

Lenatobia Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> / 1860

Dear Cousin Callie

I have been very ~~feely~~ for several ~~months~~, and have been prevented by that of answering your letter. But as I am alone, memories of the past ~~dash~~ to my mind while listening to the falling of the leaves rendered withered and dead by the chilling winds and frosts of dreary November. Past memories carry me back to the days of my childhood, and I sit here all alone and cling so fondly to those bright and beautiful pictures that are so vividly presented to my view. For then I knew aught of sorrow, I then knew nothing of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> realities of this cold and heartless world. I was then so happy in my childhood home, blessed with kind and indulgent parents, while all the comforts of life surrounded me, but alas! how different is the scene today, the difference is so great dear Cousin that I forbear giving you a description of it, suffice to say I for the last few months have indeed been most wretched



and since we abandoned the idea of going to Texas. my health  
has been so bad that I have no resolutions to do or try to do  
any thing again, although I have been slowly improving  
for the last month, I have not done any work for a long  
time, have been confined very closely at home, that I can't  
bear the idea of entertaining company not even my most  
particular friends, I am constantly told by the inmates of  
home and my dear friends that I ought not to be so  
gloomy, and I often try to shake off <sup>the</sup> chain of sadness  
that binds me, but I find myself wholly incapacitated  
to perform such a task, Ma was anxious I should attend  
the state fair but I was not able to go, Cousin Jane & Mannie  
went Mannie did not come back with Cousin Jane, she went  
with Cousin Julia, to Centur Hill but will return next week  
she is much delighted with her trip so far, Cousin Jane will  
attend a fair this week held at Panola Town, and all are  
anxious I should go, I have consented although I care nothing  
about it, Mama & Cousin Jane are making me a very pretty  
silk it is brown which is the most fashionable shade here  
I have gotten and two other dresses this fall, an English Debege  
and a Mouslin, I sent to Memphis and got me a bonnet, it's  
white straw, trimmed in green and has white plumes, it is very  
pretty but I don't like it, it is so gay, too much so for an  
old maid, I expected to have gone to Mo, this fall but my  
health would not admit of it, I wrote Will word that  
I could not accompany him home but he did not  
receive the letter until he started, when he got to Arrow  
Rock he then received the letter, he then went back home



So was he said very sorry I could not go as he is to  
be married the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month and was anxious  
I should be present he represents his lady love as being  
the counterpart of Ida Ross one of characters of whom  
what think you of her? You wished to know if I had  
read Annals, I have not, but intend getting it soon  
I have devoted very little time to reading for the past few  
months, I take two papers & Godey & Arthur's Home Magazine  
and havint read a number through for three months, my  
eyes are very weak and I cant read much, I expect  
Year I shall lose the use of my right eye altogether, Cousin  
Williams wife has been very sick for several weeks with  
Typhoid fever and has nearly gone blind, but it is thought  
if she recovers from the fever her sight will <sup>be</sup> restored, but  
I think James has doubts about her recovery, Cousin W. is  
in a very low state of health, I dont think he will live long  
Mamie has been very feeble for several weeks, we think she  
has night chills, Callie is teaching school has a very good  
school, if my health improves enough this fall I will teach  
after Xmas. where I taught last Summer but I fear I will  
not be able to do any thing soon, I am affected very much  
like Vis May now.

Well I will try and finish this letter or  
rather scratch for I cant write these days, Today is election day  
and I had felt very sad and lonely all day, as there has  
so much talk of an insurrection on today, but the morning  
has passed and it is late in the evening and so far every  
thing has passed off very quietly, I am afraid to retire at



might and have been for some time, and we have good  
reason to be afraid, as we have a goodly number of abolitionists  
in our midst several of them have been caught at Senatobia  
and used very roughly but not more so than they deserved  
Let me tell you a piece of news, nearly every member of  
Dr. Anthony's family have had a falling out with Henry's  
wife I believe none of them are friendly with her except  
Flora and he says she is as good as any of them Alice  
and Elma used very abusive language toward her, I am  
sorry for her, and she poor creature is so frail and delicate  
I have not seen her, but Cousin Paul says she thinks her  
very nice lady, but enough of this. Brother John will start to  
leave soon I dont know exactly when, I saw a letter he received  
last week from his ladylove was a very nice thing indeed she  
has a splendid education and is I guess a very nice lady, they  
will marry as soon as he gets home, every one to their notions  
for my part I expect to remain as I am for some time yet  
and perhaps forever. My Pa willowed was down to see me not  
long since, he is a nice Pa man and very wealthy but  
yet there is something lacking, you must excuse this letter  
for I cant write I really believe my brains are added write  
very soon Ma and all join me in love to you all Mamie  
sends a kiss to you, Callie has received her saddle says she  
is under many obligations to your Papa for his kindness &  
trouble Good bye dear Cousin

Your absent but loving Cous,  
Sue