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# Jeremiah Gage to Mary Gage (6 October 1857)

Jeremiah Gage

Mary Margaret Gage Sanders

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Oxford  
Maddison Hall  
Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 1837

My Dear Sister

You will observe from the above that my pen is bad. I received yours of October 4<sup>th</sup> this morning; having a little leisure time, I take great pleasure in replying. You ask, how am I pleased with my boarding. I do not like to complain, but could not do it justice without so doing. I must pronounce the fare poor, poor indeed, for 12 dollars per month. And if there were any other possible chance, without taking too much time from my studies, I would not board when I do.

I am sorry that Cornelius Taylor is not coming, but he could not enter Colleg if he were to come. As to his money's being stolen, I see on that is hardly so. I am glad to hear of Bob's progressing so far with Latin. Now is the time that he should have the right kind of instructions. If he get the fundamental principles rightly laid down in his head his road to a knowledge of that language will be easy. But if not it will be like climbing a hill whose summit never can be reached. I ought to pay particular attention

To having him rightly instructed at this particular  
time, Rob should take up Greek also. ~~It~~ It is much more  
difficult to learn at first than Latin. Ask Rob to declin  
Dum and Domus found on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> pages of the grammar  
and if he can declin them, without making a mistake,  
he understands declining nouns very well.

I expect you would be amused to see me studying at night  
as much <sup>as</sup> you are at Rob. It takes me until half past  
ten every night to <sup>prepare</sup> my morning recitation. And  
what is worse they have us up, every morning a little after day

What kind of effort has come over Miss Sue Johnson  
and Miss Corrie Taylor, that has caused them to commence  
school again. I expect to spend my Christmas at <sup>Acorn</sup> Acorn  
and if so, I will likely see Miss Sue Johnson. Speaking  
of girls, Oxford can boast of the ugliest, I have not seen  
a pretty girl since the evening before <sup>the</sup> the party. They  
all have, either white, sandy, or red hair. I am sorry  
Cousin Betty and yourself could not attend the party  
Cousin is lucky for being sick, and you are lucky for  
having sties when there is a party on hand.

I hope Mr. Parrot has got entirely well. Tell Cousin Betty  
that I did not positively promise to write you her; but if  
she will promise to <sup>reply</sup> answer if I do not, I will, I will  
tell her it is possible I may

Make her promise also, not to criticize my letter, and not to  
show it to Miss Betty Mitchell, for her to criticize, nor to  
Mr. Brerar, Under these circumstances I may write to her,  
Tell her, I greatly thank her for her friendly advice, and will  
try my utmost to carry out its precepts. Tell her I have selected  
her the most southwest in colleg. (No. 10000) provided Mr. Daily  
has not put in his petition, you and Cousin Betty must be  
sure to come up to Commencement. I have chosen southwest  
for Miss Betty Mitchell also, Mr. Drury says, I mean Jim  
Dennis has changed a great deal since he has been gone,  
Miss Ada, bless her little soul, and tell her Jerry will be home  
before long. Who would have thought, that she ever would  
have thought of me. You say, Pa got the buggy from Mr.  
Adams, like I know he had bought a buggy I am anxious  
to hear something about Pa's crop, very good I predict  
from his buying a buggy, What did the buggy cost him?  
We have had some very cool and disagreeable weather, on account  
of rain for eight days past, but have had no frost as yet  
I have no know, only that this (Layfater) County gave 362  
majority for Leonard, Democratic candidate for Congress  
Write me who has been elected to the various offices in Old  
Holmes, the glorious place of my nativity, Sister, I expected  
to copy this letter when I commenced it, but I have not got  
time. If you will excuse the mistakes and bad writing I will promise  
you to do better next time. Give my love to all the girls, all the boys, all  
the married folks and every inquiring friend no question. I would like to hear

from Doc B. Dickens, as I have not heard a word from him since  
I left home. Mike Wade has come, entered College, and set out in  
pursuit of knowledge. I tried to quit on the last page, but could  
not, so I will cut it short right here. I don't know what to tell  
you to tell all the folks. But, tell them howdy and give them my  
love. I hope Pa is well before now, Goodbye

Your affectionate Brother  
J. S. Gage

P.S. I got a letter from Mr Daily yesterday. Tell Cousin Betty  
that I judged from his letter that he was mighty taken with  
a certain Betty of Holmes. Either her or Miss Betty Mitchell, I  
won't say which. Your Brother

Jerris

P.P.S.  
Tell Pa he must not stop writing because you have commenced  
for I would miss my dinner any time to read a letter from him.

J. S. G. 