

The only thing objectionable was the weakness of his voice, not more than  
1/3 of the audience could hear what he said. The judges were instructed  
to examine his and C. O. Smiths manuscripts and publish their choice or which  
of the two were better immediately after the music following Ruffnars speech  
he let out on the "Spirit of Liberty is unconquerable which although it was  
an old fogy was well written and well spoken. After we had finished Yankee  
oodle President Davis turned his thanks to the audience for the order mani-  
fested to the musicians and remarked that the judges would now proceed to give  
their decision on the "weight of the arguments" brought up in the debate.  
Judge W. T. Wood arose and complimented all the speeches but remarked that  
the judges were of the opinion that those young gentleman who debated the  
affirmative deserved the decision and it was therefore given to them. I have  
had feelings of different kinds some that seemed to turn my very brain with  
their intensity. Some of pain some of pleasure but never in my life have I  
felt such sensations feelings that for the moment and then came the thought  
Oh if my poor Mother had but been there how much more it would have pleased her.  
I mechanically went through the last peice of Music for my mind or my thoughts  
were at home around the dear one at the fireside and putting up my instrument  
we all ( I mean the speakers and musicians) proceeded to the Confectionary and  
help our tastes to oysters crackers butter vinigar oil pie-cake and some I  
am ashamed to a little of the "Ardent" after staying an hour or two we ad-  
journed and as I was starting home Ben Russell and David Morris insisted so  
strongly on my going home with them that I could not avoid it without insulting  
them I therefore went and got there just as the gentlemen were leaving and  
of course very naturally I met Miss Tillie at the door and had to go in and  
sit awhile after chatting some time and listening to some fine music we left

them. Next morning

Saturday Jan 26th 56

After breakfast when I got acquainted with Mr Wm H. Russell. I came home and as it snowed the whole day I stayed at home all day and wrote nearly all the time. Sunday found me bound at home it snowed all day. I only went to church and from then immediately home where I remained all day until late in the evening when we (I and Crump) went to his house. I stayed a short time and coming home read Scotts "Lay of the last minstrel" which I think is a beautiful tale as well as excellent poetry. I only regret that those old days of chivalry are over. I often have wished to visit some of those old castles and see the things which are so beautifully described in all of Scotts works. I should rejoice to see once if no more a strife such as Mungrave's and Dolouraine where their victory was to decide whether a mother should receive her son or not. There is something so interesting all these tales of chivalry although they are characteristic of a less advanced stage of civilization yet it would be pleasant to see one short time in which the brave are the good.

Monday I called on President Davis and went from his house to the female Seminary to see the ladies examined they were examining some of the primary classes which examination was not at all consistent with my manner of seeing them examined. they call answer in concert which will not give us a chance to judge properly who are and who are not capable. The evening I spent all but a small quantity of it at home Cousin Delia was sick and sat down to my table all were gone to school and the room was dark so at once I took my pen (for it is only at such times that I can write) and wrote four pages of foolscap paper full to an Uncle in California. One to cousin in Saline accompanying the H. S. of my "Mercy and Justice" speech and one to a friend (R.W. Wilson) in Marshall then sealing them took them to the P. O. and coming back I met

one from the College and went with up there and I had to stay until nearly nine and I believe spoke about a dozen words. I was glad indeed when they rose to depart and never went more willingly with a lady home than then. Coming back I read an hour or two in "Marmion". Tuesday Morning I went to the Sem nary again and remained until 12 and was pleased to see the ladies acquit themselves so well I do not think has been better recitations at any examination I ever attended. Tuesday Evening there was a continuation of the same. After they dismissed I had the pleasure of accompanying Miss Tillie Russell home, and Tuesday night we gave Ben a stone that is, the Lexington Serenaders gave him some music we practiced until 9 oclock when we adjourned and started home. I was just out side of the gate when Mr. Slayback who had been in the parous care to the door and called Hix! Hix and he said that the ladies winted me to come back and bring my violin. I of course could not refuse such an invitation as this. I went backard had a nice time for an hour and a half. when I left and found all of the family in bed I woke them of course and went to bed. Wednesday brought with it a nice day I early in the morning went to the Seminary they had some good recitations and walls were filled with pictures by some of the ladies and when the dismissed them for dinner Mr Dalin called the attention of the company to them I had the pleasure of being gallanted around the room by Miss Mollie Arnold and Miss Tillie Russell when they showed me all the pictures and told who was considered the best artist in the school Indeed I was getting along so well that I did not notice all the gentlemen were gone except Mr Slayback nevertheless I concluded that If he stayed I would and accordingly found a seat for my companion and was having a nice time when to my misfortune the music teachers took all my girls to go and practice for the evening being left alone I began to see how I was situated and

and tried other ways to get Slayback to go but he would not and I left him there. The evening was pleasantly spent music plenty and some excellent recitations the old President had observed the way the boys talking to the girls and this evening took particular care to dismiss the school first, having left us for nothing to do but to come home. And which I did and remained until Thursday morning when I had gotten up and washed and was getting ready for breakfast. Mr. Crump came to the gate with a jumper and a beautiful black pony in it. I got in and we took a little ride up this street and came down South then home. I came in to get my breakfast he went home to curry and fix up his pony. After I had gotten my breakfast and fixed up I went over to Mr Crumps and we got in and went down town at a flying rate. I telling him that I did not know which attracted the more attention the pony or the gentlemen we visited the Post office and then went to the Seminary The examination was excellent and the music was unusually good. Several excellent performers played for us and some beautiful "Duette". Mr Dulin then dismissed the audience to tell the ladies something about the Exhibition to take place this Evening this of course left us right on the road home and there was no way to turn so we left coming home I wrote in this book part of the time and took the liberty of going up to the old college but found it as dry as Sandust all the rooms dirty half the boys downtown and some that were there asleep coming home I began to prepare for the Exhibition Thursday night after getting fixed up I went with Cousin Delia and after walking at least a mile on the slick snow or icy road we got there and found such a crowd that I had great difficulty in finding a seat for Mrs Wallace I never saw such a crowd in the house. it was arranged in solemn beauty the girls

had on emblems of mourning the chandeliers were hung with crape. The stage was situated unfortunately in an end of the room and we were unable to hear any of the compositions and very few of the composition I mean the music and performances. There was one Song "Gentle Mira" changed from "Little Bernie" and sung in memory of Miss Mira Fields of Saline who had died a short time before a while a student at the Seminary. It was a very nice thing and so applicable. There were not a few who could not help feeling sad over it. The exhibition on the whole was a fine thing it was of course a fine place to get to look at the girls and by the way there were a great many pretty ones there. Friday I stayed at home all day for Cousin Delia being invited to a quilting went and had not been gone more than 10 minutes when Miss Elliot and Miss Wallace came in and of course I had to entertain them I did so to the best of my abilities until 12 o'clock when I accompanied them home and coming back worked out the rest of the day on "Harmion" which I regard as a beautiful thing.

Saturday February 2nd 56

As soon as convenient Mr Crump and I brought our goods and chattles up to the College as we intended being somewhat old bachelorish for the future. We moved into No 13 on the college and wish yet still it by fixing it up turned out to be a very good room. I moved up here for the reason that at cousin Delia although I was kindly treated I could not study as I wished for the reason the children were noisy and I did not wish to be trouble. And although I am here away from the happy influence of a family I hope I shall not forget my duty. This day we fixed up our room and tired and glad that the week of recess was over Upon arriving I found young Wallace there we went to work strapped my razor and to a social shave and had just sat down to enjoy a pleasant confab when Mr Sankin came in and insisted that I should redeem the promise of accompanying him to Mr Russells. I of course had to go and I had the hardest time

In the world getting him to leave I kept looking at my watch and yet he would not propose leaving and at last I proposed leaving when he agreed.

Sunday I spent as usual except that I did not go to Sunday school as it was too cold. This was the coldest day of the season the day was clear but the mercury stood 20 degrees below zero, in town and 24 degrees under the Hill I took particular care to keep at home all day except at church where after sitting an hour or a half the minister not coming I went home Monday I started to school but found that there would be no school and spent the day in fixing up the room about 4 o'clock Ben Russell and I took their little pony and indeed taking sleighride but it was too cold and we only took President Dulin to the seminary and came back I saw Miss Tillie this evening and she gave me a beautiful name for our room. "Pleasant Retreat" at the College after eating supper I went home and met as happy a family as I ever expect to see again.

The wandering husband and father had returned. Mr Wallace had come home from California. He was a fine health and looks better than I ever saw him before.

The rapid traveling from a southern to a northern climate only produced a very violent cold. We had a very pleasant trip except the last 2 days which were very cold. But present happiness was sufficient to drown all thoughts of past suffering. Thursday I rested only one lesson Algebra and was busy fixing up Pleasant Retreat This night I bid farewell to all the responsibilities

of a "Pater familias" and made myself at home in the College I find it is much better here indeed there is nothing to hinder my studying. I have an excellent roommate and I intend that it shall have its effect on my recitations. Wednesday

I went to work regularly and continued so without any interruption until

Saturday Friday night the old Philos met and it became necessary for me to deliver an inaugural address the following is perhaps good a substitute as I

can give since I did not write one

Gentlemen

is admirable provision in our constitution which makes it the duty of our president to deliver an inaugural and valedictory for as is usual in all inaugural addresses we find very nearly the position of the president and can regulate our actions accordingly. I presume it would be province of a Valedictory to contain not only the conditions of the society but a review of the administration and thanks for the honor paid during the administration.

I could not act the gentleman in leaving the chair if I did not acknowledge the obligation resting upon me. Since you have not only honored me with the highest office in the power of you bestowal, but have so far as I know heartily cooperated with me in preserving order, I hope I do not flatter myself when I say that this administration has been as much characterized for order as any in my recollection. We have had a number of donations to the library and I may safely say that I can wish my successor nothing better than that his may be characterized for the same thing.

Here properly my Valedictory ends but I cannot follow my feelings and stop here. We are about entering upon another session and I think it is not out of place in me to refer more particularly to ourselves for it is only upon ourselves that depends our future destiny. There is something thrilling ennobling overwhelming in the thought when we are soldiers that we are waving for our own liberties. That we are defending not only our rights but securing peace to our own firesides that we are spreading the influence of our own happy institutions and that we are acting honorably. That we are doing something that will make us live perhaps a little longer than the crumbling marble will bear out our name. But what should inspire us with feelings of greater intensity or highsouled order than the thought that we are treading

the same path which has been trod by the greatest men of Earth. What with the improvement of the opportunities offered here is better calculated to write our names high up on the scroll of fame, far up in the regions of eternal day. Where the sun shall forever gild and beautify it. And who is there that if he could would not place his name there. These persevere. Call not this a capable ambition. A man in order to render his name an object of universal praise must be great and good. He must have done some kind act in order to call forth the admiration of a world. And who would not be blame able should an opportunity present itself in not readily undertaking such a thing. It is sweet, it is worth many hours of cold and cheerless misery to gain only one smile from those we love. There is a soft tender feeling of delight in looking "Love to eyes that speak again" which is perfectly incomparable to any sensation of the mind. But how much more infinitely is that feeling increased when we know that we are making ourselves objects worthy of such a heaven born passion. Then persevere. How pleasant is it to know that we are the objects of a father or mothers care and that any manifestation of improvement affords them great pleasure. To know that their prayers are ascending to heaven in your behalf, and that you are the pride of their hearts that on you are fixed their hopes of a happy old age. But how much more is that feeling increased when we feel that we are acting in a manner worthy of such hopes. Then persevere. And may that word be written on our hearts and in your mind, that you may be influenced to press on in the acquirement of an education or the

accomplishment of the high ends which await every one who will be guided by it.

After this Mr Sankin interested us for a few minutes with an Inaugural address in which he brought to our minds the importance of order and a proper preparation of the question to be debated. Besides many other very good peices of advice. The question debated was "Does Napoleon deserve parize or censure." Being on the negative I cannot but say that I was with my sentiments for if he was a great general he had not the elements of a great man. If he extended the french dominion it was at the ex ense of her best blood. His ambition led him beyond the bounds of reason since he made every thing subservient to it. If he was a great man he must had done some great and good act, but what benefit conferred by him can cover his murder of three thousand soldiers and burying them in the Egyptian monuments? if he was a great general why did he leave his soldiers to die on the city of Moscow? And finally if he was a great and good man why did he so shamefully desert his wife Josephine? I do not condemn abition when it is reasonable indeed I should despise a man who had no ambition, but when he is willing to sacrifice the lives of his countrymen and his better feelings on its alters I think he should be censured.

This morning was an interresting one and we did not adjourn till very late. Some very nice books were presented to the Society. This brings me to

Saturday 9th 56

This day I am ashamed to say was spent in a manner altogether wrong. I wasted by lounging at home and down town. At night I went to the

Hall and after Miller had dismissed his class Mr. Zeeter accompanied me to the college and we entertained ourselves with our musical instruments until late and retired to rise nearly too late for breakfast. I spent the Sabbath as usual heard my class at Sunday School and afterwards went with several others down to the Catholic church to witness their ridiculous forms. There are several good paintings in the church illustrative of the life of Christ and indeed a goodly number of ignorant followers. I am not one who would condemn a man on account of his religion belief but I must condemn a church which keeps its members ignorant of the great truths of the Bible. The evening I spent very pleasantly at home. Monday found me about as hard at work as it is lawful to be in this country and with no variety except some music at night until Tuesday Evening when I had an invitation to attend a Sewing Society to meet at Mr. Moreheads. I went and found a large company present among whom were Miss Tillie Miss Fannie Morehead and Miss Shotwell. I was very well entertained until 9 or 10 o'clock when I returned to the College and got my lessons. Nothing except the usual routine of preparation for recitation and the recitation itself followed until Friday night unless it be St. Valentines day on which occasion I had the honor of getting some seven or eight of those mischievous little epistles some filled with with flattery some with love. One I shall long remember it is an Acrostic on My name. It was signed Zephre. It was indeed a pretty thing and I afterwards ascertained that it came from Miss Tillie Russell Friday night I went to the Society and was engaged in a debate of the question, "Which produces greater

incentives to action love of Country or love of fame." I was on the affirmative and of course had to maintain that love of country furnished greater incentives. And I touched on the different passions of the human heart and most strongly on the love of home, of friends, of property of life of honor of pride in our own institutions and love of fame too, since fame itself was one of the great incentives to action for the defence of our country.

Saturday Feb 16, 56

This day I spent in perhaps a little better manner than the previous one since I got my Horace and Herodotus in it and wrote some in this book though very little. Indeed I find my time is nearly entirely taken up with my studies and it is only occasionally that I get to write in it. Saturday night the Lexington Serenaders met at Mr. Russells and after practising some little went into the large upper hall and played and sang several peices to the ladies in the parlour. Sunday was spent as usual I heard my class recite went to church and spent the evening reading Prescotts conquest of Peru. which I regard as one of those master peices of American composition scarcely equaled any where. Monday found me at work with no interruption until Tuesday Evening when I attended a Sewing Society at Mr. Russells. The Evening will form one of the most pleasant references in My College life. I was for the first time in my life told that I was loved by one whom I had learned to love before. Miss Tillie Russell a lady or rather a girl of 15 years as gentle as a lamb and as beautiful as the rose, her cheek is as soft and beautiful as the downy peach, her eyes are bright and expressive, to sum it all

in one word or sentence she is "my dove eyed maid." After whether it be true or not I have learned this much that it is most pleasant to hear the declaration from one so fair. After remaining as late as was consistent I and several other of the College Boys departed but all my glee and pleasant thoughts would not keep me from the probabilities of muddy weather. I was getting along very well in the mud when all a sudden I found myself flat in the road and of course a pair of "split" pants but that could not keep off my pleasant feeling. I was in an unusual flow of spirits (and had no interruptions) until Friday night when after participating in a very interesting debate (on the question "Was Ferdinand and Isabella justifiable in expelling the Jews). We proceeded to the trial of some of our members for failures to do their duty and this seemed to be an utter contempt of the law both on the part of some of the members and the individuals brought up for trial. Indeed I was so astounded at this that in a hasty moment I handed my resignation to the President. It was read before the society and some very affective speeches were made indeed I was never so affected as then to think having been a member so long and being identified as I was with the society it seemed like putting my self off from my best friend. Although I regretted it in a few moments afterwards a mean kind of pride persuade me insist on being furnished with my resignation. I saw its effect on the members there was gloom on every countenance and I must acknowledge it raised my own vanity a little more than I had wished. After that night I was in trouble but soon resolved to return again.

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Saturday Feb 23 56

This day I spent in cleaning my room and in getting my lesson in Horace, which I admire very much I think it is easier to read than Virgil, (but I think Virgil is the best poet) besides reading some in Peru. I love that work and would like to read more but I find no time scarcely. And even whilst I now write it is 12 o'clock. No night finds me in bed at 12 unless I am unwell which very fortunately is rarely ever the case. Sunday I spent as usual indeed. I shall have to adopt some plan to keep this book from becoming monotonous. I went to Sunday school heard my class went to church and as I had been told by Mr. Finney that he had a letter from Rev. Mr. Brown of Saline I joined this church here and I do pray God that he will enable me to bear with patience the cross of Christ. I feel that I am not what I should be. I feel that I am an awful sinner in the sight of God. I hope he will give me strength to bear on my way rejoicing. Monday morning brought recitations and all the business necessary in order to prosecute them. There was no interruption until Wednesday evening when I rode out to Judge Rylands (Sin Ryland having brought me a horse) and found Miss Rebeca Kirtly, Misses Bettie Ella and Rosa Ryland all ready to attend a Storm Party at Col. Swings. The mud was very deep and we got most beautifully spattered long before we got there, but the girls were in the carriage with Sim R. and when in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of the house we came to a deep ravine across the road where the girls were not willing to cross we took the lady (Miss Bettie Ryland) who was riding with us on to the house and bringing a lantern and her horse back we were enabled to transport the ladies Miss Rosa got up behind me Miss Ella behind Mr. Harrison,

Miss Rebecca Kirtley mounted Miss Betties horse and we all rode over. The carriage being lightened got over very well, but what amused me was that after we had got over the ladies did not care about getting back in the Carriage. They chose rather to stay where they were, and of course if I do not mistake very much I did not insist on their getting back. There was a kind of pleasant feeling in having their little arms around me not to felt under any other circumstances. At last we all got there and found that our party constituted the crowd since there were only two other ladies present Miss Ewing and Miss Setton, after brushing off a little of the mud and washing the dirt from our faces. We were led into the dining room and partook of a most excellent supper after supper we adjourned to the parlour and played the time away until 2 o'clock and betook ourselves to bed. Since it was too dark and snowy to think of going home we stayed at Mr. Ewings. Next morning it was fully 8 o'clock and we finally got started and after a slow tedious journey got to Judge Rylands about 10 Nothing would do. We must stay until after dinner and when dinner was over which was about 2 o'clock it was too late to think of going home till in the morning. Accordingly though much against my will I stayed and we had quite a pleasant time as at the Storm. We had plenty of music and singing intermingled with confabulation. Friday morning I came back expecting to be brought to a strict account by the President but he has never said a word about it. Friday night I again joined the Society which I now say I never expect to leave unless obliged. The question debated to night was one of interest and afterwards we tried Jos James for some of his misdemeanours and as he was unable to give

any laudable excuse for his violations he was expelled. This was the first expulsion from the society I had ever witnessed and feel that I should feel as bad at being expelled from the Society as from the College although it might not have the same effect upon my future career. I believe that if I were expelled from the Society I should leave the College

Saturday March 1st 56

I have unfortunately been so lazy about writing in this book that I am now nearly 2 weeks behind hand and I shall only pass them over lightly coming as quick as possible to the day previous to the night. Since I wish to write before going to bed all that happens in the day. Saturday night I went with Mr Slayback to see the ladies at Mr Russells I had promised in the evening to go but went home for supper and forgot it. Coming back I met Slayback on the road he waited on the road until I came up and changed clothes and when returning he would sing one part and I another of "Dolcy Jones." Upon arriving I found or we found the ladies in the Kitchen fixing up something nice after chatting an hour we were asked into the dining room and ate some nice oysters going back into the parlous we had music &c and then came off, but whilst on our way we saw a light at Miss Waddells window and suprised the ladies by singing a song for which they kindly threw compliments on a card we bore off in triumph very well pleased with the evening. Sunday I went to Sunday School and heard my class as usual, listened to an excellent sermon from Mr. Finney, ate my dinner and come back to pleasant Retreat. Monday brought the regular rotine of studies and with very little to

interest until Wednesday evening on which occasion I and Mr Samkin went out to Judge Rylands to a storm party we had a most magnificent ride through the mud. I had hired for myself a most excellent riding horse and had fed myself up on the hope of having an uncommonly good ride but the fates were against me. Samkin's horse broke his bridle and we had such a time would not ride him, so I had to try him or have no company and accordingly I mounted him and although he ran up a dangerous hill with me I managed to find myself there after so long a time We got there late but in plenty of time to get as much fun as we could well stand up to. There were many ladies and gentlemen present among whom I met first rank Miss Bebeck Kirtley a very pretty and exceedingly interesting lady. After staying until 11 o'clock we returned and 12 o'clock found me safely lodged at Pleasant Retreat. Thursday was as uninteresting as any day for absence during the night made me bad in my greek and missing made me feel bad all day. Thursday night after getting my Greek I sat down and wrote the following to Miss Fannie Shotwell. The circumstances are these Samkins alias Prometheus wished to send, and indeed wrote a note by me on Saturday night to Miss Fannie which I promised to deliver. I however misplaced it and when I got there I did not have it and intended not saying anything about it but Slayback told her I had it, she asked for it and I had to ask her pardon my negligence, but promised to send it by the first one who could carry it. Samkin went then Sunday night I and I sent it together with a ballad of the "Love thee dearest" to Miss Tillie and in a note asked her to give it to Miss Fannie not letting Samkin know it. She did so and Billy Russell snatched it out of her hands and passed it around the house (several gentleman being present) and it

caused a great deal of sport. The next day Miss Fannie sent a note to Slayback and I thanking us for the amusement we had furnished and in a postscript made the remark "gulled for once" Slayback answered it in poetry and asked who could be gulled? Whereupon she wrote back to us some verses explaining it all and this is what I answered.

Thus Spring "We" stood on College Hill

A sound came softly by  
The air so pure, so hushed and still,  
Methought were me a sigh  
A sigh! O no! a second thought  
Completely changed my mind  
For twas an "Echo" how it brought  
From "Fairies Glen" confirmed.

The tale it told I scarce could hear  
So soft the saphyrs flew  
But one did kindly to me bear  
A sound which was quite new  
It came "We" know from beauties "Queen"  
So softened was the strain  
It told of "strolling gentlemen"  
And "Fairies from the plain"

O  
Of Prometheus a lover bold  
Who in the "Glen" had found  
A cord, which every thought controlled  
And round his heart had wound  
Of "Prayers" such only as are heard  
By those who dwell above  
Then might not every softened word  
Be to the "Queen of Love"?

Of "Peals of laughter long and loud  
On one poor little "note"  
Which Prometheus for from the crowd  
Devotedly had wrote."  
Of Gulled and gulled and gulling too  
Done by the "Gentlemen"  
So "eager from the plain"

Thus far we had delighted been  
With "Echoes" softened strain  
But pleased the more when "Beauties Queen"  
Thus did commence again  
But still I'd have you to come down  
And not such Greek to use  
As O—"Dagon" and then "confound"  
Such Latin doth confuse—

\*Fairies Glen was the place from which it came and was signed "Echo"

The strain had ceased I sought in vain  
Another word to hear  
No sound from out of the Fairies Glen  
Came to my listening ear  
Then to the "Zephyr" who so well  
Had acted out her part  
Thus did we quickly to her tell  
The gladness of our heart.

The beauties of the "Fairies Glen"  
From us so long withheld  
Since asked by its own lovely queen  
To see it we're compelled  
When there we solemnly agree  
No word of greek to use  
For it would most ingallant be  
Our "Hostess" to "confuse".

Pleasant Retreat  
March 6th 56

We.

This is perhaps the longest and the least studied peice I ever wrote and accordingly is the worse. The lady has not answered it and I suppose will not but I heard that it accomplished what I wished it to. That is a deal of fun. Friday night we debated the question "Sectarianism is not an evil", I had to affirm that it was and went on the hypothesis that union was good and indeed necessary in everything and why should Gods children be devided? Could their united efforts do more in his cause? Was it not like getting into hot water to join any church? Did not their quarrels keep many of the worldly minded out? Was not time talents used in learning spent in hot debates which if directed in a different channel might effect more than the mere establishment of a church? And Did not the Apostles belong to one church? and does not the Bible say that "A house devided against itself shall fall" Then where are the benefits of Sectarianism? We got the decision of the President/

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Saturday March 8th 56

This day I spent in getting my lessons for Monday and reading until evening when I accompanied Mr. T. M. Ranney to the Daguerrean Gallery and I sat with him for a picture. He wanted to have one of our faces together. After supper I went to Russells to see Ben about practicing some peices together and we went to Arcana Hall and after the Brass band had finished their practice or lesson, we all practiced some pieces and went out Serenading for the first time this session and the first time under the name of "The Russell Serenaders" a name which we assumed because another Serenading company had had cards printed with "Lexington Serenaders" on it. Assuming our name and borrowing our credit. Therefore in defence of our good name. Coming home late we went to bed and did not event to Sunday School on Sunday for the reason I did not get up in time. I was certain that I was too late for breakfast and sat down to write intending to go to church when I heard the bells. But not hearing them I went down and heard that some yankee had smuggled arms on board the Arabia and the citizens had seized them. These caused great excitement in our town, a long Extra from the Express completely set the town on fire. There were one hundred sharps Rifles boxed up under the name of "Carpenter tools" and two peices of Canon. The Yankey had written a letter to his nother telling her how well he had succeeded in secretating his arms but he dropped it and the captain read it and when he arrived he sent word up town and a comitte waited on the gentleman. The Citizens called a meeting on Monday morning and appointed a comittee and gave them power to examine every boat to see whether they had any more "Carpenter tools" on board. Nothing of interest happened during the week

until Friday night went to the Society and had an excellent debate of the question, "Are the laws in the Constitution sufficient to protect the South?" I was on the debate and think that I proved that it was not sufficient to protect us since it contained nothing in it referring to slavery except that it does not say it is unlawful. The U. S. having no slaves of course could have no laws in regard to slavery. The fugitive slave law was violated every day and there was of course a more stringent law required in order that our slaves might be secured.

Saturday March 15th '56

This day I spent as usual reading writing and getting my lessons for Monday. Saturday night the Russell Serenaders came up and we after a little practice to a considerable round and came back loaded with cards and bouquets.

Sunday I went to Sunday School and heard my class afterwards I listened to an excellent sermon from Pres. Dulin at the Baptist church. The evening I spent in lounging part of the time and at 2 or 3 o'clock I called on Miss Rebeck Kirtley and after night I called on Miss Bettie Ferrell and after 9 o'clock came up to the college. It was a beautiful moonshiny night and all the boys were laying on the steps talking about sweethearts and upon the whole it was about as lovesick a crowd as I ever saw. Monday with its recitations preceeded a week of monotonous routine. Once during the week the "Russell Serenaders" came up and asked as a favor that I should go to serenade a little girl for Ben, after I had got my lessons we went, Friday night came and the question was discussed with interest.

Saturday March 22nd 56

This day I was engaged usual all day and went serenading at night. Sunday I spent as usual and Monday brought Books and recitations. Until Thursday when Ben Russell and I started to Saline. & got as far as Tabé which was too high to cross, so we came back home resolving to get a gentle horse and try it Friday. We got back about 12 o'clock just in time to attend the Know nothing convention. The town was full to overflowing with "Sams Boys" After dinner The Brass Band opened the Convention with "Hail Columbia" a glorious old tune, Robt. C. Ewing was made President and he introduced Sam Woodson of Independence to the crowd. He entertained us for an hour with very good speech after he had finished Prof. Akers was called on and he spoke And how shall I describe the speech. I cannot call it good for it was the best thing I ever heard. Some one had handed him some verses from the Bible, just to taunt him for he has been and is now a preacher, but I'll venture that no one else hands him one for if any one ever did get used up it was those persons. He spoke some 2 hours and it was when he was done the people gave three loud huzzas for Filmore & Dogaldson I have never heard such a speech. He kept the audience chained in silence sometimes any number could be heard crying sometimes mad enough to fight and sometimes in roars of laughter. I could listen to such all day. At night I and St. Clair & Morris went to the Seminary to get some of the Ladies to go to the speaking but did not succeed because Morris did not call for the ladies for us and we then. From the Seminary we went to the Court House and found Troxwell speaking. He was full of abuse, and I could hardly bear the contrast between him

Akers after he was through they again called for Akers but he would not say any thing. They then called for Ewing who said a few pretty things and gave the floor to Fields who did well afterwards they broke up.

Friday morning we again started to Saline and about dark got to Bruce when being urged upon by Bill Bruce we stayed all night. We had a very pleasant evening of it. Ben had taken his Guitar and I my Violin. And as Miss Mollie had the piano we of course had talk a little and Music a little. In the morning just before I started Capt. Bruce called me to one side and gave me a ten dollar gold piece as a present although I told him to keep it he urged me to take it saying it would me more good that it could ever do him. I took it and started about 12 or 1 o'clock we got home. I was surprised to how the children had grown. Mollie is nearly a young lady and Dora is not far behind. Emma has grown a great deal. They were very much surprised to see us for I had not breathed a word to them concerning my coming down. All was well I saw Cousin Georges wife for the first time and I can say I like her very much She is really very pretty and judging from her conduct I think she is exceedingly clever. That of course I forgot to state was in

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In the evening we went to the woods hunting and killed only 2 squirrels and one pigeon coming home we ate a hearty supper and played until late. Sunday was an awful day, it seemed that we would never get over it. It was cold rainy, snowy and everything else disagreeable. This is the first time I ever saw it snow and thunder and flash lightening all at the same time. Sunday at last got off Monday morning came and we took a little hunt in the morning. After killing several squirrels and pigeons we came home and after dinner bade them all adieu. We got to Marshall