

From Florella Brown Adair to Samuel Lyle Adair and Emma Adair

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Grafton

March 11, 3, AM,

My Dear Husband & Daughter[,]

I sent a letter last saturday & at that time thought I would not again till I had been to Oberlin, but it snowed friday eve three or four inches of snow[,] in the morning it cleared off[] & melted some most of the day, but during the night saturday & all day Sunday it snowed & now there is more snow [*text stricken through*] on the ground than there has been at any one time this winter.

Charles did not come on last week as I expected, & I have not yet been to Oberlin as I talked of so that we may not get started from here this week, but still I hope to. I feel quite anxious to be on the way towards home.

Martha & S. came Saturday afternoon & watched

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Saturday night. Ada came with them & stayed she is well & happy as a Lark. Marthas little [Jay?] is not well, has had whooping cough[,] is quite poor & looks feeble & sick but is allways on the go when he is awake[.]

Marian is getting better slowly[,] is not able to sit up but a few minutes at a time. business is begining to increas & good deal of traveling & company here. Marian has two good Girls to carry on the work & one to help take care of her. Celia is going to a private school near by. Adison is not very well[,] looks pale & care worn, but is busy every day from morn till late at night & some times watches with me & others but not all night I think any time.

Grafton

March 16.

Dear Husband[,]

The morning after I wrote the above I started on the 3 oclock train for

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Oberlin. I was there in a few minutes. it was muddy & I took a Bus[,] went to Mrs[.] Hudsons[,] had a good visit of a few hours[,] took dinner with her family & she went with me to Mr[.] Fairfields. I found Mrs[.] F. & [MS. illegible] quite feeble[,] they have had the [MS. illegible] ague & chills till they look sallow & feeble as ever I did when we lived there. Mr[.] F[.] was out making Pastoral visits & Mrs[.] F[.] urged me to stay to tea & I did & all night. Mr[.] F[.] is the same good friendly Brother that he was when we lived here. we visit & talked till after ten & then it seemed that he had so many questions to ask that he or his wife did not want to stop. He feels a great interest in Kansas & I laid our wants as a church & people before him[,] read a part

of one

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of your letters to them. He heartily entered into the your plan of helping the poor & forwarding the Church at the same time, he regretted that he & others had not known of our wants [*text stricken through*] for the Church before. said he might have had one hundred dollars that they collected & sent to Atchison three weeks ago just as well as not[.] Both Churches took up a collection at the same time & they forwarded two hundred dollars, makeing in all \$500, dollars in money that Oberlin has sent Pomeroy for the relief of Kansas.

from there I went to Henry C[ombs?] house[,] made a sale[,] had a pleasant one. He felt just as Mr[.] Fairfield did as to their money sent on, said it was just the plan he approved of & he knew our wants as a Church, but it did not occur to him at the time of sending their money[.]

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from there I went to Mrs[.] Taylor & took dinner with her[,] every thing seemed pleasant there. She has six children all boys but one, she finds it pretty close calculating to get a long but everything is good still. She went with me to see Mrs[.] Weed[,] she that was L. Porter[.] she lives in & keeps boarders. She sent a good book & much love to you, [MS. illegible][.].

we then called upon Mrs[.] Andrews[.] She lives is good stile, house full but she said she felt poor for they were so situated that she could not give a dollar to any one, although she wanted to very much, sent love to you, went to George Clarks, found he & wife were in Wisconsin, laboring this winter, saw her sister, had a pleasant time, went from there to Prof[.] Pecks

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he was not at home. I was in hope of seeing him & laying our Church matters befor him, I talked with her[,] she entered into your plan fully[,] thought there might be something done in wakeman[,] where he has preached for some time. She said on Thanksgiving day he preached upon the subject of giving & they were about to take up a collection when one man wanted to read a letter from Mr[.] or Mrs[.] Harris, & did. he then proposed to send what they collected to them, but it was opposed generally by those in the meeting. one man said he would not send them any money at any rate, for Mrs[.] Harris would take it and spend for earrings & such things & then beg for more[.] another said he thought they had been help enough, it was beg beg

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all the time & he was opposed to their sending anything more, but Mr[.] Peck & some thought if they were so bad off as they represented, they must have something to keep them from starving, & they sent on some of the money directly to them & sent a barrel of things for them directed to Pomeroy's care Atchison.

I find from what Mrs[.] Peck said that they were not as highly respected as they have pretended to us & it is not a new thing for them to get all they can out of others. I am heartily glad they are going to leave us, for they have been only a burden ever since they went there & I do not care to see her again[.] I have no doubt she is a mean and wicked woman. they were called free lovers in Wakeman as I understand from Mrs[.] Peck.

I called [in] the

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eve upon Mrs[.] Conklin (Mary Ann Adams) all pleasant & pretty & they went to Louis Halls, & spent the night[.] had a right good time[.] she gave me a jar of dried currents & he was quite stered [stirred] up to have something more done, for me to take on to Kansas, for Church[.]

I spent the calling from one place to another[.] took dinner at Prof[.] Morgans[.] had a good visit with him & family[.] talked about Kansas & the Church[.] he entered into your plan[.] regretted what had not gon direct to you, thinks if you would in a few weeks write to him or anyone of the old church, the state of things there[.] he would bring it up in public & recommend a collection for that purpos as all would rather give in that way if the people can be fed at the same time. Prof[.] Morgan express[ed] great sympathy for you, & thought he would write soon.

I stayed that night (Thursday) at Mr[.] Allens & it would have done you good to have been there, they all entered right into my feelings & interest for our Church & sympathy for you & Kansas generally. In the morn he & wife went into their Labritory with me. when we returned to the House

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I found James Fairchild wife after me to go there but as I had several engagements for the morning I promised to go there to dinner. while we were talking Mr[.] Allen ran out to see Mr[.] H[.] Cowles, & returned bringing a beautiful Family Bible for you & me. it is all you could wish & just what we have so long wished for. the children sent some books to Emma & after many many questions about you & the family we parted with good wishes & much love to you from them, sympathy & tears from me. I cannot begin to discribe the many places I called at & the pleasant interviews I have had with friends.

I went back to James Fairchild to dinner & there was asked to give a little account of the battle of Osawatomie. The girles there sent me some books to Emma & Char[les.] I spent the afternoon runing round among friends & taking my leave of

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most of them proberbly for the last time in this world. It has been very pleasant to me to find so much good feeling & interest manifested for you & the family generally, at the same time I have been affected to tears, at almost every place, by the warm & as seemed to me[.] sincere sympathy of my old friends.

I went to Henry Farchilds to supper & from there to the depot to take Carrs for Grafton. I found when I got ready to start, more than I & Henry could carry. among the presents were a ream of nice paper for you & several good books, two bunches of beautiful evergreens & rose trees from W. Wright & a pretty dress pattern for Emma & some things for Ada. Mr[.] Fairchild got help & we started almost on the run for the cars as we hardly had time to get there. Celia came out to Oberlin while I was there to have her picture taken to send to Emma,

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and returned home with me.

We found all well at Marians except her, but she is much better. I found that Charles came on the same morning that I left, stayed a day & night here & then took Ada and went to Marthas. the day I got home Stephen had been down after me. Ada was quite sick, had a hard cold & [MS. illegible] set in was feverish. I felt bad but could not get there at that time of night so waited till morn when I got up with dreadful headach, could hardly stand & get down stares, took some medicine[.]

near noon Charles came for me again & I came to Marthas, found Ada quite sick[,] high fever & a rash coming out on her neck[,] sent for a good nurse in the neighborhood to come & see her[.] She said right off[f] it was scarlett fever[,] thought she was doing well[,] would get over it in a few days. I set up till twelve & have written this[.] hope she will be better[.]

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Sabbath [March] 17[.]

I feel much better to day. Ada appears better[,] had fever most of the night[,] called for water every few minutes, but is dressed & says she is most well. I think she is altogether better & if the fever does not return I think she will get right along. the rash does not spread & I think it seems more like lung fever, than scarlet[.]

If Ada is not worse, I shall go to the station Monday eve & take all with me & shall try to get ready to start for Xenia Wednesday or Thursday of this week. if Ada should not be able to go then I will try to write again. if anything should occur to prevent our going this week I will let you know. if not this will probably be my last letter from here, but will try to write as soon as I can after getting to Xenia or Yellowsprings. I expect to go that way and from Yellow Springs to Greenfield.

I received a letter last week from Ann Eliza[.] she did not say anything about small pox in her letter, but told us to call at Mr[.] Rogerses if we did not find Adison there, said Mr[.] R[.] requested her to write & have us some night to his house & he would see us safe to your Fathers, if Adison did not get there first. I think I cannot go to Maume[e] & perhaps not write, but will try[.] Charles has not been to Lafayette yet.

[written sideways in left margin of page 10]

Love to Emma & all

Love Love from to you & yours[,]
Florella.

[written sideways in left margin of page 11]

[P.S.] I will put in this a face[;] perhaps you will guess who it is.