

"Lons. Retreat" - March, 13th, 66

Miss Fannie, Faneborough.

Cousin Fannie,

I have been thinking
ever since the boys got home that I would write to you, but
I thought you might have written to me first had you been
really desirous of having me show my ignorance in letter writing
I ought to tell Cousin I am so sure that it is an awfully
irksome task for me to write now. It was once the only pleasure
I ever really felt, but age is creeping on me now and
with it comes stiff joints, scattered thoughts, and a restlessness that
will hardly admit of my being still long enough to write, or rather
to collect my wandering thoughts. I hope coz you will regard
these excuses, as a sufficient apology for a badly-written
poorly connected letter.

Everything is dull, and everybody is
something on the same order. Billy and Buddie (Bob) are just
starting on a hunt. It has been raining all day until within
the last half-hour it has ceased, and the hunters are in a
perfect fever to start a wild cat. George is staying with Mr.
Robertson, the I presume the boys have told you of this, he
has not been to see us since he went down there. We look
for him every day, but we are disappointed every time.

Samuel White has left us and gone over east

I was sorry to see him leave, he is a nice boy and quite
~~handsome~~ handsome (a greater attraction for me than
moral worth) Mr Duff - I hardly know how to spend
my opinion about him. He hardly spoke to me the

whole time he staid with us. I tried my very best
to make an impression. but dear me he didnt seem
to know & that B was breathing my face in smiles purposely
for his benefit - I insoled Cupid in my behalf. but the
little Elfin would not undertake to pierce his heart for me
and I therefore gave up in despair hoping that the sweet
disturbance Love would never visit him. I am quite positive
that there is one Love who will never disturb his peace of
mind - that one is myself -

Thanks Cousin for the present
by Buddis. I appreciate the gift coming from you
I am very much afraid the good lessons taught in the wedding
will be wholly thrown away on me. however I am studying
it closely and am learning my duty to my better half
as if I should ever be wheedled into marrying. I know
my duty - yes and ~~know~~ too - for it, not only instructs the

general sweep. A strict line of demarcation is placed
between the duties of each, but one is no less than the
other. I must stop writing, for I've already got your
head in a perfect whirl, owing to my jumping from one
subject to another without taking a look. Permit my kindest
regards to all your friends. I give my love to Cousin Mary
and Sam, Aunt Nancy, and the rest. Write to me
soon Cousin and I will always reply immediately to your letters.

I wrote to you several years ago - (when I was a novice
in the art of letter writing) but never received a reply to my
letters - supposed you had failed to figure it out and
consequently determined to trouble you no more.
Think how alarmed you that Buddis is dreadfully bad off about. I
think her mother is Lady or Ladies - till her that I think if Buddis gets
no better of his ailment she will have to answer an all important
question soon. I'm nearly parrying her