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Matt Gage to Jeremiah Gage (14 November 1858)

Mary Margaret Gage Sanders

Jeremiah Gage

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De Poto Nov 14th /58.

My Dear Brother,

This is Sunday morning, and, as you suggested, I seat myself for the purpose of spending a dull hour in writing to you. Though the hours on Sunday, generally pass more pleasantly to me than those of any day of the week, as Dr Sanders devotes himself, on this day, exclusively to me, being obliged, during the week to attend to business, but today he has gone to church with Cousin Callie and Rebecca, who have been staying with me for the last weeks, and I am left alone, in consequence

of slight indisposition.

It is something remarkable, that I always receive your second letter, on the any day that I answer your first. I am writing a little sooner this time, than I usually do, thinking these by, to present a similar coincidence. You say that you can't think that I am so very busy always, as not to have time to write you oftener, but it is even so. I am never very well, and when I feel a little better than usual, my domestic duties are more than I can do justice to. I have many correspondents, and it is now, I find, quite a tax on my time. It seems that I am always writing, though I write to no one as often as I do to you. You need not think, that my not writing frequently, is an evidence of a want of sisterly affection. You can have no idea, how onerous are the duties of a young housekeeper, for the first year or two. I never knew

myself, and it is now. To give you an idea,
winter is at hand, and, I am very
busy with Comforts, quilts &c. I employed
some poor girls to quilt for me, but was
satisfied with their first days work, I
prefer doing it myself, to having it half
done. But enough of this, I received
your Ambotype, and your face was
just as familiar to me, as one I had never
seen. Mr Sanders handed it to me, and
before showing me the letter, remarked
that it was the likeness of a friend of his,
and asked if I knew any one that it re-
sembled, I told him that I had seen some
one in Holmes Co, whom it resembled
very much, but could not locate the person
resembling at the same time, that I thought
him (or you) a very good looking man, but
as soon as husband gave me the letter,
I saw the resemblance, and knew that
it was you. It could scarcely be expected
that I would recognise you immediately.

having never seen you with your College
looks on, viz, high hat, very expensive, narrow,
mustaches, and dignified air, Matt did
not know you for a minute, said, he did
not know what to do with the mustaches
I believe. I will not spend any opinion for
then as to your appearance, but will say this
much, - I think, that you think, that the
girls think, that Mr Jerry Gage will do, you
must not swallow all the compliments to
the girls say you. When you are older, you
will know how much importance to at-
tach to such things. I guess that you are
corresponding with Bettie Fragar, I don't
disapprove of it, as you supposed, I would,
unless it gets to be of too tender a nature.
You are just the right age to be caught by
girls who have had as much experience in
love matters as Bettie Fragar has, so you
had better think more about Mathematics
and the languages, than about the girls,
just now, so that after you get through
they will think more of you.

Dr Pandus received a letter from Uncle
John yesterday, stating that Matt was
at his house, and that he thought he had
persuaded, on him to abandon the idea
of going to Nicaragua, under existing
circumstances, &c, wants him to get this
business in Mobile, as the time is favor-
able. Cousin Callie has returned from
church, and joins me in love to you
if I don't write as often as you do, I won't longer. Love
will soon be good bye your dear Mollie.



W. Perrin E. Sanders
De. Solo
Md

1858