

-1875-

Louisiana Moore Ricker

January 1875

**Friday, January 1-** Today I open a new book hoping that the excerpts to be recorded on it's pages may all be as happy as those of the book just closed. We have everything to be thankful for and nothing to regret unless it be the mistakes from which none of us are free. Our family circles both at my first home and the present one, are still unbroken, but there is a prospect of perhaps two of the girls going out to help make homes of their own during the present year. I was at home all day and if a person's occupation upon the first day of the New Year is any indication of what the other days will be, I am to have a busy time this year. Carrie went home yesterday morning before the dishes were washed and I expect to fill her place for a week or ten days. My duties are not very arduous however for several reasons. There is no hurry about the meals, I may get them ready whenever it is convenient as Jimmie is still out of business. Then he helps me in a great many ways and takes care of the children much of the time so that it lightens my task very much for which I am thankful. I appreciate his kindness and feel more and more every day that I will not know how to spare him to go into business again. I have a severe cold which is not very agreeable.

**Saturday, January 2-** After our breakfast, which is fashionably late now and the other work was done, I put clean clothes on the children and made preparations to go over home after dinner. Ma and Mary were here this morning, they had been up to Connolley's and bought Jennie's wedding dress, a delicate shade of light blue silk. They told me that Gussie Halderman and Ford had come and also another piece of news that was quite interesting. Mrs. Joseph Reed is the mother of twin girls born this morning. That makes six children for her, the eldest of them dinner Ma came over and took Maggie home with her and I followed with Willie soon after and left him there

while I went to make a call on Miss Connolley and Gussie. When I went back home I found Maggie Jones just leaving there, she had been to see me and I was not at home and so she was just going to see Gussie, I missed her almost entirely. Miss Emma Murray was also over home and she told

us that she had heard that Maggie was to be married soon but I do not know when or to whom or whither there is any truth in the report. I stayed over home to tea but Jimmie would not leave the house that long so I gave him his bowl of bread and milk when I came home.

**Sunday, January 3-** The sun shone on a Sabbath, we have had nine rainy Sabbath in succession I think but the spell is broken, now we may hope for more. Jimmie went to S. S. and I went to church, no, I am mistaken, he was too late to go to S. S. and was not out of the house until after a late dinner. Dr. Pratt kept us until 10 o'clock or a little after, took up a collection for Home Missionaries. The Y.M.C.A. held their anniversary at our church in the afternoon but we were not there. I had dinner to get after coming from morning service and consequently was not through with the work. In the evening Jimmie went to church and brought home a report of a good service from Mr. Ketchum who usually preaches that kind of service.

**Monday, January 4-** It was quite cold yesterday but has been growing colder since and the mercury is quite depressed now. Immediately after dinner I went out on the rail to engage a wash woman and I found it very cold out in that part of town. Came back and got the clothes ready, had some mending to do and when that was all done it was time to get supper. After supper I wrote to Clara King. I have been owing her a letter

for some weeks but thought I was too busy to write until after the holidays and now I have more to do than I had then.

**Tuesday, January 5-** The thermometer dropped to 11 today, the coldest it has been this season I believe. The same routine of work was gone through with today and when it was done I found time to set out and partly make a pair of drawers for Maggie. Mrs. Collins came in and made a call just before time for me to get supper. The new Presbyterian church was opened and lighted in order that persons desiring to go see it after prayer meeting might do so. None of our folks went because it was so very cold. The church is not finished yet anyway and I do not suppose there was any five there. Ma and Mary came here from church and stayed a little while.

**Wednesday, January 6-** This is the day of the Directors meeting at the furnace when I suppose the question will be settled as to whether our folks will remain there or not. Jennie brought some work and came over to sit awhile with me this forenoon. I wanted her to stay to dinner but she

thought she could not as their cook was sick. She told me that she and Bart were coming to make a call after church in the evening. It was very cold all day. In the afternoon Jennie and Bart went to find some skating but the ice was not very good. After supper I wrote to the folks while Jimmie was gone to church. Was just finishing when he came home followed by Jennie and Bart and all of them sprinkled with snow. Maggie stayed up to see the company as Bart has always been a favorite of hers but for some time past she had rather given him up because he was not exclusive in his attentions to her. They made up however last week and she was untiring in her efforts to entertain him this evening. He gave her a piece of candy bearing the motto "Ever true to thee" which pleased her very much and she gave him one in return.

**Thursday, January 7-** There was some snow on the ground this morning and it continued to snow at intervals all day so there is quite a fall on the ground now. But no sleighs passed our house through the day. We had a late breakfast and dinner about 3 o'clock. I went over home to ask someone to come over and help us eat scalloped oysters and Ma came, the others were too busy. It was after 4 o'clock when I was through with the kitchen work so I did not accomplish much sewing. I finished off a pair of drawers for Maggie which I cut out day before yesterday and have worked on as I had opportunity ever since. I have had such a cold for more than a week past that I do not feel very well. There! I hear the first sleigh bell that I've heard this winter. I was telling Ma today about Maggie & Bart and the candy he gave her and she spoke up and said "Yes, and I gave him one, Ever true to be."

**Friday, January 8-** The ground is covered with snow and it is very cold and growing colder all the time. I have been busy all day and have not been away from home as all. I do not care to go where there is snow on the ground and as I have no girl and do not have much time to go anyway. Yesterday morning I began a braided yoke for myself and have worked on it a little today and then spent the evening working on it. I can not do much sewing under the present circumstances unless it is some such work as that I can drop and pick up any moment.

**Saturday, January 9-** This has been a bitter cold day but I have been at work in the warm kitchen the greater part of the day and consequently have not felt it very much. Jimmie does all of the outdoor work and helps me a good deal in the house so that we get along very nicely with the work. Carrie promised to be back today on Monday but it has turned so cold that I do not expect her I have lively times when Jimmie is out of the house as the children especially Willie,

are into every thing that is mischievous. After dinner the boys came over to stay with the children and let me go over home awhile so about 4 o'clock I took a little work and went over home. Miss Fannie Switzer called to see me while I was gone but I saw her over at the other house a few minutes. While I was there Bart came to take Jennie and Lizzie up to their house to tea. It was very cold but they rode in the bus. The thermometer was down to 4 below zero this evening.

**Sunday, January 10-** This has been a beautiful bright day but Oh so bitter cold. I went to church at 10 ½ o'clock hour for service changed from 11 o'clock today for the first time. I brought Lizzie home to dinner with me and cooked it after we came. It has been so cold that Jimmie has stayed at home nearly all day carrying in coal and carrying out ashes. Cold as it has been our water pipes have kept in order until dinner time today when a small chunk of ice on or some such thing stopped up the pipe but Jimmie thawed it out with a candle in a little while and had no trouble after that. Jimmie went to church in the evening and after he came home we sat up reading and talking until 11 o'clock.

**Monday, January 11-** It has not been quite so cold today as yesterday. The sun has shone brightly all day and the snow on the sunny side of the streets became somewhat melted. I was very busy all the forenoon as Carrie has not yet returned but managed to get things in order and myself ready to go out about 3 o'clock and make two or three little calls and attend to an errand or two. I want to see Aunt Mary Enos first and was admitted at the door by him as the river is full of ice and the boat is laid up here waiting for the weather to moderate. I next went to see Mrs. Peebles & Mary and bid them good buy as they are expecting to go south with Ma & Mrs. Gaylord & Mattie as soon as the weather moderates a little more. Mr. Gaylord's health is very poor and they are hoping a trip to Aiken, N. C., will benefit him. Maggie Jones came in with Mary Peebles while I was there and I walked down home with her & made a short call. I then went up to Miss Newton's to settle a bill, to Miss Miksell's to see about having a wrapper made and then to Connolley's and Mrs. Draper brought be home from there. Supper is over and Jimmie has gone to church.

**Tuesday, January 12-** Just as I was beginning to wash the dinner dishes today, Carrie came and I was not very glad to see her as I have a sinus cold and do not feel at all well. I finished the

dishes as she had just come in hungry and cold and she had nothing to do until tea time. It was quite a relief to feel that I was not obliged to go from the tea table to the kitchen to wash dishes again. It has not been so cold today in fact it has moderated so much at dusk this evening it was beginning to rain a little but the water froze when it fell and we are to have slippery pavements next. Pa was sick in bed today again and I went over to see him just before tea. Uncle Enos & Sam were there at the same time.

**Wednesday, January 13-** It was dark, rainy, gloomy and icy today, one of the very disagreeable days for persons out of doors but such as one as makes the possessor of a comfortable home, doubly thankful for the blessing. Jimmie went to church as usual and as usual I wrote to the folks. Had received no letter from them when I wrote but when Jimmie came he had letters. I stayed at home until late in the evening and then went over to see how Pa was getting along. He was feeling better and perhaps will be at the office again.

**Thursday, January 14-** Ma & Mary stopped on their way from church this evening and brought us three letters, two from the folks. We had quite a letter evening. Pa Ricker and Uncle Drew are out of this situation and we want Pa & Ma R to come and spend the rest of the winter with us but they have not yet decided to do so. It's very cold again tonight.

**Friday, January 15-** I have been at home all day and was fortunate enough to have company. Jennie came with her work while we were at dinner and after dinner she

stayed until between 3 & 4 o'clock when Uncle Enos and Aunt Mary came to make a short call and then she went down street to get the proofs of some pictures she had taken this morning. Mary was over twice today but Ma and Lizzie did not come at all. I think this afternoon is the first time Aunt Mary has been out since she was sick. Her baby was born on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December and died the next day.

**Saturday, January 16-** Cold but clear and pleasant. Was busy in my room all the forenoon cleaning windows, taking down the soiled lace curtains and trying to improve the looks of things generally. Jennie came over while we were at dinner and wanted to borrow my heavy shoes to wear skating but they were too large so she went back home to get ready without them. Jimmie and Bart were going and the boys and Jennie wanted to go too but through some misunderstanding no one went but Jimmie and the boys. At 4 o'clock I went over home after Ma

to go with her to see Mrs. Richardson and as she and Lizzie were going to Connolly's I went there first and got what I needed to take to Miss Mikesell to make Jennie's wrapper. Jimmie and I are going to make her a present of a garnet wrapper. It was too late to go to Mrs. Richardson's when we got back from the store.

**Sunday, January 17-** This is the last day that services will be held as usual at the 1<sup>st</sup> Pres. Church before the organization of the new church society. Jimmie stayed with the children and I went in the forenoon. Mr. Ketchum was not in the pulpit, he was not at S. S. having to prepare for the funeral services of Mrs. McClay, mother of Mrs. L. C. Robinson. He was in the gallery however in time for service. Dr. Pratt did not preach, Rev H. H. Wells being in the pulpit. Dr. Pratt announced the programme for several weeks to come. Next Sabbath dedicatory services will be held in the new church, no service in the old. Next Sabbath services in both I believe and the one following will be union corner in the old church and after that the called meeting of Presbytery to

organize the new church. In the evening there was no service at our church on account of union meeting at 6<sup>th</sup> Street M. E. church and Mary took tea with us and then went with Jimmie to church.

**Monday, January 18-** It has been quite cold today but neither rained nor snowed. In the afternoon Jimmie stayed with the children and I went up to Miss Mikesell's to take the measure of Jennie's skirt and from there I went out to see Sallie Peebles who has been quite sick again. Found her sitting up. Ella and Sallie said that during the late cold snap they lost all their house plants except a fern belonging to Sallie. I had quite a nice visit there and then Ella and Jennie brought me home in the carriage.

**Tuesday, January 19-** I have not done anything today, have just been waiting all day for Miss Mikesell to send me the quilting which I am to do for Jennie's wrapper. I got the machine all in good order this morning and then closed it up until the work should come. Have been intending for a week past to go over to see Mrs. Richardson but as yet have not accomplished it. Was over home today a time or two. The folks are all busy there getting Jennie ready.

**Wednesday, January 20-** I waited and watched all the forenoon for Miss Mikesell to send me the quilting for Jennie's wrapper as I want to do that myself but it did not come and while waiting I began braiding a chemise yoke to match the nightdress yoke which I finished the other day. After dinner I went up and got the quilting and was just commencing to work it when I

found I would have to go over home and get a white pencil. Had to carry Willie as there was no one with whom I could leave him. Came back and got ready again when Flo McConnell and two little girls came and after that Gussie Halderman came and then it was almost dark but I managed to mark the cuffs and pockets and while Willie was airing his lungs with a good cry, Dr. Pratt knocked at the door but I did not hear



him and Jimmie who thought he saw somebody go out the gate, just reached it in time to see him crossing the street at the corner above. We need a bell. Mary took Maggie over home this morning to spend the day and at night she failed to come home. We sent the Dr. over there to see her head again. It is still far from well. I wrote to the folks as usual.

**Thursday, January 21-** It has moderated a great deal in the last twenty-four hours, tonight it is raining, I sat up last night until 11 o'clock quilting and marking the trimmings for Jennie's wrapper and this morning I went to work on it again as soon as I could. Stopped at noon to go over home to dinner as Ma and Mary had asked us to go and help them eat turkey. Saw Maggie, who seemed to be enjoying her visit very much. Came back and put Willie to bed to take his nap and then proceeded with my quilting. At noon Jimmie brought a door bell which he put on the door and now I hope we will hear when anybody comes to the door. About 4 o'clock I finished the trimming and started out in the rain to take it to Miss Mikesell after which I went to Miss Newton's, Uncle Jimmie Wood's, Mrs. Tewksbury's and Miss Emma Bell's, reaching home about dark. The girls are all up to Mrs. Greene's again tonight. Carrie scrubbed the dining room carpet today and improved it very much. The Gaylord's and Peebles started on their trip south today.

**Friday, January 22-** This forenoon I did not sew any at all I believe. Put my room in order and made a trip over home with Willie. The folks are working on Jennie's black silk and it is going to be a very handsome dress. After dinner Carrie said she would keep Willie for me and I could go out all the afternoon if I wished so I took my work and went over to Mrs. Richardson's but failed to bring anyone to the door though I rang three or four times. I then went to see Aunt Mary Ellen and she was not at home so I sat awhile with Grandma and after coming home to tell Carrie where I was going, I took my work and spent the rest of the afternoon with Eva Voorheis. Went to prayer meeting, met Mary and Jennie at the corner and went down with them. Willie is 17 months old today and I have been trying to wean him for several days past, I think I nursed him for the last time yesterday morning.

**Saturday, January 23-** Weather has moderated considerably, would be quite pleasant if the walking was not so bad. The street crossings are almost impassable in some places. After breakfast Carrie gave my room a thorough sweeping and then I finished putting it in order, after that Jimmie brought Maggie home from Ma's and I washed & dressed both the children and myself preparatory to going calling in the afternoon. Carrie kept Willie and Maggie went home with Mary. I went over home to get a start and then went up to the store and got a couple of collars and then began to make calls. Went first to see Mrs. Geo Davis and her baby Edna, I believe they call it, and Miss Emma. Then to Mrs. Hutchins to see Nora and her baby which she calls Carl. Next to see Mrs. Chas Brown and her boy Willie. From there I crossed to second street walking on the newly paved road from Mrs. Hutchins house to Mrs. Levy's and called on Hattie Morton whose baby is Mary. Came on down to Mrs. Sherman Johnson's and saw little Sherman which ended the baby calls. Stopped at Miss Tewksbury's to see miss Edith Linn but she was not in. Maggie Peebles was also not and then came home, took a peep at the children and went over to bid Gussie Halderman good bye as she leaves Monday. I am tired tonight having walked 29 or 30 squares besides the distance from the gates to the houses which were pretty long in some places.

**Sunday, January 24-** This morning it was raining when we got up and it continued to rain quite hard until church time. Jimmie went to Sabbath school and then to All Saints church. He is not well and did not feel able to go out to the new church and there was no service in the old one. Mary was over and spent nearly all the afternoon. Ma was here to dinner and after she had gone, Lizzie came and got her dinner and after she had gone, Lizzie came and got her dinner. In the evening I went with the folks in the bus to church. It was the first time I had seen the new building inside. It is a very nice little church. Mr. Ketchum preached the first sermon in it this morning, the dedicatory sermon and in the evening Dr. Pratt preached.

**Monday, January 25-** This has been a very bright pleasant day and I have been at home all day. Wanted to do as much as possible on my night dress. Mary came over early in the morning and took Maggie home with her to spend the day. Willie and I got along nicely, he is very little trouble when alone. He made his first attempt at putting words together today, said "Papa gone", "Sister gone" and "Come Papa". The last few days he has been trying very hard to talk. I was just putting away my work this afternoon late, getting ready to go over home to see Mrs.

Richardson a little while when Mrs. Lloyd and Mrs. Neal Duke called, the latter expects to leave this week for her new home in Chicago. Just as they were leaving Fannie Keen from Kirkwood came in, she left Uncle Drew's last Thursday evening and got here Friday evening. It was very kind of her to call so soon. The cards for Jennie McFarland and Charlie Damarin's wedding came this evening. The affair takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February.

**Tuesday, January 26-** Have put in all the time I had to spare working on my sack. In the evening I worked on my night dress. There is nothing of much importance to record.

**Wednesday, January 27-** Jimmie went to the regular lecture this evening and I wrote the regular letter. I did not do very much after that. Have been working on my velvet sack today, would like to get it done to wear to the wedding but do not indulge any such vain hopes.

**Thursday, January 28-** Maggie Peebles and Charlie came around this evening before going to the Tableaux for the benefit of the Children's Home and invited Maggie to go up and take dinner with her tomorrow. Jennie and Lizzie went to the entertainment also and I should have enjoyed going but did not have the opportunity.

**Friday, January 29-** The weather this morning was of the very worst kind, cold, wet, sleety, slippery and unpleasant but not withstanding all that Maggie was anxious to fulfill her engagement at Aunt Maggie Peebles where she was to take dinner with Mattie Peebles and Isabel Murray in honor of Isabel's birthday. When she was ready to go it was sleeting and raining quite hard but I wrapped her up well and then spread my waterproof over all and she did not get at all wet or cold. Came home and gave a glowing account of the nice party they had. Married and numbered each person. John & Sallie Peebles and Mollie Murray among the rest. When asked if Aunt Maggie was there she said "why yes, she was the house keeper", and Mr. John did the carving and Mrs. Rich did the eating. In the evening I went to prayer meeting. Maggie went over home today and did not come back at night.

**Saturday, January 30-** Besides the ordinary Saturday work I did not try to do anything but finish the night dress upon which I have been at work for some time past. On this afternoon I took it and Willie and went over home to see Maggie and the folks. I did not do much work of course for he gets into so much mischief that it keeps me busy to run after him. Liza Spry was

there and before I left Mrs. John Nichols came in. After supper I managed to scallop the neck band and put the fastening on my night dress so that it was ready to put over.

**Sunday, January 31-** It has been quite cold today and there is a little snow on the ground, it was falling when we arose this morning. Jimmie went to Sabbath school and both of us went to church in the forenoon. It was the first service held since the new church was dedicated and the congregation was divided. It seemed small in the forenoon and much smaller in the evening. The new church was quite full in the evening I heard.

## February 1875

**Monday, February 1-** Thermometer marked 9 degrees at 7am. 7pm, 30 degrees. It has been cold but clear today, thawed in the sun enough to make the walking disagreeable. I spent rather an idle forenoon, Maggie is still over at the other house and Willie was unusually fretful so I did not try to do anything but take care of him. Mary came over and ate a little dinner with us and while we were at the table Ma and Maggie came in. Maggie's head seems all healed over so that the bandage might be removed if there was no danger of her taking cold, but as the weather worsens we are afraid to expose her to the danger. After dinner I dressed myself and Willie and went down street. Went to the Singer Agency and exchanged some thread and then to Miss Erin Bell's and then to see Maggie Peebles. I was going up to Miss Newton's and Maggie proposed my leaving Willie with her until I went there and back, so I did. H was very well satisfied. On my way home I stopped to see Mrs. Bolles and Lena Douhard both of whom are unable to leave the house. Mary came over and took tea with us.

**Tuesday, February 2-** 7.40am 27 above zero. Shas C. Damarin and Jennie McFarland were married this evening at All Saints church and we were there to see the ceremony after which we came home and stayed a while and then went to Mr. A. McFarland's to attend the reception. The wedding was a very pretty one. First came two little misses, Charlie's oldest sister and a cousin of Jennie's. The bridesmaids were Jennie Tewksbury, Miss Safford, Kate Hull and Lou Lovell, Walter Cissnd, Dan McFarland, John Kinney and Mr. Reynolds of Cleveland. The bridesmaids were dressed in satin and the bride in pink silk. We were home when the clock struck 10

And found the children asleep and doing well. Carrie does not seem to think it any trouble to stay with them but I have never allowed her to do so until very lately.

**Wednesday, February 3-** 8am 45 above, 11pm 18 above. The great event of today was the concert given by the Mendelssohn Quintet Club of Boston. It was bitterly cold and very windy at night almost a gale but the Hall was well filled nevertheless. Jimmie went to church first and then came after me and we went to the concert. It was very fine and I enjoyed it very much. When it was almost over a party from Ironton, who had been belated by wind and rough weather, came into the hall. In the morning Ma and Mary came over from home to tell me that Maggie's eyes were very weak again and they all thought she ought to be taken to Dr. Williams at once, but the weather was such that Jimmie did not think it prudent to go and by night we were all thankful that she had not been taken. Ma brought a piece of black luster for her and some white goods to make her a couple of aprons and also some cashmere to make one basque and over skirt, at noon today I did not want to take my share of the present but she insisted and as usual I submitted.

**Thursday, February 4-** 8am 10 above, 10pm 10 above. Just after breakfast and when I had the room almost in order the door bell rang and who should be there but Helen Ricker and Mr. Dempsey. They came down with a party from Ironton to attend the Mendelssohn Quintet Club concert. Adverse winds blew the little Fashion on to the KY shore about 4 miles from here at 6pm and they would have been there until now if Mr. Mather of Ironton hadn't telegraphed Col. Bolles about his daughter who was one of the party. Col. B and others got the Gaylord and went in search of the missing boat and they arrived at the Opera House in time to hear the last four pieces. Helen and I went up to see Mrs. Tewksbury, cold as it was and she and Mr. D were here to dinner. They were hourly expecting to leave but did not and at tea Miss Culbertson and Mrs. McCune joined us and then the four went to the river expecting to leave another Fashion at 7pm but they all deserted the boat again and went to the hotel to wait for the Fleetwood in the morning. I have enjoyed Helen's little visit very much but it would

have been more pleasant if she had known where she was going to leave but the uncertainty spoiled my plans which we might have made.

**Friday, February 5-** 7.40 7 above, 10pm 20 above. Cut out and commenced a new black luster dress which Ma gave Maggie. I did not intend making her a stick dress until we concluded that we would have to take her to Cin to see Dr. Williams and if she goes she will need it. Late this afternoon I went down street and called on Eve Voorheis's cousin Mrs. Weist who is a bride. While I was out Julia Pratt and Mary Messenger called to see me. While down street I went to look at some earrings to see if I could find anything that would suit Jennie. Grandpa and Grandma Ricker sent me \$25.00 to give Jennie for them as a bridal present from them.

**Saturday, February 6-** 7.45am 24 above, 9.40 pm 18 above. I sewed on Maggie's dress all the time I could get today. Went to preparatory lecture at 3 o'clock and when I came back went to sewing again. Am anxious to get it done as I have so many things I want to do before warm weather.

**Sunday, February 7-** 8am 11 above zero, 9.20pm 16 above. Jimmie went to Sabbath school and church in the forenoon. There was Communion service in the afternoon which we both attended and I went to church alone in the evening. This was the last Communion Service which will be observed by our old church as one church, this week the new branch is to be organized.

*Loose note between pages: February 7<sup>th</sup> 1875 Communion in afternoon last one before organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> church.*

**Monday, February 8-** 7.45am 9 above zero, 9.40pm 12 above. Had a letter from Clara King Wright. I enjoy her letters very much and enjoy answering them. Have busily

engaged all day making knife plaiting around the bottom of Maggie's dress. It ought not have taken me so long but it did and it did not get sewed on until after I had put the children to bed. Mary was over and sat a while with me. How I would miss the dear folks if I were away from them.

**Tuesday, February 9-** 8am 2 above, 11.15pm 4 above. Bitterly cold it has been today. I finished Maggie's new black luster dress this forenoon and did not do much else. In the evening there was a called meeting to organize the new church. We did not attend much as I should have liked to be there. It was a long cold walk and we do not expect to go there anyway so we went to the affair at Mr. Dameron's, given to Charlie and his bride. We went in a close carriage and reached there quickly and comfortably and spent a pleasant evening with them. Had Lizzie for a

dressing maid and experienced no difficulty in getting ready. Carrie kept the children for us. She put them in bed before we left home and found them asleep when we came back.

**Wednesday, February 10-** 7.20am 6 above, 9pm 34 above. Quite a change in the weather, clear and cold this morning and this evening raining and icy and slippery. We have been unusually favored with visits from home today. Ma, Jennie and Lizzie were here and made nice visits in the forenoon and then we went over there to eat duck with them and then after I came home Mary came and made a long call and afterwards ma came again. Saw Mr. Gibson over home, he was making a call there. Wrote to the folks as usual and Jimmie went to church. Poor Maggie got another bump today but we hope it is nothing serious.



**Thursday, February 11-** 8 am 31 above, 10 1/4pm 20 above. It rained nearly all night and froze as it fell, I should think, for everything was coated with ice today and it was difficult to walk anywhere and almost impossible to keep the perpendicular on a sidewalk. I was not out at all having plenty to do at home and a good excuse for staying to do it. Yesterday afternoon I cut out a white apron for Maggie and today I made it and finished it completely although it is ruffled. After putting the children to bed I did four other little pieces of sewing that I had ready to do and now am just finishing writing up my book for five days.

**Friday, February 12-** 8.15am 19 above, 8pm, 20 above. I cut out and made a white apron for Maggie. Ma gave me the material for a couple the other day when we were talking of going to Cin with her. In the afternoon Mrs. Chris Young called to invite us to take tea with them tomorrow evening. When she came in both the children had bandages on their heads and she wondered greatly at the cause of it all. Willie had just fallen about noon and cut his eyebrow so that I had to tie it up and wet it. It improved rapidly under the treatment. Maggie hurt her head again Wednesday and she has it bandaged again. I went to prayer meeting in the evening the first one held since the division and it was very good though not very large.

**Saturday, February 13-** 7am 14 above, 10pm 30 above. I cut out and made another white apron for Maggie today, went up to the store to get the trimming for it. Had it done in time to wash and dress myself for the tea party at Mrs. Young's. Had promised to go with Ma to make some calls but found Mary was going and it would not be necessary for us to go so I stayed at

home. Lizzie came over and put the finishing touches to my hair before I started. Late in the evening I went up to Mrs. Tewksbury's to get the curls which I loaned Jennie for

the wedding. We went to Mrs. Chris Young's a little after six o'clock and found Uncle Enos and his wife, Mr. & Mrs. Morrow, Will & Clara Pursell & Belle Ankey were there and Pa & Ma came afterwards. We spent a very pleasant evening and found everything all right when we came home. I had given the children their supper and put them to bed where they soon went to sleep.

**Sunday, February 14-** 8.15 am 22 above, 9.20pm 19 above. Was not out this forenoon at all. Jimmie went to Sabbath school & church both. The Sabbath school is reorganized as a large number of the school and teachers have gone to the 2<sup>nd</sup> church. It will probably be some time before they are all in order again. Mary, the dear faithful, was here nearly all the afternoon. Lizzie took dinner with us but left soon after to go to Mission in Jennie's place. Jennie came over at tea time and sat at the table with us. Uncle Jimmie was here also. In the evening I went to church with Ma & Mary.

**Monday, February 15-** 7.30 am 4 above, 10.15 pm 15 above. Very cold again but no wind and bright sunshine during the day and bright moonlight at night so it seems more pleasant than it did the last cold snap we had. I made a pair of flannel drawers for Maggie this forenoon and after dinner I went out. Just before dinner I was working with my hair and trying to devise some change in my way of dressing it when a professional hair dresser came in and offered to do it up for me as I had no occasion for hiring her services. It was the first time I was ever in the hands of a professional and I enjoyed it. Jimmie kept the children and I went to see Mrs. Richardson and then called on Mrs. McFarland and the bride Mrs. Chas Damarin. Stopped to see Maggie Peebles a few minutes and there saw Mrs. Miller and Erin Voorheis and Mrs. Boal, Mrs. Hattie Peebles' mother.

**Tuesday, February 16-** 8am 18above, 9.20pm 26 above. I had expected to begin my dress today but just after breakfast Ralph came to say that his mother said they would all be down to tea this evening if convenient for me so I said, sure, and went to work to prepare for them. Just before Aunt Mary Saur came, Aunt Mary Ellen came to call and I invited her to stay but she took Willie home for a little visit & promised to come back if

Uncle Enos was willing. Before tea Uncle Enos happened to call to see Maggie & we just kept him and sent for Aunt Mary. So we had

quite a tea party. Uncle Sam and his folks went home early on account of their children but luckily Enos and Aunt Mary stayed until after 9 o'clock.

**Wednesday, February 17-** 7.30am 31 above, 10.15pm 14 above. Ma cut and fitted the basque to my black cashmere dress this forenoon. She has been cutting and fitting all three of the other three girls' and insisted upon doing mine also while she was in the mood. I did not do much myself today. Mary sewed the seams for me before I brought it home. In the evening I wrote the usual letter while Jimmie was gone to church. Mary Y. Moore came to invite us all around to take tea with them tomorrow evening.

**Thursday, February 18-** 7.40am 6 above, 11.15pm 27. This forenoon I over cast the seams to my basque which Ma had cut and Mary sewed up for me and after dinner I sewed the hooks and eyes on the strip of linen all ready to sew on to the dress and then dressed myself and the children to go to Uncle Enos to tea. It was almost dark when we got there but it was an hour or more before tea was ready. Aunt Mary & Uncle Sam and the children were already there and Pa came soon after and just as we were going out to tea Ma came in. She had worked until dark and came at the last minute. We had a nice supper and pleasant evening and came home about 9 o'clock.

**Friday, February 19-** 9.20 pm 55. I have not done much today but study the candle appendage to my basque and try to continue something that would be sentimental when completed but the task was too much for one and at night I laid it aside and went to prayer meeting. There were very few there which is the usual state of affairs but still

the meeting was quite interesting, I wish we had come good live men who could make those meetings what they should be.

**Saturday, February 20-** 7.20 am 30, 9.30pm 32. I gave my room the usual attention this morning and then tried to do something to my basque but my efforts do not amount to much. I haven't many ideas on the subject of dress making and those few are almost distracted by the children. In the afternoon I went up to Connolley's and got some laces to see if I could trim my dress with them. An unmade dress is an elephant in the house and I take it to a dress maker the bill issues elephantine proportions so there is no leaving a dress without trouble and without a dress the trouble is more serious than ever. I went over home a few minutes after tea and found the folks all starting over to the court house to witness a spelling match. I had heard that Pa was

to take part but doubted the truth of the statement but after it was over there was no room for doubt as he did spell and had the misfortune to be the first gentleman spelled down thusly receiving the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize which was to be awarded to the first gentleman who missed a word.

**Sunday, February 21-** 8am 32, 8.30pm 34. Jimmie went to Sabbath school this morning and when he came home he found me ready to go to church with him. Carrie was not going out and offered to keep the children. There was quite a good congregation out. Mary was over in the afternoon. In the evening Jimmie went to church and I stayed at home and had a long talk with Carrie. I have had some conversations of a similar character before with her. She seemed anxious to do what is right but does not seem to comprehend what her duty is.

**Monday, February 22-** 7am 27. Washington's birthday was a very quiet day in Portsmouth. We decided to take Maggie to Cincinnati today and have Dr. Williams examine and prescribe for her eye. Mary said she would take care of Willie so Jimmie took him over there and then we went to the boat. Found a good many passengers on board. It is the first trip the boat has made for some time on account of ice in the river. Mrs. E. B. Greene & Bart and Aunt Mary Ellen were among the passengers. We had a very pleasant trip down, Aunt Mary and I each had our work and accomplished a good deal by putting in the whole afternoon which was much more pleasant than doing nothing. Willie is eighteen months old today.

**Tuesday, February 23-** The boat did not reach Cin until after breakfast and about 9 o'clock we took a hack and went up on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and while Aunt Mary went to Shillity's to do some shopping, Jimmie, Maggie, and I went to Dukene's to look at some earrings. Jimmie left me there until he and Maggie had gone to see Mr. Brooks a few minutes. At 10 o'clock we rang the door bell at Dr. Williams's office and were so fortunate as to find very few persons there and the Dr. at liberty, very soon after our arrival. Jimmie went upstairs with Maggie and after some little time Uncle Enos came and I went up with him. The Dr. gave us three prescriptions for Maggie and said with careful treatment he hoped the trouble would be removed entirely but she was in danger of serious consequences unless something was done. After leaving there we went back to 4<sup>th</sup> Street and I went down to Buler & Crump's alone while Jimmie & Maggie waited at the Post Office. There we took a carriage for the river and just as we started down the grade we overtook Aunt Mary walking down alone and so we took her in and saved her a long muddy walk. There

were very few passengers coming up. Rained hard all the afternoon and was so foggy that the boat could scarcely run part of the time.

**Wednesday, February 24-** 9.30pm 54. The late start yesterday and the fog kept the boat back so that we did not reach Portsmouth until about 10 o'clock and it was just 10 ½ o'clock when we reached the house. On Front Street we saw Sallie Peebles and Jennie Tewksbury in the carriage and Sallie stopped at the corner and took Maggie in and took her up to Ma's while Uncle Enos and Aunt Mary, Jimmie and I walked on. Jimmie & I came home and were joyfully received by Carrie who was very lonesome while we were gone. We left our baggage and then hurried over home to get Willie and see the folks. Willie seemed quite delighted to see us but I think he wouldn't have cared if we had never come back. We brought Jennie a pair of unpolished gold and coral earrings which we bought with the money sent for that purpose by Pa & Ma Ricker. She was very much delighted with them. After dinner I attempted to resume work on my dress but I did not make much progress. In the evening Jimmie went to church and I wrote to the folks. We began treating Maggie's eye according to directions, at noon today.

**Thursday, February 25-** 8am, 43. 9pm, 30. Jimmie has been attending to Maggie's eye and I am devoting as much of my time as possible to sewing. I have little to write as my thoughts dwell more on my dress than anything else just now. The folks over home are such accomplished dress makers that at first I was discouraged at the thought of trying to do anything in that line with the children and their many wants but now I am desperate and feel as though I must do something.

**Friday, February 26-** 7am, 26. Have been working at my basque all day, laid it aside to go to prayer meeting and when I returned from there, I put the puffs on the top of the sleeves which are almost done now. I have succeeded better than I hoped to do so far. Few persons come in as it is generally known that there is to be a wedding in the family soon and I suppose folks are giving us a chance to prepare for it.

**Saturday, February 27-** 8am, 34. 9.30pm 26. I have been busy with my dress all day. Think I am getting along nicely with it and am hoping to have it done and a new one for Maggie also for the wedding. It hardly seems possible that Jennie is to be married so soon. She came over while we were at tea this evening to let us see her in her new black silk which is a very handsome dress. Ma brought her work and spent nearly all the afternoon with me and Mary was here nearly all day, running after the children and thus saving on a great many steps.

**Sunday, February 28-** 8am, 24. 9pm, 32. It has not been very cold today. Maggie went to Sabbath school with her Papa today the first time since the Sabbath preceding Thanksgiving Day. She was quite pleased to be able to go and had a lesson & penny for her teacher. I did not go out until the evening service to which I went alone. Jimmie staying with the children. Were over home a little while and soon after our return Uncle Jimmie Wood came in for a short call. Hetty Griffiths who cooked my wedding supper came on the boat today to prepare Jennie's and now the folks will be relieved of all further trouble about that.

## **March 1875**

**Monday, March 1-** 7:30 am 40. 9pm 56. It rained hard last night and still raining when we ate breakfast and for some time after that I believe. During the forenoon the wind blew a little which was the only lion like indication which I noticed. The atmosphere is quite warm and spring-like and the ground is like sponge. Aunt Mary Ellen was here in the forenoon and after dinner Maggie Peebles called to see how Maggie was. Fannie &

Mary also came to see the children and Mary & Ma were each here a little while so I've had plenty of company.

**Tuesday, March 2-** No entry.

**Wednesday, March 3-** Lillie Fuller came this morning according to promise to act as one of Jennie's bridesmaids. I was very busy all the forenoon and did not see her but took time to run over a few minutes after dinner and saw her. She brought me a tidy from Laura who sent it as a token of reverence and it is much appreciated as such. I am in the midst of perplexities with Maggie's dress. Went over to see if I could get any more advice from home but no one had any time to attend to me so I came home and puzzled it out by myself. Jimmie did not go to church tonight, he does not often miss but he did not feel like going tonight and so did not go.

**Thursday, March 4-** Lillie has to take her dress all to pieces nearly and make it over, it is so different from these of the other girls. Lillie has not been will for weeks past and has not felt like doing anything to her dress so it has been put off to the last moment and was then one of the three unfinished dresses on hand but Miss Mikesell has Jennie's now I believe and Ma goes up there to help her.

**Friday, March 5-** I went to church alone this evening and when I got there found Mary, Jennie and Lillie Fuller already there. Lizzie was not well enough to go. The attendance



was quite small as it usually is. After my return from church we had some nuts, read a while and then went to bed.

**Saturday, March 6-** I sewed all the forenoon but was interrupted so much in the afternoon that I did not accomplish much. Hetty brought some bread to bake in our oven and as Carrie was going out I had to watch it. When I thought it was done I wanted Hetty to come and decide about it but had no other way to send her word than to send Maggie. I had never sent her alone before but it was a desperate case & she had to go. I was just starting her out the door when I met Sallie & Mattie Peebles coming in to see how Maggie's eye was. I excused her and she went and did her errand nicely and soon came back with Hetty who attended to the bread. After Sallie had gone I came in and found Jennie here, she had come to see me a few minutes and so I had to go up street she offered to go with me, we were just about ready when Mrs. Dr. Meyer and Lucy Rifinberick called & when they left we went up to Connolley's the last time Jennie Moore & I will probably go anywhere together.

**Sunday, March 7-** It was snowing when we got up, no, I mean it was raining at that time and changed to snow later in the day. Lizzie came & stayed with the children and I went to church

with Jimmie in the rain. After church Mary, Jennie & Lillie & John came home with us, Mary & John went home to dinner but all the rest stayed with us. It began to snow about dinner time and when the girls went home there was as much as four inches of snow on the ground. This is the last time that we will have the pleasure of the three Moore girls company to dinner, when we all meet again one will be Mrs. E. B. Greene, two will be Moore's and the fourth is already Mrs. J. W. Ricker. Mr. & Mrs. Voorheis's baby is very sick, hardly expected to live.

**Monday, March 8-** There is a heavy snow on the ground but the snow is shining brightly and the snow will soon be a thing of the past. It is the deepest fall of snow we have had. I have been sewing all day. Late in the afternoon Jimmie came home and said that Mr. & Mrs. Voorheis wanted to sell their tickets to the Jubilee Singers' concert on account of their baby's being very sick and if I said so he would go and get them. I wanted to go and so he went & got tickets. I was very much disappointed to find afterwards that it was not the Fisk University singers as I had thought, but still went as we had bought the tickets. It was just like the Negro revival church music, some of it sounded very well but it's a style that I do not like as it always seemed more like a burlesque on religion than anything else.

**Tuesday, March 9-** I have been busy all day sewing on Maggie's dress which is now almost done. Within the past two weeks I have made hers and the black cashmere that Ma gave me, that is the basque and overskirt. The underskirt I will not need as I can wear my black silk one with the rest of the suit. I made twenty-two button holes in Maggie's dress, the dress is made with a perfectly plain yoke to the skirt and then I made a yoke of puffs & embroidery separate which is to be tied under the arms and pinned over the sash and buttoned down the back with nine little gold studs which Ma gave me several years ago.

**Wednesday, March 10-** I have Maggie's dress done at last and everything about ready. I had to go out this afternoon to try and get some shoes and stockings for them and, of course, had to travel the turn over and was tired out. Maggie's dress is made of white organdie, puffs and trim and organdie flowers, she has a pale blue grosgrain ribbon and white lace trim sash to wear with it and I think looks very sweet in it. She is under the illusion that she is to be a bridesmaid and is anticipating much pleasure at the wedding. Willie will wear a white jaconet dress of Maggie's made with puffs and inserting one that she has outgrown and it just fits him, his sash will be

pink. Hattie Norton and the two Hempstead girls were here to call this forenoon. They came down to the wedding but will not go to the reception, only to the church. They are in mourning for their father which is their excuse. We had a note from Mr. Hale explaining Mr. Brookes silence. He is out of the city and has not yet read our letter asking them to come to the wedding. The Evan's are on hand in force, all but Col. Churchill & his wife. I wrote the usual letter to the folks tonight.

**Thursday, March 11-** Elisha Barton Greene and Virginia Sarah Moore married. The eventful 11<sup>th</sup> has arrived and our sister is married. I was over home all the forenoon doing what I could and after dinner I put the children to bed to sleep after washing them & putting on their clean underclothes. Went up and down street to do an errand or two and tired myself out before evening. Belle Ankerry came down to help the girls and as they were not ready for her then, she came and dressed up my hair for me for which I was most grateful. When we were ready we shut up the house and went over home where we found the bridal party all about ready. They all looked beautiful, that is the girls did. Jennie in white silk and illusion train and veil 2 ½ yards long. Lizzie was 1<sup>st</sup> B.M. and wore white with blue silk sash and an abundance of flowers. Lou Miller was her attendant and they stood one on either side of the bride & groom, Hattie Damarin and Harvy Greene stood at their left and Rich Peebles & Lillie Fuller stood at their right hand. The reception passed off nicely and everybody seemed to enjoy it but I was so tired I did not know what to do. Maggie & Willie behaved very well but they kept me very busy running after them. We were all home by 12 o'clock and very, very, tired. I trust that our sister & brother have a long happy and useful life. May God Bless them and theirs. Dr. Pratt performed the ceremony and Mr. Ketchum made the prayer. Pa & Ma made Mary a present of a very handsome black silk dress, ready made for the occasion & Pa came out in a new dress coat trimmed with brass buttons, a style that he used to wear all the time.

**Friday, March 12-** This morning we slept late being very tired and when we did get up there was some hurrying to be done as I had to get Maggie ready to go to Cin with her

Papa and wanted to get through with my preparations in time to go over home and see the others off. I got both the children ready and went over. Found Carrie Donham there, and the rest of the folks in general buzz of confusion. Jennie was about ready and looked as sweet and happy as she could, was wearing her bridal gifts from Bart, Charles and her new Uncle Sol, a match bracelets and

necklace all very handsome. Hattie Damarin came to go with them, the Hempstead girls called to bid them good bye, Mary went to the boat with the H. girls to see them off. Lillie Fuller, Lizzie, & Hattie, the three bridesmaids, went to Cin & Jimmie took Maggie to the doctor. Carrie Donham came back with Mary to stay until tomorrow evening and I am going to stay also as Willie & I would be lonesome at home. It is hard to realize that Jennie & Bart are really married and will always stay together, "forsaking all others" here after. After dinner Carrie & I went to take a walk, went to her home and then to Anderson's & Connolley's and then up 2<sup>nd</sup> as far as Mr. Gaylord's and stopped & Maggie Peebles on our way home but Maggie & Miss Bell were out. Called on Mrs. Armstrong at Uncle Enos' but they were around home & we saw them when we came back. Went to the P.O. and then home.

**Saturday, March 13-** This has been a lovely day. A while after breakfast I took Willie and came over home to make up the bed which the boys slept in they very kindly came and occupied my room and Carrie went to stay with one of her friends and Willie & I stayed over home. I was passing Mrs. Bryant's when she saw me and invited Willie in and he accepted her invitation so I had a good chance to straighten up things. After the room was all in order I sat down and wrote several pages in this book. It was almost noon when I went home and then I concluded to come and get some clean clothes for Willie and while here I changed my dress and then went back. Spent the afternoon with

the folks and took tea there and then came home to stay all night. The boys came and stayed all night sleeping upstairs. Ma & Mary were over a little while after tea. In the afternoon Mrs. Greene called to see how the folks were and Prof. Brown called to give his reason for not being at the wedding.

**Sunday March 14-** Jimmie and Maggie came before I was dressed this morning and when they came it was beginning to sprinkle a little and soon after we had a hard rain. At Sabbath school time the prospect from the windows was very similar to that of last Sabbath. I was not at all well and did not go to church but after the folks came from church we took the children and went over home to stay all day as it seemed so lovely over there. Lizzie was intending to dine with us but the folks thought they couldn't spare her so we all went over there. By now it had cleared off beautifully and the rest of the day was delightful. I did not go out in the evening, am almost sick.

**Monday, March 15-** Rain again this morning but during the day it cleared again and was quite pleasant in the afternoon. I have managed to make the four bibs today which I cut out over home Saturday and that is the extent of my days work. I have a sore throat, cough and all the usual accompaniment of a severe cold. Took a hot foot bath and several doses of medicine and retired early.

**Tuesday, March 16-** A real March wind has prevailed all day and made sad work of the clothes on the clothes lines. I have devoted what little energy I have to letter writing today and the result is a letter to Aunt Betsy Ricker, one to Helen Ricker, one to Mrs. Geo H. Bell at Memphis and one to sister Jennie, one Mrs. E. B. Greene Jr. I sent hers to Memphis in care of Mrs. Bell, Ma has been over once or twice today. She came this

morning and took Maggie over home with her but Willie is so lonesome without her that it takes all my time to amuse him. Carrie's mother came in and brought a gallon of maple syrup which I bought. Jimmie planted some seeds for me yesterday evening, pansy & two kinds of pink seeds.

**Wednesday, March 17-** Wrote the usual letter to the folks tonight and it was a long one too. The children went to sleep early & Jennie went to church so I could read the paper before I began to write. Ma & Mary were both over today and in the afternoon Clara Pursell made me a nice long call but I was so hoarse that I couldn't talk half as much as I wanted to. I've not done much today, got out my velvet sack and tried to work on that but it was not what I wanted to do so I put it away. Then I braided a while on a yoke but that didn't suit me very well either.

**Thursday, March 18-** I have been so nearly sick all day that I've done very little except take care of the children. We are all three in the same box, have very severe colds and cough incessantly almost. I am glad it has all come this week instead of last. One week today since Jennie was married, it seems like a much longer time. Mrs. Elden and Mrs. Pond called today to see if I would assist with the church social which is to take place at our church next Thursday and I told them I would if I was well enough and nothing else prevented.

**Friday, March 19-** It has looked delightfully pleasant out of doors today but was quite cool for all that and there was a good deal of wind stirring. Jimmie leveled off the front half of the side yard in the afternoon and improved the appearance of it very much. After dinner Ma came over and proposed that I should get ready & go up to Mrs. Greene's with her. Thought the walk would be good for me. I got ready about 2 o'clock and went over after her and then we went up to Mrs.

Greene's found her and Ella at home and Mrs. John Waller was there with her serving. We stayed there until about 4 ½ o'clock and by the time I got home it was quite cold. Ella told me that she & her uncle Sol were coming down to call in the evening so I made ready to receive them. They went from here over home to make a call and then they found quite a number of young folks who had dropped in and were having a lively time.

**Saturday, March 20-** About midnight we were awakened by Maggie breathing heavily and tossing around restlessly. We were up and down with her several times and this evening as Jimmie went down street he stopped to ask Ma to come over and then went to see the doctor who came about 11 o'clock and said she was threatened with inflammation of the bowels, she has a high fever and is quite sick. Ma stayed over nearly all day helping take care of her. I went to bed sick myself last night but felt better this morning.

**Sunday, March 21-** It has rained a little nearly all day and been quite gloomy and cheerless outside. Maggie has been quite sick all day, was better this morning but grew worse rather than better afterwards. Ma was here nearly all day, Lizzie came to dinner and the rest of the family were in and out through the day. Uncle Sam and his two boys among the rest. I was not out at all, have not been for a week except last Friday.

**Monday, March 22-** Maggie seems better again this morning, slept tolerably well last night. The fever seems to be of an intermittent character. While the doctor was in to see her this morning, his horse got frightened and ran away but only got as far as the corner where he ran against a tree and broke things pretty badly. We had just been talking about the horse and what a nice animal it was. The supposition is that the school children frightened him. I am very sorry it occurred. Will went over to stay with his Aunties this forenoon as he's altogether too noisy for a sick room. Maggie Jones came around to see me this morning she has not been here for a long time before. The committee of arrangements for the social meet at Mrs. Tewksbury's was this afternoon but I was not there. Jimmie was up street this afternoon and told Mrs. Tewksbury that I would not be there.

**Tuesday, March 23-** Ma was here this evening and as Maggie seemed better she promised little Mary Moore, who came to see her, that she would go to the Grammar school examination with Aunt Mary Ellen. She went for a little while. I got along well enough but Willie was very cross and restless and I noticed that he had fever. I had them both on my lap for an hour or more. Mrs.

Merrill came in to see how Maggie was and she stayed until noon trying to get one or the other of the children to go to her but she could not. After dinner Sallie Peebles called, having heard that Maggie was sick. In the evening the doctor found two patients instead of one. Mrs. Tewksbury was down this morning to see me about the Social and to see how Maggie was. Fannie Switzer, Fannie & Mary Moore were here a little while this evening.

**Wednesday, March 24-** This forenoon Sallie Peebles came to see Maggie and brought Mattie with her. Maggie was not well enough to be out of bed at all. Ma has been here all day nearly. I do not know what I should do without her. Willie has been sick all day but not quite so much so as he was yesterday. This evening after the children went to sleep I wrote the usual letter to the folks.

**Thursday, March 25-** This is the day when I was to have gone to the church to help with the social but the children are both sick and I am not much better than I was last week. Maggie has been dressed in her wrapper today but spent most of the day in the bed while Willie has fever and has been in our arms most of the time. After dinner I went to the kitchen to cut up bread and meat which I was to send to the church. Before I was done Maggie Peebles and Miss Anna Bell called to see Maggie. Maggie Peebles had not heard that she was sick until yesterday. After they were gone I got the things ready and then put the buttons and buttonholes in a little white, linen apron which I



had promised to contribute to the Apron Festival. Poor Willie has been completely wilted all day. Mrs. Spry was here a while this forenoon.

**Friday, March 26-** This has been a long, rainy, but delightful day. Ma and Mary were over in the evening but they did not stay all the forenoon, Ma went home and came back a few minutes after dinner but as she was a little uneasy about Enos who had gone to the farm, she did not stay very long. I spent the time while the children were taking their afternoon naps, in writing letters to Laura DeMar and one to Clara King, who I have been owing a letter for weeks. The children are both decidedly better today but are still in the doctor's hands. We heard this afternoon, late, of the sudden death of Mollie York's baby, Bertha. It was a severe shock, they left here in apparent good health only last Wednesday. I missed prayer meeting this evening again, the third time in succession.

**Saturday, March 27-** This has been a lovely day, Ma wanted me to go out a while this forenoon but I could not get away from the children. While we were at breakfast, Mrs. Town could see Jimmie about the arrangements for the funeral at Mrs. McConnel's tomorrow. Mr. York and Mollie came on the noon train today with the remains of their beautiful and idolized baby, Bertha, who would have been two years old in May next. It was only last Wednesday that Mollie and the baby left here after a visit and the day they reached home, the baby was taken sick and it died the next day. Poor mother, she is prostrated by the blow and I do not wonder. It was her first and only child and was so sweet and beautiful. We all know we must part with our dear ones but it is always hard. After dinner I accepted Ma's advice and offer to keep the children and went up to see Maggie Peebles & Miss Bell but they were out. Then I went to see Maggie Jones & her

mother where I made a long visit. Came home and found that Eve Voorheis had been here so I went down there to see how her little ones were. The Dr. was in, a minute this evening but did not sit down, was going to see Mollie York.

**Sunday, March 28-** The doctor did not come this morning as he supposed the children were doing well. After dinner Maggie's fever rose again and Jimmie saw him and told him to come in again. He did so and gave Willie some more powders which he served to med. I was not out of the house today. Jimmie went to Mrs. McConnell's to the funeral of Bertha York and just as he came home it began to rain a little. Nearly all of the folks were over to see us today. Jennie and Bart are in New Orleans today.

**Monday, March 29-** The children were so much better today that I made two plain white undershirts for myself. I want to get what sewing I have to do, done before warm weather. It looked cloudy today but did not rain after all. This evening I wrote to Clara King and Laura DeMar letters which should have been written some time ago.

**Tuesday, March 30-** The children are still improving but they show that they have been sick. I made one skirt today. Jimmie said at noon that he would come home early and let me go out a while so I dressed immediately after dinner and then sewed until he came. I went over home first and as there was company there I did not stay long. Went down to see Mollie York a little while and then up to the store to get some gingham for a sunbonnet for Maggie. On my way back I called at Mrs. Collin's but no one was at home. Mame is home on a short visit but I did not see her. I then went out to see Clara Pursell a little while, found Aunt Mary Ellen & Miss Fannie there and as they were coming down this way, I came with them. After tea they called here and spent most of the evening. While I was gone Maggie Peebles and Miss Bell called.

**Wednesday, March 31-** The children are apparently quite well again for which I am truly thankful. I made two more white skirts today which finishes up that line of articles. I took my work and Willie and went over and sat a while with Ma. Maggie went over

after dinner and was so fortunate as to get an invitation to go riding with Miss Hattie Damarin who had called to take Mary & Lizzie out. After I finished my work, Ma came over with me and superintended the construction of a rockery which Jimmie & I made. He has been working in the yard this beautiful warm day and has improved it's look very much. I wrote to Ma Ricker and Jennie tonight. Went to church in Jimmie's place as he was very tired.

#### April 1875

**Thursday, April 1-** First day of April and it has begun to shower already. As I write tonight the rain is pattering against the house. We have had very little fire all day, but need some on account of the damp atmosphere. After our late breakfast was over and I had dusted and put the room in order, I cut out and began Maggie's new sunbonnet which I finished this evening before tea. After tea Ma, Mary, Lizzie and Enos were here also John who brought mail. Willie is learning to talk very rapidly now, he can call Maggie as plainly as anyone and much sweeter than anyone else. He generally expresses his wants by one sound but has no difficulty in making himself understood.

**Friday, April 2-** I spent all day today altering Willie's last summer dresses, made the waists and sleeves of three longer and fixed the sleeves of one apron. Did a little darning and that was about all. Went to prayer meeting in the evening. Maggie did not go to Aunt Mary Ellen's to spend all day as she had expected it was raining in the morning and when Fannie came after her, she told me that Mary had to go back on the boat again today to Dr. Ayers to be treated for the hearing and that Aunt Mary Ellen was going with her. Mary expects to go every trip of the boat for two weeks at least if not longer. I heard today of a case that Dr. Williams had treated for cataracts on the eyes when a boy was born blind & remained so until he's now 10 years old and the Dr. removed the cataracts and now the boy can see. What a wonderful pleasure is in store for him this spring when he will see the trees & flowers for the first time in all their

beauty. How his parents must thank God for the skill he has given the Dr. & what pleasure it must give him to be the instrument of doing so much good.

**Saturday, April 3-** I have worked very hard today. Cut out a sunbonnet for myself after breakfast and made it all but the strings before dinner. I was surprised at myself. After dinner I finished it and then dressed and went out to make some calls. I dressed Maggie & and then myself while Willie was taking his nap and was just finishing him when Jimmie came to take them out and at the same time admitted Eva Voorheis & her little girl who came to make a call. After they were all gone, we started out & Jimmie and the children were as far as Mrs. Geo Johnson's with me. Neither Mrs. Johnson, Eva or her cousin, Katie, were at home. I next went to Miss Lloyd's and then to Mrs. Tewksbury's, Ella Murray's, Ella Fulton's and Hattie Norton's, none of whom were at home. I found Lucy Rifemberick at home and also Maggie Peebles and Miss Anna Bell, her visitor. The summing up of my week's work is five plain white skirts for myself, a sunbonnet for myself and one for Maggie and three dresses & one apron altered for Willie. Have spent parts of three afternoons out and made about a dozen calls and written four or five letters and my journal beside the usual housework and taking care of the children.

**Sunday, April 4-** Jimmie and Maggie went to Sabbath school and I thought I would go to church in the forenoon but Willie had to take medicine and I concluded to wait until night. At noon they told me that there would be no evening service on account of a sermon at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pres by Rev. J. C. White who is making some startling revelations over the subject of Roman Catholicism in this country. He predicts that in 22 years that power will be forever broken, says the Pope is virtually without a home and is looking to this country as his future domain, so say many others Jimmie and I went to hear his sermon on the "signs of the times" this evening. Contrary to usual custom it failed to rain today after raining on Easter.

**Monday, April 5-** I have actually done nothing today or as nearly nothing as I ever do when I am well. In the afternoon I went up street with Willie, went to Connalley's and settled a little bill and bought some Turkish toweling to make sacks for the children. Went to see Maggie Jones a little while and then to Johnson's and got some gingham which I want to make into a bonnet for Ma. I then went to see Mrs. Spry & Thesa awhile and then to see Ella Wright & Mrs. Draper. Mrs. D. was sick and I did not see her. On my way home I stopped and saw Lena Donham's baby which is very much like it's father was. In the afternoon Maggie went with her father to see Gen'l Lou Lintz & his wife, Commander Nutt & Miss Minnie Warren. In the evening Jimmie and I went. I was very much pleased with the Exhibition. Wrote to H. L. Williams again.

**Tuesday, April 6-** This has been another lovely day and we have all been out sunning ourselves. I made a white apron for Maggie today & then after Willie had taken his nap, I took him down to see Eve Voorheis. She was over at her mothers and I visited her there. After leaving there I went on up street on my way to see Mrs. J. B. Nichols and as Ma had her things on she went with me. Maggie had been down street all the afternoon with her father but they had got back to Ma's and Maggie went with me up to Mrs. H's. In the evening Jimmie went to hear General Kilpatrick's lecture. I stayed at home and read until he came home.

**Wednesday, April 7-** This evening I was out in the yard with Jimmie a good while after we were through and I had gotten the room in order and the children were being washed after their play, Lucy Rifenberick(sp?) came to see if she might depend upon our coming Friday and also to invite Mary to come with us. After she had gone Lizzie came over and brought her white sack to make. I did all the machine work on hers and

sewed up the seams of the children's and cut out seven of the pieces which she gave me.

**Thursday, April 8-** Jimmie & I spent a while in the yard this morning, he longer than I because I had to get the children's sacks done. I worked all day at it but did not get them finished after all. It proved to be quite an undertaking to find the "ragged edges" that I made with the scissors. We are having lovely weather and it is quite a temptation to go out and work in the yard. I went out after supper and made a bed along the side of the house where I want to put some flowers. I planted some mignonette (sp?), tunica (sp?), and some other things which Uncle Jimmie Wood brought me this afternoon. Mrs. Boyle of Rock Island had sent him some seeds and he brought them down to divide with me. In the evening I sewed on the sacks again but did not get them done.

**Friday, April 9-** I began immediately after breakfast to get the children and myself ready to go up to Lucy Rifenberick's (sp?) to spend the day. Jimmie went down street soon after and in about an hour came back and said Uncle Drew Ricker was in town but he had not seen him. Shortly after that Uncle Drew presented himself at our door. He came on the railroad boat from Ironton last evening and was met on the street by the Tewksbury girls who insisted upon his going home with them. As we had promised to go to Lucy's to spend the day, he went to Mrs. Tewksbury's for dinner and was invited over home to tea and accepted the invitation and went to prayer

meeting with the folks. Mary went up to Lucy's with me & the children and was there at the noon lunch but did not stay to 5 o'clock dinner on account of the company at home. Eve Voorheis & her two children & Mary Glidden were there to spend the day and even after lunch Ella Bonsall & her baby came in and spent the rest of the day. The gentlemen came about 5 o'clock. We had a very pleasant day.

**Saturday, April 10-** Jennie and Bart came home from their bridal trip this morning on the Telegraph. They went to Cin, Indianapolis, St Louis, Memphis & on down to New Orleans, returning by rail to Cairo and then to Cin again where they arrived about half an hour too late for Harry Greene's wedding. Before I could get ready to take Willie over to see them, Ma & Jennie came over to see us. Maggie had gone before with Carrie when she went after the milk and that was when I heard of their arrival. Jennie is looking well and happy and I hope she may continue so. I was over home most all forenoon. After I came back I finished off the children's white sacks and then we went up to Conolley's and from there to see Maggie Peebles and after that called to see Mrs. Kreider but she was over at Mrs. Geo Johnson's. He was stricken down on the street this forenoon, or some time about noon, I believe, with paralysis or something of that kind and is not expected to live> I met Jimmie just below there on 2<sup>nd</sup> and we went on down to Johnson's store & then home, stopping at Dell Ramsey's on the way. One white apron and the two white sacks has been the sum total of my sewing this week aside from the usual darning & such jobs as that.

**Sunday, April 11-** This has been another delightful day. Uncle Drew stayed up at Mrs. Tewksbury's last night but came here to dinner. Jimmie and Maggie went to Sabbath school & while they were gone Ma came over and said she was not going to church and would stay with Willie and I could go. I have not been to a morning service or any other Sabbath service in our church for a month. Maggie went with us and behaved very nicely. When we came back to dinner Willie ran to meet us before we got to the gate. Uncle Drew, Mary, Lizzie, Jennie, & Bart were here to dinner. Uncle Drew went out to take tea with John Peebles and go to church with him to the new Pres church. One month today since Jennie was married.

**Monday, April 12-** I cut and almost made a sunbonnet for Ma this forenoon. I finished it soon after dinner and then took the children and went over home with it. Jennie was here a while after dinner and we went with her when she went home. I had a card from H. L. Williams again about the saw which he thinks has been sent. Late in the afternoon Maggie and I went down to Dell Ramsey's to look at hats. Jimmie came along while we were there and stopped. It began to turn cold while we were there and before we got home there was quite a wind storm but it did not rain. Jimmie went to sit up at Mrs. Geo Johnson's and the boys came to sleep here as Uncle Drew was up to Mrs. Tewksbury's.

**Tuesday, April 13-** Jimmie did not get home very early this morning and we did not have breakfast until he came. After that he lay down to sleep. Maggie went over to Ma's to make a visit and Willie was unusually quiet and did not disturb him as he had a good sleep. It is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the fall of Richmond I believe this is the date anyway of the great jubilee which was in progress when Lincoln was assassinated.

**Wednesday, April 14-** Uncle Drew was here to dinner and promised to come back to tea. After dinner Ma came over and brought her work but spoke of having to go down street as I proposed that we go then as I wanted her to help me in the choice of a hat for Maggie. We went up to Connolley's where I got some embroidery and then made the round of the millinery stores and finally took the hat that I fancied the other day at Dell Ramsey's. A white leg hem which I think will do for Maggie this supper and Willie next. Met Uncle Jimmie on the street and asked him to come to tea with us. Tea came and after tea Uncle Drew left on the railroad boat. Mr. Geo Johnson died this afternoon about 10 minutes before 5 o'clock. He has suffered a great deal since he was taken sick. He was a great favorite with everybody and though not a professor of religion, he was a good man and I trust he has gone to a better world.



**Thursday, April 15-** When Jimmie came home to dinner he told me that Mrs. Dr. Hempstead was dead. She died a while before noon today. Mrs. Capt. S. B. Hempstead is here, came last night but Mr. & Mrs. Gaylord & Mattie are still south. As soon after dinner as I could get ready I went over home and went with Ma & Mary up to Mrs. Gaylord to see if there was anything I could do for them. I saw Hattie Norton who has kept house for Mrs. Gaylord in her absence, also Mrs. Hempstead, the Dr. and all who were there. Found Mrs. Waller, Mrs. Greene, Mrs. Dunlap,

Mrs. McCall, Sallie Peebles and Maggie Jones there. I stayed until after 4 o'clock and then came home. It has been a very cold, windy, dusty, disagreeable day. Jimmie & Lizzie have gone to hear the Lennesseans(sp) at the 6<sup>th</sup> Street M. E. Church.

**Friday, April 16-** 9pm 24degrees. Mr. Geo Johnson was buried this afternoon, the funeral services taking place at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of which he was a regular attendant though not a member. He was a devoted admirer of Dr. Pratt & Dr. Pratt preached the sermon and in the personal remarks spoke of the great love that he had always felt for Mr. Johnson. Having known him for the thirty years past or as much of that time as Dr. P has spent here, I forget now just how long the Dr. has been here but Mr. Johnson has lived here that long. Mr. Johnson's family and our own have occupied adjoining seats in church for almost or quite two years past and we will miss his pleasant face and genial smile very much. It's hard to realize that we shall never meet him there again. The funeral procession was very large notwithstanding the disagreeable day, cold, windy and snowing a little at intervals. There was something over sixty vehicles in the procession. I did not go to church in the evening, did not feel at all like going out. Ma, Mary and I went to take a last look at Mr. Johnson this

forenoon. Met Mr. Henry Lacey in the hall but he was the only person we saw to speak to.

**Saturday, April 17-** 6.35 AM 22, 10pm 22. I felt that I ought to have gone up to Mr. Gaylord's today to see the friends from up the river but it is a long walk and the day was very windy and cold. It snowed quite hard at times but the snow did not lay long on the ground. In the evening I went with Mary, Jennie & Bart to hear Blind Lou perform. It is wonderful what skill he possesses in that one sense and is a perfect idiot in regard to anything except sounds. Repeats speeches like a parrot without understanding the meaning of them. Can perform a piece of music after once hearing it unless it is a very difficult piece and then he does not yet get all of the notes correct. Can spell the names of articles unseen to himself by means of a combination of sounds which his manager makes on the piano. He also spells by a kind of phonetic system, spelling words exactly as they sound to him. When I came home, Jimmie hurried off to Mr. Gaylord's where he and Jim Boal were to sit up all night. It was very cold and sunny.

**Sunday, April 18-** 6.45AM 19. Everything that has come out up to this time was killed last night by the cold unless protected in some way. After breakfast this morning Jimmie went to bed to sleep, having been up all night. I went to lunch in the forenoon he went to the funeral in the afternoon. I went at night. Mr. Ketchum preached for Dr. Pratt in the evening. Mrs. Dr. Hempstead was buried this afternoon. Eighteen or twenty relatives from Ironton, Ashland, Hanging Rock & Chillicothe were here but the Gaylord's & Peebles who are South did not come. They could not owing to Mrs. Gaylord's very feeble health.

**Monday, April 19-** This is the Centennial anniversary of the Concord fight and the beginning of several centennials which will take place from this time forward. Ma and I with Willie went up to Mrs. Peebles this morning where we saw Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Crossley, Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Merridith & Mrs. Anna Hempstead. After dinner we went out to see Sallie Peebles who is quite sick. Mrs. Tewksbury, and Jennie, Maggie Peebles & Maggie Merridith, were there. After that we went to see Mrs. Glover who is boarding across the street from John Peebles. After that we went to see Mrs. Geo Johnson & Mrs. Guthrie. Did not see Emma. Mrs. Johnson is very calm & self possessed but her friends fear that it is too great a tax on her mind & that it may result in injury to her. We came home quite tired from our long walk. Anna Hempstead is expecting to make us a visit before she goes home.

**Tuesday, April 20-** This afternoon we received the cards to the reception to be given the brides at Mrs. E. B. Greene's next Thursday evening. I was down street yesterday looking for the relatives & friends from the Park and missed a call from some of them. Today I stayed at home to look for them & they did not come. The folks have been expecting Harvy Greene and his bride in a day or two. They are coming up to the reception and as the Greenes will be busy they are to stay a day or two with our folks first. This has been rather an idle day with me. It was too cold and damp to wash windows and as that was what I had intended doing, I was out of employment.

**Wednesday, April 21-** After dinner I washed the upstairs windows in the front room and cleaned up a little in anticipation of a visit from Anna Hempstead. When I had finished, I dressed and went up to Mrs. Gaylord's to see when she was coming. I just happened to think that probably Maggie Jones would go with me and so I called for her and she went. I had Willie in the buggy and the afternoon was very pleasant out so we all enjoyed the walk very much.

**Thursday, April 22-** The reception at Mrs. E. B. Greene's took place this evening. We took Maggie but left Willie at home with Carrie. All of the folks from over home went, boys and all. We all went early and the Johnson's, Greene's, Moore's and ourselves and two or three others had their suppers before the rest of the guests arrived. It was very nicely arranged and well carried out. There was not too large a crowd and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening. I was down street this afternoon and got a piece of carpet to put in front of the fireplace in the room upstairs. I ruined the rug in my room and had to replace it with the one from upstairs.

**Friday, April 23-** I was busy all the forenoon getting the house, the children and myself ready for the visitors we were expecting. Jimmie made a fire upstairs right after breakfast. I got a drawer and part of the closet ready for Anna to put her things in and then we waited some time before they came. It was almost noon when they arrived. We had dinner soon after and then visited and took care of the babies all the afternoon. Anna had sent Bertie and Hallie home with her mother and only had the baby with her. Ma was over in the afternoon awhile. We did not intend staying several days and we had expected they would do. She said that she did not think it would be right to leave Hattie when she was feeling so badly and had asked her not to stay, so they went back soon after supper. Bart and Jenny, Harry and Carrie went up to Mrs. Greene's to make a visit, they expect to stay there until Monday morning when they go to Cin on a short visit.

**Saturday, April 24-** Carrie has been sick in bed nearly all day. She managed to get through with the morning work and then went to bed. Mrs. Janis and Mrs. Charky called and soon after they left, Jennie & Carrie Greene called and before I had had time to get to the parlor myself, after sending the children in, until Dr. McDowell called to see Carrie and so when I was ready to see them they were ready to go. I had to assist in getting the dinner and after that did all the work for the rest of the day. The afternoon seemed very long as I did not want to commence any sewing and so did nothing but mind the children. No sewing on any account this week.

**Sunday, April 25-** Jimmie and Maggie went to Sabbath School and church this forenoon and I stayed at home with Willie. We did not have any of the folks with us today as Mary went up to Mrs. Greene's to dinner with Jennie & Bart & Harry & his wife. I was over home a little while after dinner but did not see any one but Ma, Lizzie and the boys. Uncle Jimmie Wood was here to tea. I went to church in the evening, Ma, Enos and I were the only representatives of our numerous family.

**Monday, April 26-** This has been rather a gloomy forenoon with the occasional sprinkling of rain. Mary came over quite early to say that she was thinking of going down to Cin with the others and then stopping on her return to visit at Moscow. As Jennie & Bart & Harvy Greene and his wife were coming down from Mrs. Greene's to say good-bye before leaving, I took the children over there to see them. They did not come until just the last moment and the good byes were rather hurried. Mrs. Hamilton was there spending the day, said she could not stay longer as Maggie was alone and tomorrow they expected the folks home. I did not do anything in the forenoon as I was over home until nearly noon. After dinner I put away furs and the children's fur caps and then cleaned up the closet in the back room upstairs & after that, took the things out of the old clothes box and assorted the rags. Found an old shirt which was not much worn and brought it down stairs and made a night shirt of it. Found a little hood of Willie's which I washed and made up again and let Maggie take it over to Mrs. Bryant for her baby.

**Tuesday, April 27-** Carrie washed today but it was too rainy to dry the clothes out of the doors so she left them ready to hang out tomorrow. She feels better today than she did yesterday I am glad to say. Lizzie was over with me nearly all day trying to trim Maggie's new hat for me but she did not finish it, took it home with her. I fixed Willie's and after he had finished his nap and she had gone home, Maggie went over to Mrs. Bryant's and I took Willie and went down street. Called at Uncle Enos's and then went

down to Mrs. Nickell's and got a pearl buckle for Willie's hat and then went to see Mother York.

**Wednesday, April 28-** Lizzie finished Maggie's hat and brought it home today. It is white leghorn and is trimmed with velvet silk pale blue silk. Jimmie went to church this evening but Dr. Pratt was away and the return was by Mrs. Murray which did not suit him very well. I wrote to Ma Richer, as usual.

**Thursday, April 29-** Began house cleaning today with Jerry Nelson to do the heavy part of the work. He can manage the carpets and it is a great relief to have him do it. I wanted very much to go this afternoon or evening to see Mrs. Peebles and Mary but it was 9 o'clock before I was through work and then dressing and going out was not to be thought of at all. The folks returned last night on the railroad boat which was three hours behind time. This is Pa Ricker's birthday, (error) it's April 27<sup>th</sup>, born 1818.

**Friday, April 30-** We have been hard at work nearly all day and finished up the rough part of house cleaning. Jerry Nelson has taken up and put down four carpets for me which is all I intend having moved this season. I went to prayer meeting in the evening and then saw Mr. & Mrs. Peebles & Mary for the first time since their return from their Southern trip. They are all well.

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