

and would cur a smaller salary
but I feel it is wrong for us to
complain, when we have so
many blessings as we have. I
often wonder why God is so good
to us, in all our troubles & misfortunes.

How seems in a fine humor today
he has succeeded on some plans
he has wanted to go a long while.
I can't explain them, I am glad
to hear that you made another
"hit". Hope they will all work out
some good for you all, even if I see
not time to see it. I wish your marriage
had as bright a future as your boys
have. God has caused it no all along
and will be with

Nashville Tenn. Feb 17. 1908.
1510 Broad Street.

My Dearest Precious Boy:
Tomorrow will be
your thirty second birth-day, & I wish
with all my heart I could give you
thirty-two kisses, & good hazel hugs.
Well as I can't, just know that I
am thinking of you, & wishing for
praying for all the blessings of life &
Eternity to fall to you, & that God
may spare your life to a good old age.
I hope you may always be as cheerful
& bright & happy, as you are now, even
if your Cash letter was, rather a blue cast.

I have always said you were the
most cheerful disposition of an hour
& that I would miss you on account
of it; & I hear you have more gaiety
& fun about you. Marian is sensible & ^{of course}
there is quite a struggle ^{for} his business
affairs, all of you are dear sweet children
& I thank God every day for all of
you. But to-morrow I would like to come
for you to be here. I made you a cake
to send you, but Papa said it would
not go over & I had better make another
for you to take home when you come.
So I like it as well, it is a "delicious
cake," such as you like, but you are not
of the kind.

We sent you another present also,
which I hope you will get in time,
& if you will let one be sent in time
before you come down, I will make
another "delicious cake" for you.

I do hope you will not have to leave
Louisville, but if you have to go to any
of the places you named of course
I would like you to come here, but
I don't think you would like to
& I hope some day to return to
L. if I live long enough, why I
hope so I do not know (except I
want to). If I see no prospect, I
want to go as much as any

This is a bright² beautiful day
a warm in the sun here by my
window. We are here in the
house. Marian goes to the "Guild"
a well then go to Creeperes or vice
not to home till late. We are talking
^{about} & looking forward to Harro's visit to us, do
hope she will come, but do not believe
Harriet's feeling as she does, I would
do the same. In a I was vaccinated
Saturday morning but do not believe
in need take. Thioja has been also. But
his did not take, they seem not caught
Papa yet, but he ought to be. Saturday
afternoon while talking to Mrs Wheeler
in the parlor I had a speech to deliver
I did not let any one know it but
until the left-

It was not a bad one, but I was a little about
the house. Then Sunday on all my
or church, I must allow to "Immanuel"
to hear Dr. Robertson & just before
he finished his sermon another
speech came on me, I sat there
thinking, it might pass away. But it
did not so as soon as church was
over I walked slowly home, came in
& took my medicine before the others got
back from church. I had to go to bed
as I suffered a good deal that time &
did not get on it till 6 o'clock, but
Friday I feel all right except a little
weak. I have no idea what cause
either speech or on how long most simply
tea, toast, eggs &c. which this was away with
much, in may be I did not get enough, for

In Boggess always said sitting
 was not good for one, I have certainly
 done nothing else to bring me on. It
 was sitting quietly in church for
 nearly an hour. I know of no news
 here a little from mother Geo to day,
 in regard to the mangle being
 broken & lost. I know a little &
 to find the factory, he gave no
 news. seems to be well again. I
 do feel to hurry in him. I suppose
 Harriet is now longing for her time
 to come. so she will ready for it? I do
 hope all will pass off well

give her my love & tell her, the letter
should have been commenced
& will be there in time I hope,
but my hands are very rough
wth head~~ache~~ sick, I will do the
best I can, & want to do it. Excuse
my scraps of paper, I know you
are like to them (but they are as
good as yours) & I would not have
used them if I had known I would
write so long a letter. Best love & kiss
to H & H, & to your dear self, with
congratulations & best wishes for many
happy returns of the day. Lovingly
Mama
Excuse all faults & errors.

interest than I see ^{before} I
~~see~~ ^{see} in out-~~reach~~ ^{reach} ~~the~~ ^{the} 18th ^{of}
because he has arrived & I am
crazy to see somebody, if it
but here I am alone, see
see as soon as I can as it
is getting dark. Hope you
see with & see me ~~at~~
at. I know Harriet is ~~joining~~
give her my love & a kiss, & see her
& am so glad for her & for you
all. What ~~is~~ Harriet say?
With affection
Mamma

5th P.M.
Telegram just received,
Thank God it is all over,
& every thing right; its saved
me to get the telegram. At
first, here alone, I was
almost afraid to open it,
but I now rejoice with you
all & thank God. Harriet
is ^a ~~regular~~ ^{regular} ~~trump~~ ^{trump}
is ^a ~~much~~ ^{much} ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~sure~~ ^{sure}, I see
not. Look in in dog house & count
get the shawl then get; as

just said in my letter to you,
Dear congratulations! once
both you & Harriet have my
narrative & precious little
Hart also in having a little
brother. Or glad it is a boy. I
am afraid only that Harriet
must come to us. I must ask
you to bring him at once, but
he has not been vaccinated, &
I asked a doctor about it a
few days ago, & he said, it

must be running a great
risk, as even over a good
piece of gut. The small-pox
is abating here now, but there
has been a good deal in
town. I am not very much to have
Hart, all these children their hearts
in it & p. Dr. B. will vaccinate
him now, & say it will save him
why one will be more than
glad to have him. Kiss my
new Grandson. I believe I will
love him a little bit more

Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company,

Nashville Station Feb 17th 1908

My Dear Fillison

Tomorrow will be the day we celebrate and I want now my dear boy to congratulate you upon the anniversary of your birth 32 years ago and wish you very many happy returns of the day. We were expecting a letter from you today but it did not show up. We are all pretty well today but Mamma had a six hour spell yesterday - taken while in church "Immanuel" M + I were down at 1st Ch. - She also had one Saturday but it did not last long - I was much obliged for the stamp you sent me and have finished making up my book - It was neat and saved me much work - I made my talk yesterday on Jacob's Well - and got along very well. All appear to like it - very much - I have nothing arranged now for the future - Don't think I will get on up very well - Its too much work and I don't know

that it is well to make them so common
make them less appreciated. You
never told me what you did with
the one I sent you - Did any one
see it? You told me of the corner
stone I sent to Major - Sorry to see
L.P. is quoted so low - glad you
are not on a margin to be frozen out.
I hope it will melt before long - But
things look pretty dark - You said
Amison fixed the Oxygen - what did he
find was the matter with the battery?
and did he fix up a new battery?
It is a clear bright afternoon and if I
only had Hart - here I would certainly
take him out for a nice walk - I would
love so much to have him here and I
trust he will be before very long - The
Revival meetings are still progressing
much interest manifested but not as
good results as hoped for - He all
have been several times - Met Ed with Ch
I want to go soon this week - Will I
will close - Love to the L.H.'s - and
believe me affectionately

Papa

Preserved

10
H. K.



Mr. Lillison L. Spicker
U. S. Trust Building
5th & Main
Louisville, Ky.

Personal }



LOUISVILLE, KY.
FEB 18
5:39 AM
1908

Cedar Mountain, Virginia
Feb 15th 1909.

My Dear Precious Baby:

Many congratulations
to you upon your first

birth-day from us all, &
we wish you many, many
very happy returns of it.

We send you some money
with which get Father & Mother
to get you some little toys they
think you will most enjoy, as
we can get nothing here. We

with me could be with you
in the first birth day, for
"dam-movie" knows you are
smarter than you need ever
be again. Do nothing around
in mischief, dragging, every-
thing you can lay hands on
after you. I can see you
plainly. God bless you &
keep you always a-rolling,
Sally Gillison Jr.

Most Lovingly
"Dam-Movie".



GULPEA
FEB
1230P
1853
VA.

William L. Spiden Jr.
609 N. Canal Street
Louisville.
Kentucky.

1909
4-9-PM
CHESBURY
MASS

6/24/09.

Pete:

Home safe and sound at
noon to day. I make over 100⁰⁰ and
pay for my trip to Atlantic City besides.
My expenses were very slight. Hotel
deducted for meals I didn't eat. I ate
\$ only one meal on the train.

I'm anxious to see the house and
will mail this letter and the fever
medicine as soon as I get home.

Tell Mother I rec'd her letter on
my arrival and will write her
tomorrow or Saturday - also you
may expect a real nice one yourself.
Friday me.

The little nest was just as empty as
when I left it a week ago. No one has
thought it worth while to nibble it. I watered
the vines and trained a few nealcitians also watered
the elephants. I sent the few medicines to
you last night and went on to call on the
Commiss. Tell Papa I met an acquaintance near
Altoona on train who told me Henry Vaughan

had a boy.
I put an ad in the evening papers - two
times. Cousin Anna & Cousin Emma
called me up and were horrified that
we were going away. So suddenly -
I set them straight and was glad we
were appreciated.

I'm as red as a lobster. Am feeling
some. Bathed this am and feel fine.
Cobler to day. I washed some linen last
night, and will do some more to day
sending remainder to Laundry. I'm going
to put the cottages and outhouses for a few
days now and hope to have the house
paid for upon your return. I have another
scheme of which I will tell you later.

No other news of importance. I'm
waiting anxiously for Aug. 1st or whenever
you all get ready to come home.

affec.
Fillison

at the corner gave them a fine sight of the whole parade.
 There were men on horses, in carriages and on foot.
 One carriage was drawn by two camels, and one
 white dromedary with his two humps on his back walked
 in the procession. One of the Shriners had the cutest
 little black bear, which he led by a chain. The little
 fellow was no larger than a small dog, and he got so
 tired before the march was over that the man took him
 in his arms and carried him till the parade stopped.
 The little bear is now out on Fourth Street at Mrs
 Embry's, and Mammy was out to see it, yesterday or
 the day before. Its name is "Howdy" and the children
 give it candy and cakes so much that I fear it
 will get sick. Now that I have told you all this
 about the things that were to be seen it occurs to
 me that you ~~father~~ or some of the folks here may
 have already written to you about it, or ~~Mamma~~ ^{the folks} ~~she~~ ^{has} ~~seen~~ ^{seen}



Louisville, Ky June 12/09
Pettus

Dear Duster and little Fillybuter:
 I think it about time for me to write a
 letter to you and little brother, address it to
 you, because little brother is not large
 enough to answer it, so that I can get a
 letter from you which you promised to write
 to me after you got to Virginia. I did
 not know what to do with myself last
 Sunday afternoon and today, because there
 were no two little grandsons and Aeri
 Mamma at Floral Terrace for me to
 see. I have wished so many times last
 week that you were all here then to have
 seen all the Shriners with their pretty

uniforms. and hear all the bands play. then there were all the decorations on the houses. and especially the pretty electric lights at night. Some buildings like Seelbach and the Courier Journal building had strings of electric bulbs of different colors all around the tops of the building and long rows of them running along the sides in fancy designs and in straight lines. There was music on the streets all day and half of the night. The store windows were beautiful. and the streets so full of people that often there was not enough room on the sidewalks. but people had to get in the street, so many at times that street cars, automobiles and carriages could hardly pass through the crowds.

Mamma, aunt Guchie, Wannie, and even grandma all went out to see the crowds and the sights. I went with them most every night the Shimmers were here (except grandma only went out on the streets one night, then she could not get through the crowds and had to go up on our church steps to see.) Tuesday night there was a great parade. Mangach Bailey invited Wannie to come out to his home to see it. for it began at First and Broadway. and Guchie and I went with her to get her through the crowd so she would not get lost or hurt. While she was in the home looking out of the 2nd story window. Guchie and I had to get out in the street to see. After it passed that place we all came home and had another view of part of the parade. at home which was much the better place. Mamma & grandma had taken chairs out to the curbstone. no one was allowed to stand before them on the street and a big electric light

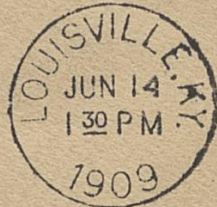
Your Dad ~~die~~ was almost sick part of last week, like he was last summer, out at the McLaughlin home, ~~and~~ had to take a lot of that disagreeable medicine, to keep from getting so weak that that he could not work, but I'm much better now, and hope to escape such a spell as that of last summer. Your father ate dinner with us today, and told us about the great storm of rain, hail and thunder - you, Mamma and grand pa were in, so that you could not go back home that night.

I just wish you both were here right now for me to love and hug a whole lot, or that I could be with you and have you show me the colts and the limbs, cows chickens and all the things you have in the country which people in cities can not have. Then you can ride in the carriage, and see the trains every day. Don't you let any bumble bees sting you, for it hurts, and makes painful swelling, so do honey bees and wasps and hornets.

Tell Mamma, our church has bought the Ballard and Todd houses on Fourth and Breckinridge streets for our new church site, at \$60,000 - possession to be given Dec 1st next that most of the members are pleased with the location though a few did not want to go anywhere except on Broadway. The building committee will go to work at once to complete plans, so as to begin work on the new church at the earliest date possible. We have had a number of showery days since you left and the "weather man" still says showars, and some days have been h.o.t. I saw the thermometer at 95° one day last week and it was not only on the shady side of the street but covered up with bunting. That was my favorite enorgatic thermometer at "Platts" which can generally keep a little ahead of ordinary thermometers either going up or down. Today it is very pleasant in the shade with a fine breeze!

This ^{last} week I got a new suit, dark gray. (a little darker than the uniform I had on in Virginia about forty four years ago, which you do not remember nor does Mamma's but some of the Virginians might) and Mamma thought it looked so well on me, an unusual thing as new suits do not come very frequently to me, that she took me out in our back yard, stood me under a tree and took a snap shot at me. If it turns out good enough to keep, when developed. I may send you one to look at in order that you may not forget how I look. I have only to turn my head to see yours. little brother's & Mamma's. You remember one Sunday, your uncle Theodore took a picture of me holding little brother in my knee and you standing by my side, while I sat on the front steps at your home. Well uncle Theodore told your father that they had turned out well, and I hope before very long to see one of them. You must get Mamma to write that letter for you to me and Mamma, for she will be as glad as I to get it and in it you must tell ~~her~~ about, your little cousins and all the things you have to see and play with, and don't forget to tell me how little brother likes to be at Cedar Mountain. Give him and Mamma the sweetest kisses you can give, for me, and let them give you some of the same kind for me also, and when you come back all of you bring me a big lot of them each as big as a cake of Kismet gum. Tell Mamma to get so fat that she will waddle like a duck this summer, and tell grandpa, grand ma and aunt Marion "howdy" for me.

That's what every body who is glad to see any body, has been saying here lately. I wish I had one of "my boys" in each arm so that I could say instead of writing "you loving" Dad d'oe



Master Joseph Hawk Speiden
c/o Mr Geo. H. Latham.

RFD #1. Rapidan, Va.

PAPIDAN, CA.
JUN 16
7AM
1909

My precious little girl:

Souky 7/12/09.

Edith died 25 years ago
to day - a quarter of a century! I was
just a third of a century old the day I
started for Bridgeton, N.J.

I got a check for 300 from Fisk today.
Margaret Beasley got her divorce last week.
Mr. Proctor is coming home, can't
live over a month.

The wife of the son of one of our clerks
died yesterday - galloping consumption -
Dr. said two days before she couldn't
live 4 weeks.

We fired a mail boy today. Hill.
Bored a hole in door of the Hot Springs
hotel last week. A girl in next room.
Hotel people complained of course.
Richie ~~was~~ a tear today again. If
he is not ok. to morrow - out he goes.
We read the riot act all around
to day. Now for the news. - Last
week at meeting it was stated that
at the next meeting - New York 2 months hence
would be considered the matter of appointing

one agent in the south instead of
two as now. Mr. Washburn Mr. Hinton
(Atlanta).
These two would still be chairmen but
the tariff would be published by
the agent. I also understood
that John Glenn was after
the place. Now why shouldn't I?
The place will pay 3000 or 4000
at least. Will be located in
Louis. Nashv. Chatt. or Atlanta.
I have no influence but I am "into
the job and I'm going to feel
about some over it. May get it.
Do you organs & chimes then. May
go to Nashville. Tell Maria to
pray over it. I've more faith in her
prayers than mine.

I got your letter - How is Hart?
Did you get the medicine?
It is pleasant here as to temperature.
Rains nearly every day.

(3)
I am getting along about as well
as could be expected of a fellow
whose been married to a wife for
four or five years. Certainly would like
to give you a good hug right now.
Would you like one? Two?! No, one long one.
Our next anniversary will be our 5th.
When was our last fuss? Promise me you
won't ever any more. "Promises are like pie crust"
but that was long ago - before the present day
railroad pie counter. Don't you all worry
so much - That's what ruined Mr. Proctor.
No need of it. We're getting along all
right and we will - no matter what
happens. The house isn't sold yet.
May have to sell both. Don't expect
it too much. Ramsey will want it too
no doubt. If I don't get it, I hope he
will. I may get a raise then.

Well here's a kiss for each
Fillison

0

0

0

16
12
32
16
1925
950

Give enclosed
bills to Father

My precious little girl;

Sou. Ky. 7/10/09.

I am down at the office - 8³⁰ P.M. I was out home this afternoon. Spent two hours fixing up things training vines etc. Then I went over to Central Park and watched the Tournament Tennis. Saw one set of 10 to 8 games 8 to 8 then 9 to 8 then 10 to 8. Big crowd of onlookers. I sent medicine via Mitchell. Did you get it?

I haven't gotten a letter since I got back. Don't send my razor shop. I think you might write. I'll come down to the post office Sunday morning to see if you have a letter for me. The choir will have a picnic Saturday afternoon next. Probably Jacob's Park.

I'll have to smoke another cigar tomorrow if I don't get a letter. I hate to spend my money for cigars. I'm saving to buy a certain stock. Don't ask me

which one. I'm ⁽²⁾ not going to tell
you till I'm way ahead on it and
may be can have the house paid for.
Then I can do as I please.

Remember - what you said about that
time. My hand biscuits are still
with me. Tell Aunt Nellie. I eat
one or two just before I go to bed.
I put on clean sheets & pillow slip
last night. This afternoon I sent my
clothes to the wash tub in basement
2 night shirts 4 under shirts 4 drawers & handkerchiefs.
I saved 1.05 in 60 minutes. Not ironed.
I will send my shirts to laundry.

I want to Fountain Ferry night
before last 18 & theatre then was good.

Well I wish I had a little girl
with me to night. Did Hart get the sparklers?
How do you like the nurse. Remember your sparklers
and hand to please. Try to write me next
week sometime. Lots of tight squeezes
and long kisses from
Fillisoo



Loose Item

Dear Chick:



Louisville Ky July 18th 1909

It is 5 P.M. and Mother, Shirley, and I have just come from Central Park, where with Follis we had gone to hear a concert by the Philharmonic Society. The band stand was near the Sixth and Park Street entrance, and there were lots of people present to hear the music. Stringed instruments do not make as effective music in the open air, as a brass band would, especially where people who care nothing for music, except that of their own voices, and boys bent on fun abound. Still we were able to hear most of it by getting near the stand. We had a stand of our own about an hour and a half, as the few benches in the park had all been appropriated before we arrived at the Park, and we did not bring chairs with us as did some of the folks who lived as near the Park as you do. Several numbers played were familiar and of course enjoyed the more on that account. It was warm at times but clouds

that looked as if they might hold a shower, tempered the heat the greater part of the time. Wish you and the boys could have been with us. Yesterday afternoon I was fortunate in getting away from the office by 1³⁰ P.M. and we three went for a ride and sight-seeing, to Silver Hills, going over the Big Four bridge to Jeffersonville then to New Albany and to Silver Hills. It had been several years since I was there, some more since Mother was, and Shirley had never been in that section of Indiana through which we rode. It was my first trip over the Big Four bridge. We returned by the Daisy line, and reached home about 5 P.M. We all enjoyed the ride and the scenery, though Shirley failed to express much enthusiasm, however much she may have felt. She is not particularly demonstrative. We have had fine weather during the past week with some showers and two thunder storms which came at night the last one doing some damage by lightning and wind. The nights at our home have been fine for sleeping and we have not suffered from heat at all, though by day the heat was some times up in the sixties, and as the African citizen expresses it very "swelthy". Mr Thomas

will leave us the latter part of this week to become secretary of the Great Southern Life Ins. Co. with office at Houston Texas. W.W. Moore who has been connected with the agency Department for several months has been appointed to succeed him, though he has had no previous experience with life insurance, before he came to us from some place in Indiana where he and his brother had been "promoters", Dr. Sumner who raised all the rumpus of the past six months, having sold his stock, ceased to be a Director in the Company and his place has been filled by the appointment of Hubert Ireland. If the latter serves a Director is on a par with his political record, you may judge as to the wisdom of his selection. I would not have this read by the Company's detectives, as I would not care to incur his dislike. Quite a number of new people have been employed lately in the place of some that were let out on the score of economy. They probably work for less pay, but the service is less valuable and reliable than that of the ones discharged in the nature of things. Fillson took dinner with us today and we left him about 4³⁰ at 6⁺ + Park, when we went to 7⁺ St to catch a Brook Street car. He said he went to a picnic at Jacob Park yesterday afternoon, with his choir, he will probably tell you of it. He told us that Hank had learned to make ladders, and I hope he will learn to climb them so that he will be up where the crowd is small when he gets to be a man. I am getting hungry to see both of them, and I often picture them to myself enjoying themselves in the country where there is always so much to entertain a child. I would like for you to reach par by the time you start home, and as you have started on the up grade I think you might get there just to please your friends though you ought to weigh 120, in order to bring out all the good points of your appearance. I am not gaining any this summer, in fact I think I have lost some from that week of fighting off the "malarial" attack. Mother I am glad to say is feeling much better than when my last letter was written to you. We have had

some postals from Guch in the past week but I think no letter later than the last one sent you. The postals were in regard to some sort of a "get up" she wanted to take her dancing lessons in. and mother fixed up one of her skirts as she requested and mailed it to her last Friday. I suppose we will hear from her tomorrow, or Tuesday morning, whether she got it. I took the precaution to write her a note the same day telling her the skirt had been mailed so she could look out for it if not delivered promptly. I read last week Fremont Rides book "Are the Dead Alive" and was very much interested in his collection of "facts" about hypnotism, telepathy, precognition, retrocognition, apparitions, spirits &c. all of which he gives, but does not try to account for, and neither do I, but will simply align myself with a large number of scientific thinkers and investigators who say that "if the spiritistic theory" is admitted it will account for

the facts narrated, but no other theory yet advanced will. I also read, quite of a different character "The Cardinal's Snuff Box" which Shirley brought from the library for mother. Shirley has two other books now. "Dead Daughter" and some "Wellesley Stories". I have read a little in each, not enough of the first to have an opinion, and just enough of the latter to feel that they are rather weak. Mother and Shirley have gone back to "St Charles Park" to sit in one of the swings and chat with whoever joins them. Think it is Edna now. Mr Bond and his wife are in the other as I can see from the window by which I am writing. We had a fairly good congregation at the church this morning, though lots of people are out of town, or out of the church at least. The Sunday School is about half as large as usual in the winter. - 106 today. We have no choir, no leader of music during these two months, only Fannie Bolling is holding the fort. Shirley heard

at Sunday School this morning that Caria Wilson had
been hurt but not seriously in a runaway near Danville.
Was unconscious for a while but had no bones broken. I have
not heard any particulars except that and only learned this
week as we were coming from church this morning. I did not
see any other of the Wilson family at church to make inquiries
if I had heard it sooner. Think Shirley got her information
from D.B. There was a statement in the Post a few days ago
that the Citizens life was considering an offer of \$110,000
for its building, but have not heard yet of a decision in
the matter. That is just twice what the property cost four
years ago, or less. Business seems to trend to Walnut street and
out Fourth. I hear that some business houses are to be built on
the lot at Fourth and York N.W. corner, and in the last year
or two have not noticed the movement of any business house
on Fourth, in a Northern direction except two, one of them is
the Sewing Machine agency next the Post office lot which goes to
the Paul Jones building and the other I have forgotten.

You know before you went away that the Government had
made a little Park of this lot, and every night there are
lots of people who risk their lives to get cool, look at the crowd
passing and occasionally peep in to the picture show across the
street when heat inside makes them open one of the front doors.
I sat there a while last night after a stroll that made me warm
and found it very pleasant until a mosquito began a time
near me, when I left and went home. The choir at
Trinity M. E. Church have struck up "America" though it is
not seven o'clock yet. Suppose they think there is nothing
better than getting a good start. Shirley says she will
write soon, and mother has no special message. Evelyn
has whooping cough, and your grand mother was still in
Barren Co. when her last letter to mother was received.
Let us know when you write next, when you think you
will come home. Hug the boys for me and remember me
to the folks who are with you in Virginia.
Your loving Dad.

Keep off
an year



1776



Louisville Ky. July 4th 1909

Dear Chick:

Shirley has been using desk and writing materials so long this afternoon that I will have to sub your letter short which will probably be all the better as there is nothing of special interest to write. I wrote to Gerda last Sunday and I think she is writing to me now. I will get her letter possibly tomorrow, though it may not arrive in time for the one holiday delivery. I could not help wondering today what a happy lot of folks there would be at Cedar Mountain. You doubtless received Feltson's letter, telling Hart, he was coming, before he arrived but it must have been a pleasant surprise. I wish I could drop in for a little while, and have been thinking of you, all, very much.

I do not know what to do with my holiday tomorrow, have no films made to dispose of it. Suppose I will sleep late, read the paper, stroll about the streets a little and perhaps take a nap or go to one of the Parks.

Shirley and I went to church this morning, mother not being well enough to go. Haway B. Smith the pastor of the Edenside Church preached for us, as he expects to do every Sunday morning during Mrs. Powell's vacation. Bro Powell left this morning for Norfolk where I think he intends spending the time he is away from the church. Saw all the family Wednesday evening at prayer meeting. We had a little fun at the parson's expense. His family had been invited to dine with the Winneys and just before dinner he was called to perform the marriage ceremony for

(a couple)

and hurried away to do so, but the bride for some reason got scared and had the marriage postponed. There was no way to head him off, and he missed both dinner and the wedding fee. The joke of the church was that in utter forgetfulness of the occasion, the first hymn he gave out was "Will you be ready when the bridegroom cometh." I asked him if his disappointment had anything to do with the selection of the hymn, and he just roared and said it had not entered his mind. Several others noticed it, and Mrs Powell said it was "a very funny coincidence". Mother has had too much to do this hot weather, and is almost past going, though it turned much cooler yesterday and today is an ideal day. She is trying to get her laundresses to work for her this week but fears she will not come. Like all the African race their word can not be relied on. She was to let you mother know yesterday, but did not and the presumption is that she will not come. Ask Hart if he ever saw "Ours in Boots", that is, a kitten with papers on its feet. It used to be very funny to me and does not hurt the kitten. I would like to hear some of Felt's talk that Hart's letter told us of. Mother gave us a good dinner today - Roast beef biscuit coffee, corn, olives and tomatoes, with oranges (some of Feltson's gift) and a marbled cake. She made a little mistake in the cake, but I am not going to tell on her. It was all good. Things have gone on as usual at the office except a little change in the hours. Work now begins at 7⁴⁵ instead of 8 a.m. Lunch time at 12 m ends at 12⁴⁵ instead of 1 P.M. and the office closes at 4 instead of 5 o'clock. The benefit does not come

specially to me, as I have to go to the office 15 minutes earlier in the morning, and in all probability get a lot of work sent to me about four o'clock which may keep me at the office until six. As for the lunch hour I have never strictly kept ^{it} and do not expect to do so. I leave the office for the bank whenever I can get ready after 12 o'clock, and afterwards go home for lunch and often do not get back to the office until after two o'clock. I would like to run that office for a while on common sense lines. Mother and Shirley have made acquaintance with some of the flat dwellers who have swings in the back yard. She has just said she will "put something on and go out in the back yard to sit in Miss Francis' swing". I went out one evening, sat a little while with Mr Bird, but the swinging is not pleasant to me, it is too suggestive of the war, to some parts of my anatomy.

Percher letters are being forwarded to you as yours are to her, and Mother hurried off your letter to me as soon that I only read it hurriedly and do not know whether any part of it required special reply. I would always prefer to have a letter before me that I wished to answer, and generally the sooner I reply the more satisfactory it is to me, but I do not feel like writing during the week days as I get a sufficiency with the pen at the office, though my letters there are dictated. Mother and I called at Mr Geo. Bondatt's last Tuesday evening, he having told me that his wife's two sisters (all daughters of Capt Tom Peacock of Lancaster) were visiting his house.

I had not notified him we were coming and consequently none of them were at home, they were calling at R & Hughes' house. He married a daughter of Mrs John Miller one of their three sisters. Thursday evening all three called on us, and I enjoyed their visit very much. The two older women, Mrs John and Mrs Sam Miller (their husbands are cousins of each other not of their wives) were my playmates as a child though both are younger than I, and their older brother Geo. Forelinghuyser Peacock just my age was schoolmate and comrade in the army. He died some years ago, at the Confederate Home, Pewee Valley, a short time after he was admitted. I did not get to see him as he was too ill to see his friends when I heard he was there. One of the girls had changed much in appearance though recognition gradually came to me, the other I would have known at once, though it had been nearly forty years since I saw her. I called ^{her} Pattie as she entered the door. I think neither would have recognized me. You should have heard the compliments paid you and the boys pictures, though that is the regular thing. Mr Bondatt told me next day that all three had fallen in love with Charley Mother which is a very natural thing to do. Hoping that to the pleasure of all being together may be added the patriotic pleasure that should thrill all American citizens on the glorious 4th (and 5th too this year), and that you may abound in all good things I am your loving Dad. Kiss the boys for me and tell them I am glad that half of them absent is so.