

8
Dear Gus.

Mother has roused me out of bed to write to Poor Gussy. On reading over her letter I find she has left me nothing to say, so I shall have to make up some stories. I think I hear you say (not very hard work for Mary) but I assure you I have reformulated since you and the children have left, and tell very few stories now.

Mother and I went to Merle day before yesterday. They were all well, and very anxious to all the particulars from you - Mart and I expect to keep to great numbers in the Post-Office this Fall. Mrs. Holt says "Always send my love to Auguste" -

Tell Sella and Frank ^{& Robbe} Aunt Mary missed them all very much during their time. I felt lost all day long without them; you know we had such pleasant picnic - last year - Well! I finished this page, but at 12 P.M. Goodbye I am going to finish Howard's letter.

5 Fall 1861
Dear Auguste I will devote this sheet to thee, and the dear little ones, and Luther too, I must not forget him who was so kind as to write early to let me know of your safe arrival, I hope he feels much better, than when he left us, Has he time to study and improve himself in military matters, as he should? There is so much said about inexperienced and ignorant officers, that I am anxious for him, and a friend remarked to day that he thought he had much better have left you here, that he needed all the time for study, I merely mention these things that you may think of them, I suppose Luther has done what he thought best in the matter, I was very glad to get dear little Sella's letter, and intend to put it away as the first I ever received from her, and I want her to learn fast, and soon be able to write for herself, and her dear mother too, Prob had a ride, but what did little

Frank do, or where did he go, You
must not leave him out,
I have ^{been} at the house every day, since
you left, I believe, excepting one day
when it rained incessantly, and I
thought no one would disturb anything.
Dorst is moving in to day, and I have
put all thy small pots on the upper porch
where I can water them, and no one can
disturb them, However, as far as I can see
no one has been in but ourselves, The
gas man called yesterday, with his
bill, Was it not paid? He says there is
a bill of \$2.10, If it is true, shall I pay
it out of the rent, in case I can collect
any from Foster? I have not been
able to see him yet, but hope to do so
before long, I called several times and
could find no one, at last I found a
young man, who said he is his Foster's
brother, I left word for him to call on me.
It seems Mrs. ^{now} Dis, and has been absent
for some time, and the house is shut

most of the time, ⁷ and that is why I
could find no one,
Dear Child I would love to have a
letter from thee giving an account
of everything agreeable or otherwise,
and I know I shall have one, when
it is convenient, but do not write till
it is quite so, I think from present
appearances, that we will go to your
house this fall, if you still desire it,
I think we can all be comfortable
there, but if you have changed your
minds about it do not hesitate to say
so, we will not think hard of you,
I feel afraid thee will over exert thy-
self, and be sick, and I cannot be
near thee to assist, Do think of this
when thee is tempted to do more
than thee ought, We miss the dear
children and you all very much,
and will be glad to have you with
us again, when you think it right,
which time I hope is not far distant