

Choctaw Cy.
Friday Evng - Dec 11th 1868

Eunice

My Dear Lucretia,

I have just come in from school and your three letters in one were handed me to my great joy. I had been expecting it for four or five days but tried to bear the disappointment philosophically, knowing that the mails are so irregular. It was delightful to hear that you were all well, and not without a servant. As soon as I read the letters I sat directly down that I might accomplish part of a letter before dark. I have written four letters since I arrived, two home.

I wish you could look into my school-room. It is of logs with not a few cracks, a large room. In one corner of it is a bed, on that the children put their hats and bonnets. The furniture consists of a table like that in our back basement, at that I sit with bell, ruler, and slate before me, and the scholars put their books on it and use it to write on. The seats are 4 of those common wooden spindles with a trunk, a rocking chair, a high cane back chair with a cushion in it, and another rocking chair with the back and arms off. On one side of the chimney a board has fallen off leaving an open space about the size of a pane of glass, through which we can see the road.

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[Sideways at left; continued from page 4]
him the respect he was entitled to, but made quite a tool of him. I could amuse you by telling you some incidents of my journey that are not worth writing down. Excuse this desultory letter
With much love to all and a kiss to the little ones —
Y^r loving sister
Eunice

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MMN # 100329
Date: December 11, 1863
Description: Eunice Sewall to sister on school, Choctaw County, Alabama

chief is afoot on the place he is supposed to have a hand in it. He often does and says such odd things that it is very hard to keep my face straight. He is very active and fond of out-of-door sports - Twice he has had to give up a projected "possum hunt" to study his lessons, but he says he is "going Saturday certain." For some days our sitting accommodations were extended by resting a board on the rungs of two chairs. But one day hearing a crash, I looked up to see one end of the plank on the floor and a boy on it in the most ludicrous position imaginable, such accidents becoming rather frequent, I was obliged to banish the board, I believe said Tommy, tilted it once or twice purposely - Johnny Deloach is a sweet, interesting boy of 10, amiable and studious, he and his cousin Annie just his size, are favorites already. They recite in the same studies, and he is very kind to her. It is really interesting to see them together. She is a pretty child, bright, merry, knowing ^{where} the smallest flowers grow in the woods and where the birds nests are, but very attentive and anxious to improve, one could not want a better pupil. Ada would like her for a playmate.

Saturday forenoon - When I awoke this morning it was raining, but before breakfast the rain ceased, leaving the sky cloudy, the air warm and damp. I have been sitting in Mrs. Deloach's room working on a cover for my writing desk, most of the time since breakfast. Tommy has gone to Pelham some five or six miles off with instructions to get some boots made for me if possible, if not he is to try and get some leather and they know of another man who

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may make them. One of my gloves is nearly done but Mrs. Christopher had superintended it and knit all the fingers but the one I am now at work on. She sits by the fire and knits from morning till night when she is not sick, but she has a chill almost every night.

From my window I look out on the back yard. In it there is a fire on the ground, on a frame right over it are several pieces of beef in process of smoking. Mr. Jimmy Deloach is just striding up. He started on a fox hunt at 3 1/2 o'clock this morning. I have changed the opinion which I formed of in Mobile. He seems very devoted to his mother and fond of home. He is just 18. She pays \$500 a year and has the privilege of keeping him at home as an overseer. She has one brother who is a deaf mute. He was educated at an Institution for them in Kentucky, and is now teaching a school for mutes in Greene Cy. The family all think a great deal of him. Mr. D. brought home a fox. I have just been out to see him, a large gray fox with a bushy tail. He says they had a very exciting chase. The fox ran into a man's yard and tried to get in the house. There are so many of them in the woods that they are very destructive to poultry and young pigs.

I have two pupils just beginning Grammar Latin. Mary & Tommy D. I have been busy this week, devising a comprehension of Lat. and Longitude with some of my pupils also Vulgar Fractions. Have been trying to classify them and have about succeeded. Have not quite books enough for them all. I picked out a few writing books before leaving home and put them in the table-drawer in the Library intending to ask Father

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to give them to me and then forgot all about them. I am very sorry for I need them. I have to write copies for them myself and cannot make as good ones as they ought to have. Would you like to see my order of Exercises. School Hours are from 9 - 12 in the morning - 1 1/2 to 4 1/2 in the evening. The weather has been unpleasant all the week. I have not taken a walk since Monday eve'g. There are some very pleasant hills around town from which the view is quite extended. I enjoy that very much.

I think of you and Abby especially on Friday evenings and Saturdays. I will write to Abby next week. I long greatly to see little Arthur. Last Sunday eve'g, I wanted to see him so I hardly knew what to do. I have not seen a peanut since I came except those I brought with me. The bugs destroyed the crop. A little black girl came into my room early one morning bringing a number of hickory nuts. They were very large and nice. I hope some of you will keep me fully informed of all that goes on at home, particularly of Mother's health.

Do you remember Carrie Snow's birthday when we met her Father in the lane and I asked him to let her go home with us? Coming up in the car, he spoke of it, thought my manner was rather peculiar that evening, judged from what I supposed he was unwilling Carrie should go. On the contrary, he was glad to have Carrie go to the neighbors, and she did go quite often. He had always intended asking me for an explanation. I did not give any, merely said I was anxious for her to go and feared Mrs. Todd might have some excuse to keep her at home. He said "Mrs. Todd was sometimes inclined to interfere a little

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[Sideways at left]
too much, but on the whole she was a very agreeable woman. Said in his opinion Mrs. T. was the best of the trio but thought that neither wife or daughter paid