

New Castle Jan 4 81

Dearest May

I received your letter this morning and appreciated ~~it~~ very highly the interest you took in me and I will swear to you by all that is high and holy that I will never be caught in that state again so help me Moses. You mentioned something in your letter about that knife

I thought you said it belonged to you but if you want it you may have it. I am going to get school after this week as I am not learning any thing around

there but mean less and
I think that I have learned
enough of that for a little
while at least. How do
you like my character
in that play I think it
is the best character in it
and as usual you always
go back on me. Will
Jackson and Emma
Thomason have played
old guth. We were play-
ing truth up at Mrs
Perry's the other night
and some body asked Emma
who she loved best on this
earth and she said Willie
Jackson and he said
that he was very sorry
that he could not re-
turn the compliment so
that was what the fuss

was about but dont you
tell any body that I told
you and I believe that
Bob and Mary have just
too. But I do sincerely
hope that it will not be
our time next. I was
around to the college to
night to see the Madam
about letting Bos Place
have the other place in
the drama so we have
very nearly all of our orig-
inal company. I want
to tell you my future plan
of business I will stay
in the Drug store until
next fall and then I will
go to the school of Pharma-
cy and study drugs a year
and then I will come
home and read medicine
under Dr Jackson

for two or three years and
then practice medicine for
four or five years and then
go to reading law and be
a lawyer for two or three
more years and then I
will be a preacher of the
gospel and finally wind
upon being a helper of
the poor house so you
see I have a very broad
field marked out and
now to be candid and
sincere with you and
tell you that (I love
you dearly) I knew
your father and mother
and always had a great
affection for you.

I pause for a reply

Yours truly

Captain Clarence Courtington

FOUNTAIN

Dear Mr. Castle
I have been thinking
of the matter for some
time and I have been
pleasur'd that I have
an opportunity of
meeting you in London
and still
no invitation from
Judge Blackstone to
visit him at his
country house should
I like to see an aristocracy
but such a life I had
counted on having a fine
time out there and if
I do not go and
just save the haul of
myself and my
baggage

I was very much pleas-
ed at the selection
of the professor
that you named and
I have decided on being
in charge but don't
you tell me what you
think of it. I am
going to be a dining room
and I think it will be
well to have this happen
in the year any how
You asked me to try I
tried the blue band
~~and the cap for well~~
I will tell you if you
~~will not tell any~~
body else as long as
I live this evening thing
~~is not by the way~~ you
and I and if we ever
follow (and I hope we
never will) I will put

a piece of crape over
the ribbon. The mad-
am has honored me
very highly by giving
me the ribbon ribbon
position of Lord and
Lady in the garden of
St. James. I wish you
would tell me where
abouts on the map of
the island of St. James
is the place called
Secret Grove. I look-
ed for two hours yes-
ter day and could not
find it. You asked
me if I had found out
what that sentence
was I well I must
say that I have
not but I will
ask the madam to-
day, while I am around

a piece of paper over
the substance of the matter

and was
to the same class
I sympathize with
you all in this
unfortunate situation

and I shall
continue to do
what I can all
the while. But I will
have to close

your truly
L. L. L.

and I shall
continue to do
what I can all
the while. But I will
have to close

Jan 13 - 81

New Castle

Dearest

Your note of the 12th was duly received and was highly appreciated. I hope that you enjoyed your self last night at the party. But these religious parties are about the best sort of amusement in the world. I don't know how Bro Knell would have enjoyed it. I think that you will enjoy it more than I do.

Christian

next Sunday and if Bro Reid calls on me to pray I will

Just up a petition to
my father that will

I went down to the turkey
shooting and tried my hand
But I had just as well
been blind for all the
good it did me I shot
five times and gubt I
thought that the cheap-
est way for me to get
a turkey would be to
get up in town and buy
one the only thing I got
was a bad cold and a good
scolding from pa in not
getting home to my dinner
in time Bob made as poor
an out as I did so we de-
cided to have a turkey shoot-
ing of our own and then
we will not have such

a long range to shoot
down there they had 275
yards distance and you
could not hardly see the
turkey at that distance
we will have it about
five yards distance
and then I think that
it will be more chances
to our one in ~~no~~ hitting
it. You girls told me a
story yesterday you told
me to come around to the
college yesterday and
practice singing and I
being a very obedient
youth started but just
as I got to the Pres by te-
rian Church I saw the
madam coming out of
the house and I came
back and I thought that

I would wait until she
got by the store and I
would start again and
just as I got even with
Captains she came out
of there and said that
there would be no sing-
ing to day and that
you had gone down
to the school so I gave
it up and went back
I asked the madam
what that quotation
was and she said that
she did not know she
asked me where I got
it and I told her that
I saw it in a paper
as I have used up all my
paper I will have to close

I am yours Truly
W. W. Masterson
Someone stole my heart away
Riding mad - ed old sleigh

FOUNTAIN

New Castle 1st 5-80

Dear Sir

You can not
imagine the immense
quantity of flour
of the finest quality
the soul of the
and the best of the
New. Now I want
to make a bargain
with you that
if you will
transact business
I want that
I will treat to candy
oranges or any thing
else that you will
call for. I have
my curiosity

excited and I want
to know what is the
train station of it is
I hope that you could
be better by it. In
time the people
those who are
I am sure they will
of the cabin which
and they are in the
side and I went down
to see the camera
yesterday and we had
a fine time in church
she said that Tom
and I were both drunk
up to Judge Priggs
the night of it
same and I promised
her like I did you
that I would never
do so again and if
I had my way I would

give her a ring so I
had better be careful
as it will be a very
expensive old diamond
as I will have to
pay for the ring.
Well here is that
agreed having heard
the sad news of
yours in Missouri
getting along I heard
his papa say the other
day that he was com-
ing back in march
and won't that make
your heart rejoice
But I must say that
he is a sworn enemy
of mine and I hope
the cars will run off
the track and break his
neck if it would not
hurt any body else

I went down to Emma
I hom as one last night
Friday night to a candy
pulling and staid
till eleven o'clock that
night and had seven
plates of candy and every
one of them turned
to sugar and I went
down there the next
day at eight and staid
till twelve and just
got one plate of candy
out of eight. Bob and
Will Jackson and my
self went to Emma
yesterday evening
in the rain and we
had a fine time you know.

as it is school time I must
close I am yours truly
July 11 1844

Newcastle 2-21-81

Dear Lizzy

It seems an
age since I had the pleas-
ure of having a talk with
you and I have not
even had the pleasure of
seeing your sweet face
for a long while. The
girls have been trying
for the last week or two
to get me to write Lida
a love letter so she
can show it to you
to see what you would say
~~at~~ Now I want you to
assist me. Some day I will
write to her and give

it to her at dinner
time and I want you
to be up in town when
I give it to her and
make out you want to
see it, and instead
of a love letter I am
going to abuse her for
every thing that I
can think of I kind
of think that it will
stop her for a little
while any way and the
laugh will be on your
side instead of on hers
but dont you tell her
that I told you as
it would spoil the
fun I will be around
to school after it is
out and give you

girls a lesson in chem-
istry and show you
how to make oxygen
and hydrogen as the
boys have been over after
me for a few times
to go over to the court
house and help them
build the stage I must
close good Bye

Yours Truly
W W Masterson

Miss Lizzie Herndon

do not see how we are going
to arrange about your returning
with me in our horse as you can not
come in of nights

New Castle May 5-81

My Dearest Lizzie

I suppose you think that I will never answer your letter it was not because I did not appreciate it or because you did not answer as soon as I expected. But it was because this is the first opportunity that I have had. For yesterday I was busy all day posting up books and last night I went with some boys to help them some some manner and I did not get in until late and this morning Matt was writing to Laura Pryor but dont tell that on him.

and so you see this evening
is the first opportunity
I have had but you can
better believe that I will
avail myself of this one
For nothing affords me more
pleasure and if my writing
is any pleasure I feel as if
I could write to you forever
I do hope that ^{only} these plays
that I will get this evening
will suit but if they do not
I am going to send for some
more for I am determined
that we will have the
best play of the three if
it costs me one years wages
and the only thing I want
you to do is to beat Levia
Ist performing which
you can do very easily. Matt
and I had quite a discussion
about you and Levia he said

<sup>and some back thought it was a kind of
of a kind over the business but I
thought</sup>
that she was and I of
course said that you was
he seems to think that
as long as you do not act
with him you cant do any
thing at all but I think
he will be miss taken this
time. Well the Madame says
that I can come around at
four o'clock every evening now
as Joe Felix is out and so
next week I will come
you spoke of spending your
sunday so agreeably well I
must confess that mine
rather as agreeably nor as
profitably. I do not think
it will happen again very soon
But there is one thing that
is very strange about it
and that is how they did
not find it out on those
other boys who were with me

I am going to commence to
write to you more than I have
the past of days. Study & write
mine

but yet they found it out
on me. The other day as I
went home to dinner I picked
up a letter headed My Dearest
Lizzie Well you should have
seen how quick I picked
it up I thought you had
dropped one of my letters
but I found that I was
mistaken as it was some
of the little girls that had
written to ^{little} Lizzie & me and
I felt very much relieved
when I found out I was
wrong. you said in your
last that you had a
question to ask me in
your next about Bob well
I will answer any thing so
let me know what it is

Miss Lizzie Herndon

New Castle

Kentucky

Henry Co

other I must close for tonight I am yours
very near as much as I would like
would appreciate them or may
get them any way that I
letter but I am so glad to

New Castle May 19 - 1881

Dear Lizzie

I will now try
and answer your highly
appreciable letter of Tuesday.
And so you think that your
company was not missed and
especially by myself I do not
believe that I was ever so
disappointed in my life but
of course it was not your
fault. I had not heard of
that rumor about us going
to Vevey to get married
until you told me about
it. The other boys and girls
were talking about going
over there but I told them
they would have to excuse
me this time and they

asked me if it was because
you was not along and I
told them yes and I sup-
pose that is how it got
started. I hope you can
go on that fishing excuse
you made up for I
expect they will have a
nice time. I believe we had
your curiosity very much
excited Sunday about our
whispering with each other
well it was some thing
pretty bad and at the next
favorable opportunity I will
tell you about it. Here where
I stopped off writing with
a pen is where they told me
to come around to the college
and now I am writing
under a good many dis-
advantages for those girls
are making such a noise

in the other room write
at all. and so you was
going to have some pic-
tures taken for the girls
was you and leave me out
all together well now dont you
know that I would prize
one of your pictures as one of
the most precious gifts that
you could bestow on me
for then I could have your
dear sweet ^{image} ~~face~~ always
along with me and that
would be the next best
of seeing you. I suppose
you think it rather strange
in me not much more
than speaking to you last
Sunday but I could not
very well avoid that with-
out just crowding Bos
clear out of your company
which is some thing I would

not like to do. and when
finally he took you in the
parlor I gave up all hopes
of seeing you that evening
so I went up in town
and wrote a card to you
thinking that you would
stay in to church that
night but I was disappoint-
ed again so I came down
two more times again
and the last time you had
to go home so you see
my intentions were good
I will promise you the
next opportunity I will
have a picture taken just
for your especial benefit
I do not think it strange
at the way head of our last

New Castle Thursday June 9-81

Dearest Lizzie

I will now try and answer your ever welcome letter and I think that it will do me some good (I could conceivably be giving me the Dickens) now I do not intend to try and excuse my self for that would do no good But O Lizzie if you just knew what temptations that I have to stand and what a week seeing fool that I am probably you would not think quite so hard of me & do not blame you a particle for I know that I have treated you badly and it is a wonder to me how I can treat you so badly or what I can be thinking about when I am doing it and I do believe that I am the most unprincipled wretch living Now I will not ask you to forgive me any more for do not think that I deserve to be forgiven But please look on it as one of my failings and try to look over it if you can ~~xxx~~ Lizzie you do not know how much good it does me to think that I have found a dear

sweet friend in you and I never
felt so grateful to anyone in
my life as I do to you. Will
you let me accompany you to
the levee Friday night if you have
no other engagements. Please let me
know - as soon as you receive this
and if you do not think
that your pa would object I will
come out there after you. I be-
lieve that you will loose
those car a mile for to night
and to morrow night. I do
not see how the madame could
complain of you for I think you
^{performed} ~~did~~ very sweetly. I hope our cor-
respondence will ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~now~~
that school is out for it will be
bad enough not to get to see
you without not having the
pleasure of writing to you but what
bothers me is how are we going
to pass our notes but I will tell
you what I can do. I can ride out
to your yard fence once a week
after night and I will arrange
a place to hide the letters now if
there is any mistake in this just
consider the way I feel for I feel so
bad that I could not study. But I feel
a great deal better now since I have written
to you excuse paper
Yours Lovingly
G. W. M.

[Postmarked 1881]

think that that will be
the best thing that I can
do for I tell you that I
if cannot stay here and keep
from it. I do be lieve that
if Pa would tell me that he
would disan herit if I did
not stop I am afraid he
would have to drive me
of. Now last night I had
to go home at eight o
clock to keep from getting
"under" it seemed last
night the boys ~~seem~~ were
determined to get me
drunk just be cause I had
told them that I had sworn
off. But yet some people
think that all anyone has
to do is to say no but

New Castle Friday June 14th
Darling Lizzie
I will now try and
answer your most welcome let
ter of yesterday evening. I did
not intend to write to you
untill to morrow But as you
say that you are going to
leave Winchester so soon I
thought I had better write
immediately. I was very
much surprised to hear that
Elish did not go to see you
when he came up. He prom
ised me that as soon as he
got to Winchester he would
go and see you. The first
thing he done when he got
there and it was in that
conclusion that I let him

have the letter. But I am
very sorry now that I
not send it by mail so
I will not be caught like
that again. The whole town
is excited over a big game
of base ball that we are go-
ing to have here this evening.
The girls and the boys seem
to be taking more interest
in it than the boys. The
up town boys that is
the boys that live on the
north side of Market street
have challenged the downtown
boys to play them a game
of base ball this evening.
But I do not suppose you
know where Market street
is well it is the street
that passes along by your
house the one that runs
east and west. I wish

that you could be here
to see it. The girls and
boys had a little party
around to Mr Craven's
last night but I did not
go as the girls company
that I had engaged could
not get to go and as I
did not find it out until
it was late and then every
body else's company was
engaged. I have come very
near to the conclusion that
I will go to Carrollton and
read law under Pa's partner
there and as that is a local
option town I mean by that
a town that does not allow
any intoxicating liquor
of any kind to be sold
there and a boy that goes
there and drinks is not
allowed in society so I

they are wrong there the
only way to keep from it
is to keep out of town
I never was in such a pickle
in my life for on one
side you threaten to cut
me off and on the other side
about two dozen boys are
trying to make me break
over but enough of that
for the present. I am very
glad that you have deci-
ded to come home a week or
two sooner than you expec-
ted for it seems long long
time since I have seen you
But dont forget to have
your picture taken before
you come back. Well I
will accept your excuse

for not letting me come
up to see you before
you came home. Well
as we have to play the
match game at 2 o'clock
and it is now half past
one I will have to close

Yours Only

W. N. Masterson

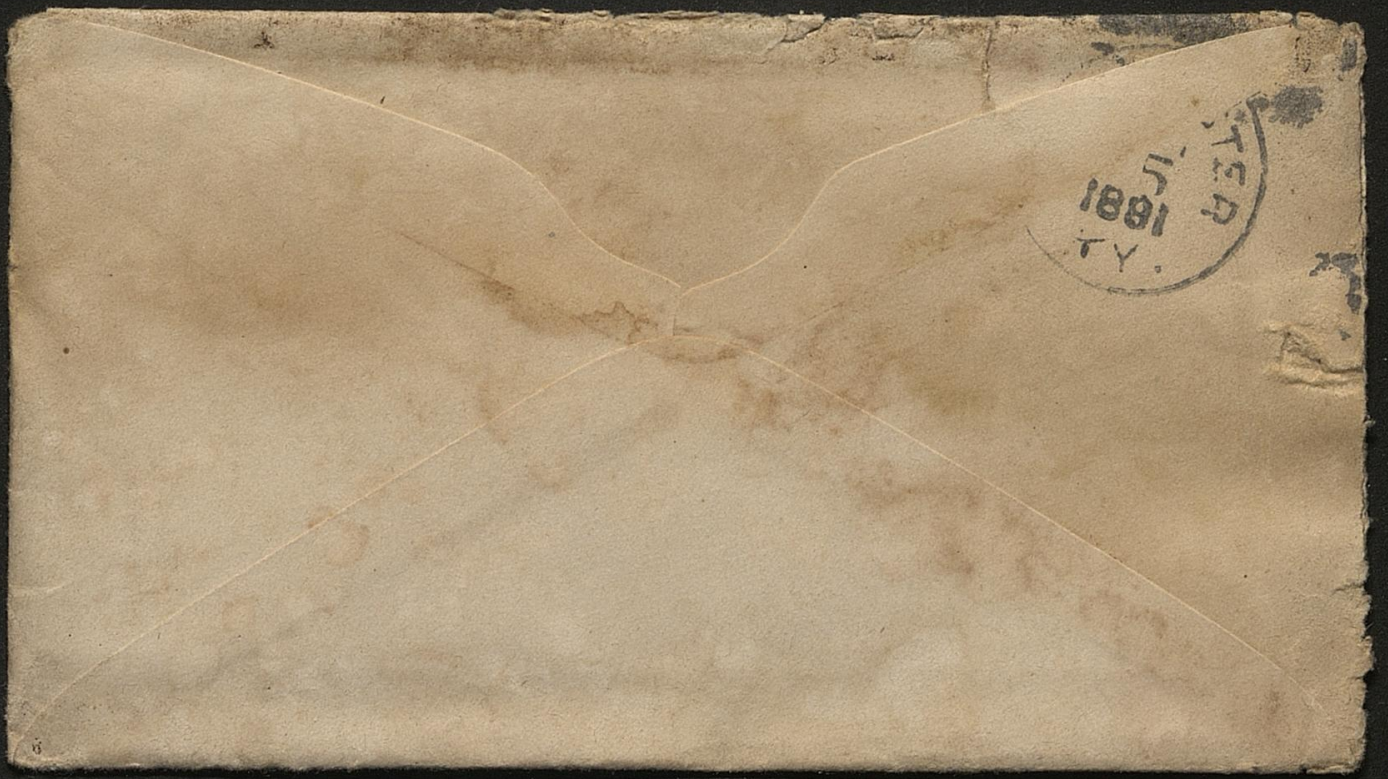


Miss Lizzie Herndon

care of
James Smith

Winchester

Clarke Co
Kentucky



[? 1881]

God sends his love and regards
that he would like to see you
Lizzie very much

P. S.

Carrollton Tuesday Sept 13

Dear Lizzie

I waited in vain for a letter before I left home from you but it seems as if you have forgotten me entirely. And if you remember the last thing you said to me when I was out to your house was to write to you and I did but I never received an answer. Now Lizzie is there ~~any~~ any thing the matter have I said any thing or done any thing that would make you mad or are you just getting tired of me or what is it. I do not know when I will come home but some time inside of a month any way. I am going over in

Indiana to the Switzerland
county fair to morrow and
from there I will go to Madison
I think that I will go around
by Louisville ~~by~~ as I come
home and attend the expro-
tion. I suppose you had a nice
time while you was gone.
~~I want~~ but I have not heard
how you enjoyed yourself but
I suppose that as long as there
was any boys around you had
a fine time. I wanted to see
you before you came away I
wanted to get that plain
gold ring of yours and have
your monogram put on it
but you was to come the
evening that I came away
so I had no chance of seeing
you. If you say so in
your letter I will have
some of my pictures taken

while I am in Madison
Now Lizzie answer this
please and if you do let
it be here by saturday
or ~~late~~ Monday or Tuesday
at the farthest as I do
not know where I will be
after that time. I suppose
that you are tired of my
scrubbing so I will close
Yours lovingly

Address care of
Wm S. White
Milton
Trimble Co
Ky



Miss Lizzie Herndon
New Castle
Henry Co
Ky

Newcastle Sunday Oct 2

Dearest Lizzie

If you decide to write to me while I am gone direct the letter to Ed Masterson Carrollton Ky. do not direct it to me as the post master here will see my address and tell Pa where I am but direct it to Ed and I will get it. Lizzie Dear I joined the temperance society and I am still trying to do right although it is very hard. I hope you will please answer my letter while I am gone. Well as it is time I am gone as

I have to meet the train in
Cambelsburg & must close

Good Bye Darling
Yours Lovingly
W. J. W.

Miss Lizzie Herndon
Newbern
Kentucky

Newcastle Oct 2 51

Dear Pa & Ma

No doubt when
you get this you will
be very much surprised
that I have gone away
but it is an absolute
case of necessity but I
will be back home as
soon as the grand jury
is over But I will promise
you one thing and
that is that I will be
home soon. Please do not
be uneasy about me
as I will be have the
best in the world

Your Son

W. W. Masterson

Day November 24th 1851

New Castle Thanks giving
My Dearest ^{Little} Secret Heart

It again is my pleasing
task (if writing to you could
be called a task) to answer
your letter of yesterday and
I always try to make it
a rule to commence to an-
swer your letters the day after
I receive them. So that my
letters will be the last one
you receive as you say it gets
to you Saturday evening so
that you may think of me
all day Sunday and as I
write such a poor hand I sup-
pose it you have to read it
over five or six times before
you can make all of it out

so that on Sundays it will
be some amusement to you
in trying to read my letters
for I must confess that
after I write a letter and
let it stand for some time
I cannot read it myself
and it has been a wonder
to me how you can read them
at all but as you never com-
plain I suppose you have
no trouble, but then you
know it may be from prac-
tice (as you have received
so many from me) I do
not know whether you do it
or not but it is a source
of a great deal of pleasure
and comfort for me sometimes
when I feel bad to slip off
and go up into my room
and lock the door and there

read over the many letters
that you have written to me
assuring me of your love
towards me a poor lost boy
and that next to seeing
you is one of the greatest pleasures
of my life. Last Sunday
I went over home as soon as
church was over to write
you a note to send in Mary
Bruce's letter and I had no
sooner commenced than here
came in Mr. King and Mr. Webb
Corbin and old Mrs. Smith
and it is hard to tell
which is the greatest of the two
some patience of the two
old Mrs. Smith you know
that old lady that came
here when the meeting first
commenced she is the one that
sets up close to the organ

she is a regular old religious
fanatic. I do not reckon there
is any more use in me dis-
cussing her to you any more as
suppose you have seen
her. Now I appear to
know of some things
that were new and very
interesting while those I was
around after dinner. Let
Carlin sing for about two
hours and then she talked
all of the rest of the evening
so you see I did not have
an opportunity of sending a
note to you and so I thought
I would wait until I wrote
my regular letter. Mary told
me today that she has not
sent it yet.

Dear Mother
I by lack of other and I am
thankful that I can
enjoy the privilege
for I know that if I had
not my feet descented
would have been cast off
long ago but your loving
patience has made me all
that I am or ever will be
in this life although you
say that you have
been disappointed in me
and I finally made up my
mind to join the church and
that influence with yours con-
fined saved me from ever

and if it had not been for
that blood loss that I had
to you I never would have
been so happy. I know that
you will be glad and I am
thankful for everything that
you have done for me.

When I was in the city
I was full of love and
kissed your smiling face
and we were kissing that
we had no more of you.

That was in the morn-
ing I wanted to send it to
you so that it would take
you by surprise but I did not
know exactly where to send it
and I was very much
troubled by the matter.

I was very much
troubled by the matter
and I was very much
troubled by the matter.

When we about the con-
tact we let come off. Today
we are to have the
theater burnt and some
songs and the ten central
there. I have a quiet song
and I have a quiet song
and I have a quiet song.

I have a quiet song
and I have a quiet song
and I have a quiet song.

I have a quiet song
and I have a quiet song
and I have a quiet song.
I do believe that

These Brewsters are about
as long winded as any family
that I was ever of. Last night
I received a letter from my
primary school teacher in
the town where we live. He
wrote me a very kind letter
and I hope

that you will agree with him.
There is thanks giving day
and how many things
should I be thankful for.
I had only money but I
was thankful to have all that
we have have been spared thus
far and that we have them
without loving each other
and although we cannot see
each other as often as we might
I hope we will all be
happy and well.

[1881?]

New Castle Dec 20
Dearest Suzzie

It is with pleasure that I now take this opportunity of responding to your ever welcome missive of the 17th. And so you really thought that I was mad at you. well I wish that you or some body else would be kind enough to inform me what it was about and all of the particulars. in your next note if you do not commit murder untill I fall out with you, then you will never do it. I heard quite a compliment passed on you

yester day some person
said that you looked
prettier and sweet-er
yester day than they
had ever seen you look
If that was the case
I wish that I could
have seen you for I have
a great curiosity to
see you look any prettier
and senter than you look
every day. Bob Will
& ack son and I went to
pleasures velle yester
day election ering for
you we got so cold
going there that we could
not talk at all so we
had to turn around
and come back to Com-
science to get thawed out
I think that the next
time we go to pleasures

velle it will be when
~~there is~~ we have a little
warmer weather than it
is now. as there was not
a single fox in the place
that I could find.
Boswell Pearce & I are
going out to Mt Gilead
to night to an oyster sup-
per. all the boys are sol-
id for you in that pre-
cinct. If any body asks
you if you are a can di-
date tell them no. some
body has gone and told
it around town that
you was a candidate
and it took some pretty
tall lying to get out
of it. My cousin came
up yesterday and brought
me his uniform with
him. and if it be agree-

make the time ^{some} busy ^{with} ~~the~~
cannot ~~complain~~ of a ~~short~~
& come that ~~night~~ ~~at~~ ~~an~~
Mr. the ~~land~~ as I cannot
might I will have to ~~stay~~
I think we will come out
I think day night as you
have no other company
& so I will wear my
uniform out there and
you tell your cousin
that I am a cadet
from West Point. you
seem ~~to~~ to think that
the uniform is so much
more becoming to me
we will see what she
says about it. we would
like to take you and
your cousin to the con-
cert - but I am in the st.
so. I will have to rehearse
just before it commences
so I cannot come that
night and on Christmas