

My very dear Cousin,

Am you think-
ing me a thoughtless, ungrate-
ful creature, by my long
silence, in return for your
nice letters, and the hand-
some pen received from Papa?
I am, indeed, so much ^{obliged} to
you and feel as if I
did not deserve such a gift,
from you too, who have al-
ready given me so much
and always been so good
and kind. Annie is delight-
ed with her knife, says

just the thing she needed
so badly at school. Mame,
Pamie, Walter and Charles,
all send thanks for their
presents, they appreciate them
very much. First, I must tell
you of ^{my} jaunt to Virginia,
at last. Cousin Myrtle, Hugh
Chatham, Lommie Lenoir and
myself were the party. Annie
and Mamie Roth went with
us, as far as Aunt Lallie's
and remained, until we
returned. We had a delightful
visit to Cousin's Rosa and
Mittie; spent several days
quite pleasantly at Uncle
William Dickerson's. We were
gone from home a month,
stayed over a week at
Aunt Lallie's. We are much
improved, by our sojourn

in the Mountains, yet the
continued warm and dry
weather keeps us lazy and
good-for nothing. I weighed 103.
pounds before I left. I have
gained since. We have had no
rain scarcely since May. The
corn crops a perfect failure.
Sister Beebe is in Asheville now,
will remain till after the
Camp Meeting. Their house is
almost finished. Mr. Knight
is painting it outside. They
will commence house-keeping
in September. Annie and
Mamie think of going to
Grafton in a few weeks,
now don't you pity me, here
almost alone. I haven't any
travels on my heart, to en-
gage my thoughts. Mr. Ira
has now left Cthm. You

must have pity and write to
me often. Annie, Mame and I
drow (ourselves) to "Midway" Saturday
to hear The Bishop, spent the
evening at Uncle Jimmie's.
Cousin Laura is in Maryland
~~spending the summer~~ the
others all at home. Cousin
Willie has a fine new buggy
and pretty harness. Hope he
will be down soon and
give me a ride. It is getting
very late, so I must bring
my letter to an end. I
must not say good bye, so
you read in Psalms as much
as you can? I believe Mame used
to accuse us of being very
fond of them. You must be
a dear good boy, read your
Bible, say your prayers and
always trust in God. May
He keep you in the shadow
of his wing and make you
a truly good, useful and
noble man. With much love
for you, I am,

Your Aff. Cousin Julia,
Elkin N.C.

Aug. 15th/81.