

Sachanaw Texas
Sunday June 25, 1867

Miss Lillie McQuigg

My Dear Friend

To-day is the first-time since I have been home that- I have felt- as though I could write a letter that- would be at- all tolerable either in manner or matter, nor am I certain that- I can write anything now that will be entertaining, yet- I hope that- I will not- prove any of wholly unworthy of the inestimable privilege granted me.

You can well imagine the state of our minds the day we left- we were as homesick as boys could be on this way to the loved ones at-home.

We took out- the Sunday School hymn book and sang all the songs we knew. But- this called up a train of reflections that- prevented a very lively exercise of the voice, and could you have heard us you would have thought- we were singing some funeral ditty. Our trip was tolerably pleasant- considering the narrow weather, the roads were mostly good and the old women clever, which you know is all that- is necessary for any one to enjoy a journey. Yet- at- some places where they were harvesting our claims for butter milk were completely overruled and Reynard like, we would call it- poor and go to the next- place.

Not- accustomed to travel we were of course

considerably worn out - when we arrived at home,
but - the pleasant smiles of a dear mother and the joys of
the little ones soon made us forgetful of tired limbs and
headache and morning had nearly dawned ere we thought of
seeking rest. And then in dreams bright visions joyfully
mingled the scenes of the past and present - I was associating
with those left behind and those of our own family. I would
that it were a reality. I don't make any pretensions to
a very great amount of sociability or conversation, but
I do profess to have some appreciation of refined and
Christian society and it is a source of unutterable pleasure to
me to be permitted to enjoy it. It would be a fruitless
effort for me to attempt to express the emotions which arise on
contemplating the many recollections of instruction and
enjoyment which are connected with the young man and most
intimately connected with Mr Barton and family. It would
indeed be foolish for me to endeavor to express in words
the gratitude I have felt and shall ever feel towards those
at whose hands I have so abundantly been blessed with
inestimable acts of kindness. I will just say that when
I forget the untiring energy with which Mr Barton has labored
for my benefit and that of others, the great interest he has
manifested in my behalf; when I cease to recollect with
emotions of pleasure and thankfulness the welcome
smiles and unequalled kindness of Mrs Barton,
and when my feelings become so blunted that they do not
receive the liveliest emotions of gratitude and delight at the
thought of all the interesting associations with which your

name is intimately connected, when I forget all this, may
all my friends forget me, or think of me only as one
unworthy of the least regard.

How I have wished to-day that
I could be at the Sunday School. I read over what would
be your lessons and tried to find such points as I thought
Mr Barton would notice. We had a very interesting lesson
in the family to-day and I fear it will not be extended further
for some time. A family Sunday School is all we have had
for several years, but mother has kept that up pretty regularly.
The children are highly pleased with the song book and will
soon learn the pieces we know.
I mentioned to Grace that our little town is a flourishing
pleasant and healthy place. It is indeed a delightful place
in some respects, the only drawback is the society which will
improve when our young men's school established here.
I will tax your father no farther. That I may soon again
be permitted to commence a course of pleasant study under
Mr Barton with my former association, and that I may
especially be permitted to enjoy the company of one with
whom I have enjoyed some pleasant moments, yet study and
embarrassment rendered those moments few, is my earnest wish.
Tell Lillie you that Diego is very fond of her presents.
It is unnecessary for me to say that I will anxiously
await an answer. Tell everything you can think of, it
will interest me. Give my love to all.
Believe me sincerely yours
A. Clark