

From Sara Robinson to "My Dear Martha"

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Topeka

Oct[.] 19, '62

My Dear Martha[.]

We received your letter some time ago, & I am sorry I have not written you before now but time goes, each moment filled with duties & my letters to my friends are far between.

I am glad you are all as well as usual & that Mary & Emily are at school. The change from home to a new town & the acquaintance of new people will give them new views of life & will be improving as well as agreeable, while they are not far enough from the home roof and its loved faces to feel the isolation & homesickness consequent upon a far away absence from home. Am glad too that Phebe's health is better. I was

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fearful the lassitude, the weariness, the discomforts of some years of invalidism might be in store for her.

I wish indeed this glorious autumn weather we could look in upon you all spending a few days of quiet and rest. But wishes many times do not bring the pleasures for which we would rejoice & so it is the part of wisdom to be thankful for the joys we have[.] a state of mind which always adds much to any blessing[.]

Charles went to Altoona Pa. to meet the Governor, but was unavoidably delayed & so reached there just one train after they had gone to Washington. He had no wish to see the Sec. of War or the President, both of whom have treated him & the young state of Kansas so villainously

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& did not follow them.

Since his return he has been to St. Louis to see Gen[.] Curtis who is now at the head of this Department[.] On his return he narrowly escaped a severe if not fatal injury by the going of the car off from the track over an Embankment of 30 feet. The Express Messenger was killed. It was thought he jumped from the car. Some others were injured more or less severely. The track had been [washed?] by a very heavy rain.

We have no encouraging war news to tell you. There is a Lord in heaven is all the consolation I know of. The stricken ones who have given al and lost all in this terrible war are to be pitied. It is well they do not realize its terrible mismanagement. I cannot feel the country is worth the saving. My patriotism is very low.

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So far as Kansas is concerned we hope the Union ticket will be elected over the machinations of Jim Lane, Sec[.] of War & Lincoln[.] We shall then be willing to die[.]

Has Annette gone East? A week or two ago, Judge Cobb and Mr. Smith were at Court at [Wyandot?] & went to Quindaro. Called at the house where Alfred used to live. found it unfurnished & vacant. He afterward saw a lady who told him Annette was going East. I have wondered she did not go before for it must be much more pleasant than [text stricken through] to stay there alone. I should have liked very much to have had her visited us before she left. I thought several times I would write to her to come, but knowing there was no stage running between the places I thought she would regard my invitation as an imposition. [Nettie?] must be quite a girl.

I have written hastily, but you must excuse [MS. illegible][.]

*[written sideways in left margin of page 1]*

I came up to L. last Tuesday for a short visit. Charles will come up again on next Tuesday. With much love to all[.]

yours affec'ly  
Sara

[P.S.] Return this also. S[.]T.D.R.