

From John A. Bushnell to Eugenia Bronaugh

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Calhoun Mo[.] May 26 1864

My Dear Eugenia[.]

How rebuked and mean I feel today reading your affectionate letter by Thomas, when yesterday I reread your letter received the day before and actually neglected to answer or say a word about it until I had finished the sheet. No matter for me, it only makes my heart tremble with aroused feeling of love too long concealed and kept back. Yet be assured there is not a pray[er?] I breathe but has you connected with it, and in all my wanderings of the imagination, fancy dreaming whether by night or day[.] you partake of them and are inseparable

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from them. "I live for thee[.]" Who ever invented this sentence will have his memory appreciated by every sighing schoolboy, or shy miss[.] by young Gentlemen + Ladies in Love -- and by those who use or try to use more philosophy than they can conceal, for the sigh, the long drawn breath[.] the blush, the sparkle of the eye, and many other little emotions are tel tales that are always exposing the [sedate?] lover, so there is no use hiding it, it will give way sooner or later, it is inate, natural and cannot be kept concealed[.]

I [pressed?] two snow balls for you but they are not dry. For fear some [MS. illegible] hand tears them up I send them today. I wish

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I had a pretty buquet to send [*text stricken through*][.]

If I do not go to Belmont Saturday I may come out. I have been anxious to come all week, but have not finished my writing yet nor have I Got a horse yet. I have so little chance to get out now, so much talk of bushwhackers &c that I am almost afraid to go about too much, besides if I do not go about elsewhere I shall have less fear in going to your house -- less danger of being [lied?] on &c -- and I want to be careful of this, for I want to see you often this summer[.]

I wrote to Bro Fayette but have had no answer. I discouraged his coming. Miss B__ is at Smithton so are his books near there and at

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Otterville. No news today from the Rail Road. The papers say Shelby has crossed the Arkansas River with 2,000 men. I send you the papers and the last daily -- every one is interesting[.] I am led to believe that See [Lee?] has not fallen back at all from when he made his first stand, and is doing his best against Gen[.] Grant[']s large army and fresh reinforcements[.] I ought not to write anything for it will only make you less anxious to read the papers[.] The correspondents, telegrams and all are stiring although confused and contradictory[.]

Give my love to all -- to Kos + Ginnie, Johnie too. Affectionately yours[,]
John A. Bushnell