

From Eugenia Bronaugh to John A. Bushnell

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Hickory Grove
10th June/1864

Dear Mr. Bushnell,

I hope you have not thought me indifferent or careless about hearing from you this long time, for indeed I never have been more anxious to send over to town, but it has seemed almost impossible to do so. Tom & Frank's being so busy in the field, & other things have transpired to prevent--we have not even heard from the office since Ma & Carrie were in Calhoun. You can little imagine the uneasiness we have had about your eye. I well know your great love of reading, & I fear you have used your eye entirely too much, as well as have exposed it to the light, when you should have been in a dark room. How often I have wished you could be with us. Carrie & I could have read for you, & we could have enjoyed your society so much.

We have missed the papers greatly--have heard "the news" from time to time through persons calling in, & visitors, but that is not like reading for oneself. Mr. Tutt brought the two last papers & was sorry he could

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not bring all you had been saving. So was I[.]

Dear Mr. Bushnell, we have been made very happy of late & have had great cause to feel thankful, for on the fourth of May Dear Friends were all "alive & well." Indeed you can better imagine than I can describe how rejoiced & happy we were. Surely we have been [MS. illegible] much more than we deserve. May a Kind Providence still continue his watchful care over them & preserve them all to the end[.]

"After so much mercy past
Let them not sink at last."

shall be linked with many a petition to the Throne of Grace in future[.] How earnestly we should all pray that this cruel war may soon be over. How it fills our hearts with sadness when we think of the poor suffering[,] dying & wounded soldiers. How much we should love & think about them.

I was much pleased with your two last letters, by Carrie, written with your own hand & suffering pain with a sore eye too. Let me say that I enjoyed them, greatly appreciated them highly[.] I have no greater pleasure than receiving & reading

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your letters. Every letter but reminds me anew of the affection, kindness & goodness of heart of the dear writer, and not one is added to those already received but what a fervent Prayer is offered [*text stricken through*] up to the Giver of all good for your preservation & welfare. How wretched would we [*text stricken through*] all be if we could not remember in Prayer, those we love. And it is a sweet thought to know that you, with other dear ones, think of & care [*text stricken through*] for us.

In one of your last letters you set your love to Ma, Carrie, Cora, Mollie, Tom & Frank, asking me to reserve my share, for myself[.] You may be very sure that I will, for if ever I exercised selfishness in any matter it would be in dealing out your love, for I would ever reserve a large share & even what was left, or over would be delt out cautiously only to those whose love, interest & affection for you is only second to my own.

I sometimes hang your Picture up & often find myself gazing long & earnestly. Many are the reveries indulged in & memories called up. It has been

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a source of great gratification to me to have it. I wish the one you have of mine was not so poor, but hope you remember that yours was taken in St[.] Louis[.] mine here, by an indifferent, contrary artist.

The flowers you sent me from your "Sisters Grave" I placed in a vase[.] changed the water frequently[.] they were very pretty[.] I wish you could have seen them before they faded. I pressed one and sent to Aunt Sue. my last letter, I know gave her great comfort, for it contained tidings of her best friend, about whom she was suffering great uneasiness. We have looked for you every day for some time & have wanted to see you so much, but thought perhaps your eye was too sore, you could not get a horse, or might not think it safe. I hope though it is safe for your visits cheer us up greatly. But you can be a better judge than us, for we hear comparitively little that goes on in this neighborhood or else where. Perhaps you can hear more, & I only want you to do what you deem prudent & safe. Remember with me your life is very precious, & never would I have you to run any risk, as much as I want to see you this evening, tomorrow or any time you can come. But consider all & act as you think best. We have been quiet here, & as careful as ever[.]

We want Peace, & of course will use our

[cross-hatched text]

our influence to have it. It is pleasant to me to think you have every confidence in all we do, for we certainly have much to contend with[.] Write to me dear Mr. Bushnell by Frank[.] come over if you can & may God at all times direct & bless you is the Prayer of your

Ever affectionate

Eugenia

[P.S.] All join in much love[.] I write in much haste[,] excuse all imperfections[.] good Bye.