

From Eugenia Bronaugh to John A. Bushnell

[page 1]

Hickory Grove

29th Dec / 63

Dear Mr. Bushnell: --

I attempt this evening to reply to your interesting & affectionate letter of 14th Dec which I received the evening my last was put in the office -- It was a welcome letter -- I rejoiced so much to hear from you. Wish I had something new & interesting to write you from this dark country -- But we have been at home & have heard no news of interest within the last few days. This is Christmas week but persons do not seem to be enjoying it much -- last Sunday evening I believe it snowed faster & prettier than I ever saw it -- as I sat by the window I wished so much for you to be here -- to look at the large flakes that fell so silently, with me -- for somehow I felt sad & would like so much to have talked to you[.]

Christmas day we had no company -- I frequently managed to be along, to think of the last Christmas that rainy day when you were here, & we read all day -- Do you remember it?

Carrie & I did not go to Deep Water -- when we were ready the Kansas Raid prevented; our escort feared to venture on with his horses -- since then we have had cold weather & other hindrances. Perhaps we can

[page 2]

go some time[.] aunt Sue writes -- "I will try to get to see you when the weather gets warm" - - but the promise is in the future, many things may happen before then[.] Oh! that Peace might dawn & friends return! Aunt S__ speaks of the death of an old family servant, (Aunt Kate,) who was almost or quite a hundred. She has been anxious for some time to go to Kansas -- That Land of freedom & equality. --

I was glad you mentioned Fayette -- had just been wishing to hear -- sincerely hope he will find his Dear E's__ heart containing goodly chambers of gold & purple, with all the rare & beautiful dreams & faiths which went to make up his ideal of womanhood. In a word that he may be happy through all coming time. I wish he would think to send us some of the wedding cake to dream on.

We have not seen your Brother man since his return to Henry. I should like to see them all.

Mr. John Goff came over a few days ago to assist Tommy about some work -- staid his days & nights one night he dreamed he had been absent from home -- was returning -- met the stage

[page 3]

containing yourself & a lady[.] some one told him that you were just married -- & on your way he did not know where. But you have never seen the Lady -- it was "all a dream" -- had I not known this, I should not have been as much amused as I was when he told me.

You must preserve the letter you received from Ginnie L__ The Rail Road & the Raid Oh me: I did indeed laugh -- would have thought that many letters could have passed after the road was repaired & the "Confeds" driven from the state. Had you simply mentioned you had received a letter, I should have "guessed" it was amusing -- very. Have often thought that if she her single sister & married one too, had spent the time in improving their vacant minds that they do in attending to other peoples affairs that it would profit them much more.

Mr[.] Bushnell I liked your last letter so much—written just as if you were speaking & so pretty. I had hoped that your blacks were giving you no trouble, were no expense at least. If they are trouble in St Louis, what would they be here: -- I often wish that ours were as far away. We have

[page 4]

just heard of the death -- of Mr[.] John Edmondson -- who died this morning. he was a friend of Mr[.] G__ Zutts & his illness prevented Mr[.] Z__ from coming over this week.

Kos has been very jealous since Mr[.] Buckley spoke of yours & judge Ballow's pet cat. Do not Mr[.] Bushnell let any cat or dog that you may see, cause you to forget your faithful Kos or he will urge me to write you to come back[.]

"Does Johnny sing much"? No Mr[.] Bushnell I am sorry to say that Johnny is a very naughty bird -- will seldom sing -- though I entreat, coax & threaten to send word to you, all to no purpose. Now what shall I do with this saucy little bird? I expect you will have to come & whip him. I am often amused & wonder if ever to little birdies were as much loved & written about.

George Combs & Ginnie Soyster were married last week, I make no comment.

The pieces in the last numbers of the Lady's Book are very pretty -- I like to read them. I hope B R will learn to be more prudent, both with her pen or tongue, while gone. The party to which she professed to belong has no confidence in her whatever -- think she was not patriotic but wanted to be noticed -- & with -- her pen came very near bringing some innocent persons into trouble[.]

Her mother has too almost talked herself out of friends so sais Mrs[.] C__ of Clinton. -- But the shades of evening are closing round me & I must say goodbye[.]

I write to Dr[.] ___ by this mail -- Hope he will receive it & reply at an early day. Your sincere & affectionate[.]

Eugenia

[P.S.] The family send much Love!