

Southwestern Female College.

April 8th 1864.

My dear Pa.

It has been such a long time since I heard from you, that I hardly know how to commence writing. I have not received a line from home since Millburn was here, which was about six weeks ago, and I cannot but be uneasy when the other girls from my County hear from their homes, and poor me am disappointed from day to day: I am confident if I donot receive a letter from you to day I will grow frantic, you may think I am speaking too extravagantly, but could you see my "Long face", you would be convinced at once.

I think one reason for my being so "home sick" at present is that Brother left for home a day or two ago, after having spent a week in Petersburg, and you know that is calculated to make me feel a little gloomy. I was perfectly delighted to see him, and had a very pleasant time while he was here, but for my having a dreadful cold which settled in my eyes, I would have had a delightful time. I spent an evening at Mrs. Soyner with him and was also invited to dine there but my (horrid) cold prevented me from going; he stayed at Mrs. S.'s all the time. We have very disagreeable weather now, and have had for

the last two weeks indeed it seems as if we would never have any more bright days. Cha wrote me a short note by Mr. Milburn and said she thought you would visit me this month, and Brother also said he thought it was very probable. I am now looking forward to your coming with ^{inexpressible} pleasure. Brother told me that Capt. D. was ~~paraded~~ of course a certain cousin of mine is very much relieved, how I wish I could see her, I want to tease her a little. I also heard of Korean Hurst's death. I suppose Pa you are very busy now preparing for planting corn, and various other things that interest the farmer, oh how I wish I could be at home now to attend to cultivating flowers. Cha has some pretty hincinths, has she not? But I had forgotten that gentlemen pay very little attention to flowers. I spent the night with one my friends a few days ago, and the flowers and young fowls reminded me so much of home. If you should visit me this spring tell Cha she must send me a bunch of flowers. I know they will be withered, but still I will prize them, and she promised to send me a box if it was convenient for you to bring it, and if she does. Tell her not to bother about sweet things, but send something substantial such meat, bread, fowls &c. I do want to see you all so badly. I wrote to Cousin ^{Bettie's} Easter and sent the letter by mail. I hope she has received it, but for fear she has not you can tell Cousin Joe I have not had her

hat made and is quite pretty. I will send it by first-
safe opportunity. I have written you quite a long letter, in
reply to your short note. And as I am quite busy and
wish to write to Brother, I must close. You must excuse
lots and blunders and let no one see this, for 'tis written
so badly I am ashamed for you to see it. My best-
love to all and a kiss for your self. Tell Ma & Cousin
Bet to write to me. And you must write very soon
and give me all the news. Good bye

Affectionately your child
Bettie.

My Dear Ma.

I have written Pa all the news. but still
I find that I have something ^{to relate} which I forgot to tell him
and as you are very regular in replying to my letters, I
concluded I would write you a short note. The last
letter I wrote you, I asked your advice about my bonnet.
I don't know whether to have a bonnet or hat, you must
certainly tell me in your next, You know I always
depended on you and now I cannot get along without
your advice. I think I will have a wrapping made out
of my white dress as it is too short to wear. You must ask
Mr. Kilburn to get me a swiss dress from Maryland
or if he cannot do that you will have to borrow one for
me to wear at the Commencement. You also asked me
what I intended doing with my silk dress. I had some

thought of selling it - as I cannot get black silk to stuff
it with - but you must also advise about that too. If
I have any cartons bound - had I not better
have the straw one fixed for you? Tell Cousin ^{Joe} I have a
beautiful piece of velvet (but too very small) and I would like
her to make me a pin cushion if it is not too much
trouble, I will send it in this letter. I cannot stop writing
for I have a great deal to do today - Give my best love to all
and particularly to Cousin Lucy & Livingston when you
see them. Lizzie & Fannie send their love to all.
Write soon and all the news.

Your affectionate child

Bettie.

Saturday, April 9th 1864.

Broun, Bettie Lee. Bettie Lee Broun to Edwin Broun and Harriet Broun, Petersburg, VA, April 7, 1864.

FileName: ua24-19_cw1_18640407

Handwritten letter from Bettie Lee Broun to her father Edwin Broun and mother Harriet Broun. Southern Female College, Petersburg, Virginia. April 7, 1864 and April 9, 1864. 4 page(s). Bette Broun writes to her father and mother at home from the Southern Female College in Petersburg, Virginia. Dated April 7, 1864. Bettie discusses being homesick, visitors and visitations, family, flowers, and bonnets.

Subjects: American Civil War (1861-1865); Broun, Bettie Lee, 1846-1927; Broun, Edwin, 1819-1904; Broun, Harriet C. Johnson, 1824-1908; Homesickness; Letters; Personal correspondence; Records and correspondence; Virginia--Northumberland County; Virginia--Petersburg; Women college students; Women's colleges;

Southern Female College April 7th 1864

My dear Pa.

It has been such a long time since I heard from you. That I hardly know how to commence writing. I have not received a line from home since Milburn was here, which was about six weeks ago, and I cannot but be uneasy when the other girls from my county hear from their homes, and **poor me** am disappointed from day to day: I am confident if I do not receive a letter from you today I will grow frantic. You may think I am speaking too extravagantly, but could you see my "**long face**", you would be convinced at once.

I think one reason for my being so "home sick" at present is that Brother left for camp a day or two ago, after having spent a week in Petersburg and know that is [calculated?] to make me feel **a little gloomy**. I was perfectly delighted to see him and had a very pleasant time while he was here, but for my having a dreadful cold which settled in my eyes. I would have had a delightful time. I spent an evening at Mrs. Paynes with him and was also invited to dine there but my (**harried**) cold prevented me from going; he stayed at Mrs. P_'s all the time. We have very disagreeable weather now, and have had far...

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...the last two weeks. Indeed it seems as if we would never have any more bright days. Ma wrote me a short note by Mr. Milburn and said she thought you would visit me this month, and brother also said he thought it was very probable. I am now looking forward to your coming with inexpressible pleasure. Brother told me that Capt. [D.?] was paroled of course a **certain Cousin** of mine is very much relieved. How I wish I could see her. I want to tease her a little. I also heard of [Morean?] Hurst's death. I suppose Pa you are very busy now preparing for planting corn, and various other things that interest the farmer. Oh how I wish I could be at home now to attend to cultivating flowers. Ma has some pretty hyacinths, has she not? But I had forgotten that gentlemen pay very **little attention** to flowers. I spent the night with one of my friends a few days ago, and the flowers and young fowls reminded me so much of home. If you should visit me this spring tell Ma she must send me a bunch of flowers. I know they be withered, but still I will prize them. And she promised to send me a box if it was convenient for you to bring it, and if she does, tell her not to bother about **sweet things**, first send something substantial like meat, bread, fowls, etc. I do want

to see you all so badly. I wrote to Cousin Bettie Easter and sent the letter by mail. I hope she has received it, but for fear she has not, you can tell Cousin Joe I have not had her...

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...hat made and tis quite pretty. I will send it by first safe opportunity. I have written you quite a long letter in reply to your **short note**: and as I am quite busy and wish to write to Brother, I must close. You must excuse blots and blunders and let no one see this, for tis written so badly I am ashamed for you to see it. My best love to **all** and a kiss for your self. Tell Ma & Cousin Bet to write to me. And you must write very soon and give me all the news. Goodbye,

Affectionately your child, Bettie.

[Saturday, April 9, 1864]

My Dear Ma.

I have written Pa all the news but still I find that I have something to relate which I forgot to tell him and as you are very **regular** in replying to my letters, I concluded I would write you a short note. The last letter I wrote you, I asked your advice about my bonnet. I don't know whether to have a bonnet or hat, you must certainly tell me in your next. You know I always depended on you and now I cannot get along without your advice. I think I will have a wrapping made out of my white dress as it is too short to wear. You must ask Mr. Milburn to get me a swiss dress from Maryland or he cannot do that you will have to borrow one for me to wear at the Commencement. You also asked me what I intended doing with my silk dress. I had some...

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...thought of sell it as I cannot get black silk to puff it with but you must also advise about that too. If I have my tarlatan bonnet made had I not better have the straw one [striped?] for you? Tell Cousin Joe I have a beautiful piece of velvet (but is very small) and I would like her to make me a pin cushion of it if it is not too much trouble. I will send it in this letter. I must stop writing for I have a great deal to do today. Give my best love to all and particularly to Cousin [Lucy?] & Livingston when you see them. Lizzie & Gennie sent their love to **all**. Write soon and all the news.

Your affectionate child Bettie

Saturday, April 9, 1864

Notes:

[--LAST LETTER OF COLLECTION--]

Bolded Text: underlined words in original document.

1. Tarlatan (Fabric): A thin, stiffly starched muslin in open plain weave.