
Kentucky.

Mrs. Gilman writes to day I suppose he has for a lady to be in. I like the South very much indeed - to day is as mild as spring - but if I were compelled to live the year round here - I should not be so well satisfied - for a permanent home I like Kentucky much better. It is very pleasant to rise off from Society for the winter season - but not forever. Matilda is very well - and sends much love and a kiss - to Henry - says she misses him very much and intends writing him a letter in a few days. She says this "knobby" country - I have not seen Henry Miles yet - but Matilda has heard quite well, with the exception - of fits occasionally - I am now going out to walk but have taken a slight cold - I have a little head-ache - to day I think the fresh air will cure it.

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Oak Forest Dec. 11th 1857

My dear Parents

You will no doubt be surprised - to find we are here so soon - I mailed a letter to you at Memphis - stating our intention at that time of visiting Preston - and accordingly upon reaching Pickersburg - left the boat - and went to the hotel and engaged our room - but - we had only been there about an hour when Hart - saw a cousin of his who informed him that - Preston's wife was on a visit to her mother - and that owing to the severe cold - it would be difficult to go up the Yazoo - with comfort - we decided ~~then~~ immediately to - return to the same boat we had left - which had

gone
not ~~at~~ and had just time to
do so. We reached here Friday
noon - having gone immediately to
the cars from the boat - and not
stopping in New Orleans - We found
Mr. Gibson's carriage & servant at the
Tigerville station - and he at home
waiting ^{to} receive us - which was done
~~very~~ very affectionally - He insists upon
Hart and myself - sitting at the
head and foot of his table - while
he takes his place at the side -
From the time we left Louisville ^{the crop}
until we reached this place - I
never felt the cold more - the
state-rooms on the Diana were
cold - and the cabin not much
better - and there was no stove
in the cars from New Orleans
here - a ride of four hours or
more - throughout the South - at
least of this state - the cold ~~has~~
said to have been more

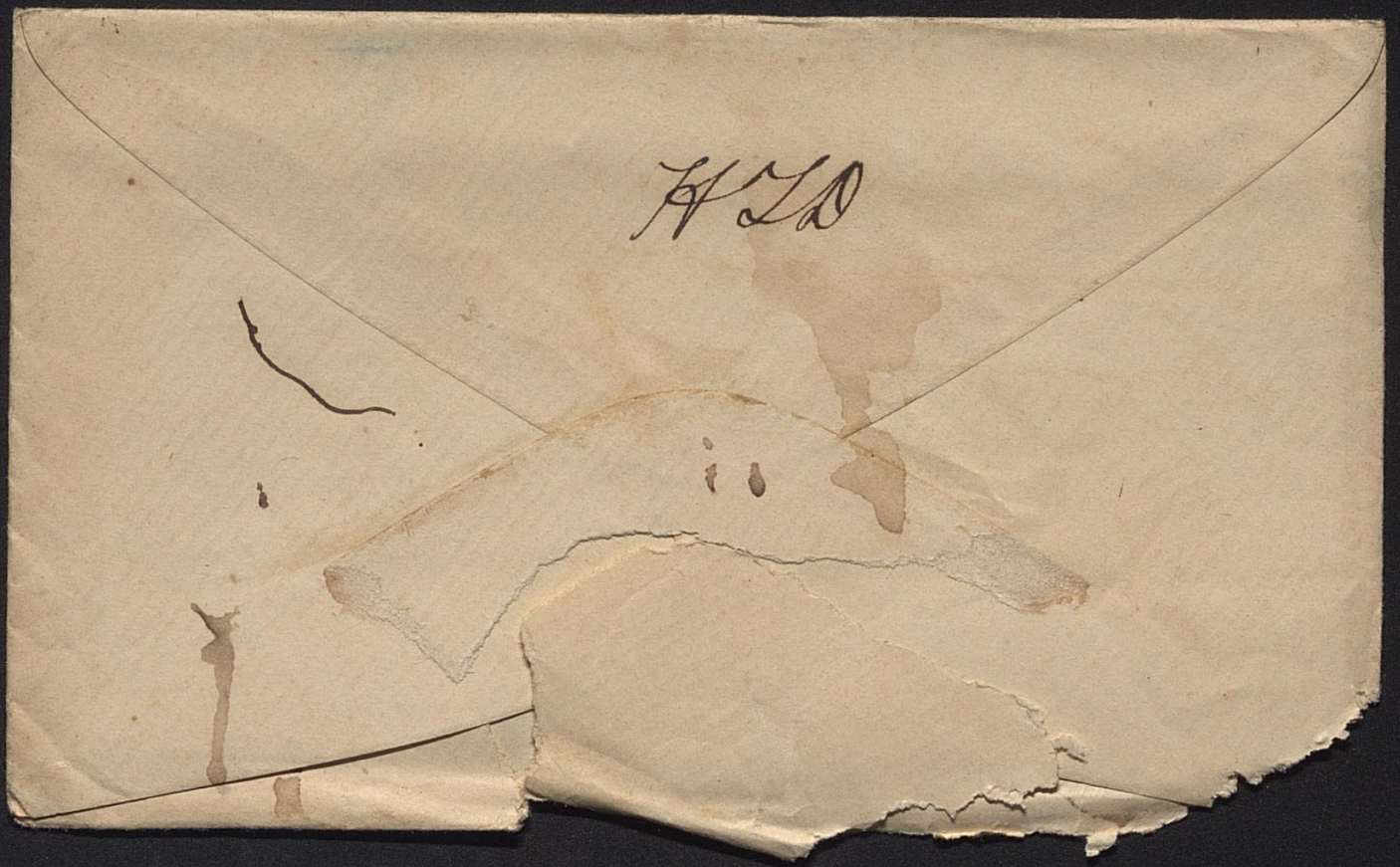
severe than it has been for
years - All the oranges are frozen
Hart - intended sending Ellen and
Lily each a barrel - but they
are all spoiling fast - at falling
from the trees - I regret it very
much - had it not been for the
frost - there would have been
oranges ripening through the
entire winter - and blossoms
at the same time - The sugar
cane has been much injured -
falling far short of what had
been supposed - however the
price of sugar for the coming
year or two - will be much in-
-creased - so that planters will not
lose much - Mr. Gibson has
a beautiful place - I rode horse-
-back yesterday with Hart - but
not upon my horse - as he
is rather wild - rearing up occa-
-sionally - not a very safe position

Superior Dec 19



Mr. H. G. Amman.

Lexington
Kentucky.



HLD

P. S. There will be a box at Elliotts
store directed to Hart but containing
our pictures - you had better get
it and open the box - write what
you think of them - a full description
for Hart - thinks of ordering another
of me for himself -
Mr T. Gibson sends his kindest
regards to all

Dillandasia
Literature, Science, & Art



71 - W. D.

Oak Forest.
Dec. 18th 1859.

My dear Father

I received your very
affectionate letter of the 11th this morn-
ing - and I assure you it was
most welcome - it is now more than
three weeks since we left home
and yours is the first letter we
have had. Hart has been looking
for a letter every day - but I did not
expect one sooner than this week
knowing you all thought us at
Preston's - I wrote to you on last Sunday
as both Hart and his Father - and
presume you received them this morn-
ing as yours to me was written on the
same day - I do not envy you - the

cold weather - it has been bright and beautiful - since our arrival - and as mild as spring. I can scarcely ~~believe~~ ^{realize} it - is December. I would write home twice a week - but there is scarcely material enough for one sheet letter - ^{on} Sundays I have concluded to write home not being near any church I think it very proper to employ the time I should spend at one - in writing home - I shall certainly expect a letter every week. What do you and Mother think of our living in Versailles? I have not yet considered the matter - knowing that Hart - would do whatever is best - his father is very much in favor of it - they have both written to you on the subject - and I suppose have said all about it.

We expect quite a house full of company Christmas week - Preston Gibson and his wife, Randal Higgins and his wife Randal Gibson and Lulie - after they

all leave - for Gibson, Hart - and myself go to New Orleans for a short visit - Is there any possibility of seeing you Mother or brother this winter -? I think Mother ought to come down the last of Feb - and return with us - there is some probability of our returning the first of April instead of May -

Matilda is well and sends much love to Henderson - she is as anxious for us to receive letters as if they were for her - she is quite entertained with all she sees - was rather astonished to hear one woman say she had not been off the place for 30 - years - I think it would go rather hard with some of those at home - to put up with such imprisonment. I shall be obliged to close my letter - for the mail -

With much love from Hart and myself to all - and wishing all a Merry Christmas and happy New Year!! I remain your loving and devoted daughter
Mary Duncan Gibson

Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Duncan.
Lexington.
Kentucky.



not written very neatly - but
the boat shakes so - it is
impossible to write steadily
particularly for one who never
writes a good hand.

We had quite a concert last
night and yesterday morning -
three Italian's - one harp - guitar
and violin - this is our only
amusement - I must now close

in order to have dinner
by the time we land
with much love to
all from Hart and myself
I remain affectionately your
devoted daughter.

M. D. G.

P. J. Winters sends her love
to Anderson.

Diana -
Sunday morning -
Dec. 10th

My dear Parents

As there is to be no
dinner on the boat to
know
no best - making
passing my time than
writing to you - we calculate to
reach Memphis - about ten or
eleven this morning - where I
shall mail this letter - we
are travelling very slowly -
from 12 - at night - until
five next morning we
are in the habit - of stopping
which will of course make

our trip longer - but I think
it a much better one - than
being in such a hurry.

We left Portland about 12-
o'clock Wednesday night - the
weather being delightful, but
on Thursday there was a
sudden change - rain, snow,
and hail, each after the
other which has made the
journey so far - rather disagreeable
the staterooms being very cold
and even the cabin -

Maria has been very well -
is quite delighted - with all
she sees - yesterday afternoon she
was a little home-sick - till
Henderson - she had one cry
for him - when the weather
becomes warmer - we can go
on deck - The boat is a neat
and comfortable one - and

if any of you come south this
winter I advise you to come
on the Diana - she is considered
"slow - but sure" - There are not
many pleasant people on board -
Mrs Mitchell - Gen Combs daughter
is one of the passengers - she came
up and spoke to me - Wednesday
evening - and has been very
sociable since - I find her a very
pleasant lady - Mrs
Virginia Johnson are
passengers - but I have nothing
to say to Mrs - H - Mrs Johnson
has had one chat with me -
they are like all the family - very
much set up - There is a Mrs
Ancomb & husband - Mrs A - is
sister to Mrs Henderson of New
Orleans - she told me her
sister was invited to our
house once - My letter is