July 28th 1869—

My Friend:— For more than one reason I feel inclined to write you a letter tonight. In the beginning let me thank you for those delightful letters you have sent me since I came home. You alone can judge of the joy all your letters give me, and you must not estimate my pleasure by that you derive from reading mine; for you know the difference that exists in the powers of the two to please—one being so far inferior to yours that there can be no comparison drawn. Does not your own spirit of experience tell you that it is not the out of the many that can please so easily as my dearest girl, my own Maria? All you say, all you do, every act, smile, and expression, speak of a faithful, loving, and kind heart, and conveys joy to that of those around you—
It is now eleven o'clock. Carson Smith came over with me this morning to spend a day or two and we intend going to Dr. Geo. McKay and his lady. She has just played that piece I stole last winter, just for the mischief of the thing. I asked her to play it. We talked as much as ever about Prairie Marie and Salim. She gives me a few lectures in the small ways occasionally, telling me I will have to quit something or other. She is a good enough -

You told me many things in these letters, I was glad (but to hear) but that you told me. Nothing that I could object to or that I thought improper. Understand me! An example will explain my meaning. I have no fear of Mr. Willard. But if he does not find out you are engaged, you will have the pain to declare yourself telling him what you told some of our Carolina boys. I am not jealous for I am not afraid now of being talked of your affection by friends. What could one have
meant by his entries on the slate but
one thing? Why did he not say it, inste
of write it? Then was another in hearing.
I think you will tell me all that hap-
What have we any relations to my
fortune, and I shall keep clear
of all riots—Sir Allen, and Sirname
are close by and have felt and
know the force of the Magnet
One peculiarity of this strange yet
powerful influence is that it attracts
bodies that are far off as well as those
that are near and The attraction is
permanent, it is lasting
You will doubt very much to
leave Caterina. When Condey gets more
(Which is by this time) you will have
more company and will have been
acquainted. You will I hope enjoy
yourself in any and every way that
may suit your taste, and that may
be pleasant. You must be cheerful
and those around you will be also—
You have some doubts about the propriety of coming back, and I hope you will think differently when your mother and cousin Sallie are more reconciled to it. Remember if you had not have agreed with me that Sunday night, Aunt would have objected. Now do you see, or am I like a saint and it will all be right. The Carolina view is, partly our's and partly cousin Sallie's, Pa and Ma think as we do and all will welcome you both. Cousin Mit says the only reason she can assign why it is not best as we have determined, is the same cousin Sallie had, that it would be best for us to have a home of our own in the East. This we both know but I cannot avoid it as being as it is just now. All those that have spoken to me about it think we had better delay no longer. They don't know what arrangements we have made however.
I was at church at Summitville last Sunday but did not see Mr. D. Your Uncle is improving as you have doubtless heard. We will soon be well enough to ride and then is coming down to spend some time here. All the rest are well. It has improved I trust, very much in the last year and it is a very nice young lady.

How glad I was to hear Cousin and will enough to move down to Aunt Eppi. Will you not feel very lonely expect at your Grandpa’s and many visits down there? I want to write to Cousin but something prevents me every day. She knows however that what will happen she has a firm friend in me as I have always believed her my friend and in love.

Eust Cousin

She yourself I will leave the decision about writing to Cousin. You will do what is right, I know. Write if you think that or feel inclined to do so.
Dear Aunt,

She has just told me a dream she had last night about you and me and Conoin Mollie. She thinks that same song was the cause of her dreaming so. She says it was perfectly devoted to Conoin Mollie and lift you during a long instance to enjoy myself with Conoin. 

The dream I know must be taken by contrary. If you I must leave also. The decision about riding with Mrs. Allen Young Ladies often have reasons for not putting many things that young gentleman can't appreciate and you will hear back on this matter. I am no objection. I have written this very hastily. I am going off to Shelf River to catch some ticks and must turn up as it is getting late. Just as soon as possible. I will write to your Mother and sister. March has come in, clear, windy and cold. If it will continue cold— we will have much fruit &c. My love to Aunt and my good wishes to Conoin for her speedy return.