

My dear Willie,-

It strikes me it is about time you "took your pen in hand" to let me know that you were well and hoped I was the same. But it doesn't seem to strike you that way. Perhaps if it doesn't strike it can boogie too, if I give it a start.

I've just written an eight-page stupid letter to Marcia to pay her for not writing me any until she got ready some time months after the time to. But she got

around to it some time; as I'm
in hopes you will. What has been
done can be done again.

How is Bro. Martin? Give him
my love next time you don't get
at our class, please, and tell
him I like teaching better than
sponging on my relatives, which
he suggested.

I began this letter last evening
and now it is twenty minutes
past six. Thanks going evening.
I've got to do some work, make
out a set of questions for my
class; but I am going to write
a little more to you while I'm out.

wig for my fine & crue³ wife. Because after
I got to studying I was forced to attend to it.
Mrs. Cyprian told Margaret & I about the robbery
about a family that had a "Pious but" etc,
inter letters with on to get that and their next
away & left it well when they came back
it had got red hot and melted and run
down about seven or a hole in the floor and
set the house on fire; and so every time we
forget about our me always say that it is
probably real hot and melting and running
down and burning a hole in the floor and

setting the house on fire. ⁴

I had Shanks giving dinner with Mrs. Caynor's family party. There were Mrs. Caynor, Mrs. Cole, her daughter and Mr. Cole, Cleve, and another son who has just come home from the West. We had goose, oyster soup (first course, I forgot to mention it in its place), mashed potatoe, sweet potatoe, bread & butter & gravy, cherry cranberry sauce, pickles, canned peaches, cake, pumpkin pie, and coffee. Mrs. Caynor has things in regular farmer style, I guess as near as I know what that is; but she has

some lovely dishes. She has quite a
good many just exactly like those
white china ones of Grandmother's that
we used to have, and I guess they
were bought about the same time,
for she said she had them about
the time she was married.

This morning Mrs. Capron brought
me in a little tray with a whole
breakfast for me, fried potatoes,
sausage, bread & gravy, and a
cup of coffee; and tonight she
brought me cold goods, celery,
bread & butter, and cake - a
whole meal again, you see. I tell
her she spoils me, but she keeps
on doing it just the same. And

I have been so thankful all day
that I had such kind friends.
Clerk made my fire for me and
took out the ashes this morning
and brought in all my coal today
and I just couldn't make him
let me do it. And when he saw
me out in the yard when I was
emptying the ashes from the
upstairs stove and wouldn't
let me bring in my kindling
or make that fire starter. He made
it for me; but I didn't need to
have it lighted; so now it is all
ready for the next time I need
it. We only light that fire once
in a while.

And then I want to tell you what Margaret
did for me. This morning she showed me
how to lay her out and make it ^{down} ^{up}
a doppel frank occasion with Margaret
and, saying that now to keep with me
being thankful for her. Make that well
if the? I made them with two hands,
and Mrs. Gagner and I each have one
on one table so I think very kindly is
kindly to me.

This afternoon Dr. Smith came over &
staid about an hour and a half I think.

and Miss Wilson, one of the Juniors, who lives
across the street has just been making
me a call.

We are going to have Mr. Smith take supper
with us Sunday night; because the Club
won't be open again till Monday morning
and he has to take his meals at the restau-
rant, and we thought it would be ho-
pitable for us to have him here once. His
landlady invited him to Shantsgiving
dinner as mine did me. He is coming
over tomorrow night and we are going to
play croquet.

I decided to take ⁹ another piece ^{of paper}
after all, after I went up the
side of that page.

Didn't you go to the Chauke-
giving party? I'm so sorry. I
wished you to be sure and go
to the Washington's Birthday
Reception and take some nice
gift. I charge you now this long
beforehand to do it; because I
was too late this time. Now don't
forget.

Do you ever see Prof. Drager? When
you do, think of me.

Also when you see this letter, please
think of me and take your pen

in hand.

I lay mine down with loving
love.

As ever,

Mary.

Cahiroville, Illinois.

November the twenty-sixth. '83.