

Flower Hill March 14th 1861

Ever dear Cousin

Yours was joyfully received this week for it had been so long since I wrote you, that I thought perhaps you had erased my name from the list of your correspondants. But am glad to find such is not the case, for cousin I claim you as one of my warmest and dearest friends, (as you are a long tried and faithful friend), and you were surprised to hear of my marriage well it is even so, and am just as happy as I could desire, but how could I be otherwise when I have one of the sincerest and best men for a husband that ever lived. I know my experience in married life is very limited as I have only been married a month yesterday but that length of time is sufficient for me to know I shall never repent my choice it was kept very secret our nearest neighbors know nothing of it until it was all over, we were not engaged but a short time. He addressed me last Summer and I discarded him but he was possessed with the gift of continuance and last fall he made the second proposal, I did not give him an



answer for more than a month, as I loved another and
knew not what to do although I was very partial to him
but at last I answered in the affirmative and we just
concluded to marry right off and so we did, and I am happy
to inform you that I think all who can, ought to marry that is if
they are well matched for I well know they can live much more
happy married than they can single. I did not have any wedding
just a simple marriage, after that was over we ate dinner and
left for my new home, when I arrived here I was most
affectionately welcomed by dear Patie and Miss Annie, who is
a niece of Mr Atkins, she lives here as she is an orphan
and Mr A. is her guardian we have only five whites in
family with the overseer, and twenty servants you wish
me to give you a description of my new home, and I
will try. The house has five rooms on the first floor
and four above, a wide hall and two porches the
rooms are neatly furnished. Patie has a \$3,50 piano
and performs very well ~~and~~ so does Mr Atkins he has
the best ear for music of any one I ever saw, and
when Patie gets a new piece he learns it first and then
assists her, she is a girl of fine sense and has a splendid
education she graduated at Huntville Ala, she is not
pretty but good looking, and then she is such a nice
amiable girl that one cant help loving her, she is very
kind and affectionate toward me I told her she must not
look upon me as a mother but as a sister but all of
her relations who know any thing about ~~her~~ says that she

must call me mother, I received a letter from one of her
mothers sisters who lives in Holly Springs, last she is one of
the nicest ladies I ever saw, she wrote me very affect and
called me sister said she knew Patsie and she could live
happily together as she is so fond of me, and that she knew
of no one who she had rather fill her sisters place than
good humble servants, there was no opposition on his side to
our marriage but Mama was not very willing to it she said
he was too old for me and then my health is so delicate she
was afraid I would not live long if I married, but I was
willing to risk that, I have not been well since I was married
and this morning I am hardly able to sit up. I have not sat
up all day for nearly two months, I suffer a great deal
with my left side I keep it blistered most of the time but I
hope as the weather gets warm I will feel better, I was up
nearly all night as we had a very sick negro and just before
day she breathed her last, I dont know what we were to do as
she was a house girl, she has been sick ever since I came here
I have not been home since I was married but will go
next week I am getting rather home sick, Mama has been
very feeble since I left I heard from them last week
Cousin Lane was quite sick with winter fever this is the
second spell she has had this winter, Miss Lillis has been
having chills but I believe she has broken them
on her, Brother John left for Texas this week after I
was married, I believe he was to marry as soon as
he arrived there, Pannie has had a most painful



Caught all this winter we were very uneasy about
her she is in better now she is more fleshy
than you ever saw her but does not look very
healthy. Political excitement is still raging but not
so much as it was several weeks ago as they think
they can get their rights without fighting. If you all
know South why not come to Miss as the lands are
not so much worn as they are in Ala, we would
like so much to see you all once more, but even
should you remain in Va I expect to see you again
as Mr Atkins has a brother living in that state and
he says he is going to see him one of these days
he spent the summer there about five years ago it is
his native state, Cousins you must excuse me
for this droll thing as I am half asleep. Give my
best love to your dear Papa & Mama the boys and Cous
Pennis a dogged pipe for the little ones, My love
to Cousin Emmys family, ask Emilia why she dont
answer my last letter, Patsie says I must present
her best love to her Cousin Callie & Mr Atkins send his
best respect to you all, I wish I had some flowers send
to send you but I have none but if you were near I
could give you as many cuttings as you want if I ever
have an opportunity I will send you a box of cuttings
Tell the servants howdy for me, Do write soon and
write a long letter, I will dear Cousin from one
who loves you most fondly
Sue Atkins