

is comfortable as usual
for her. You have prob-
ably heard of Mack Pat's
death which occurred about
the same time that our land
was enveloped with deep
gloom on account of the
death of our beloved Princes
So. Mother & her 2 sisters
are all widows now.
I miss you
May God bless
you & yours most
abundantly is the
sincere
prayer of
Margaret.

Nov. 14/81.

Your letter was indeed
a great surprise to me; but upon
reflection, I know that as strange
things have happened ^{before} his for a
man to write to his wife's niece.

Thanks for the kind interest
you manifest in my welfare.

We were sorry that you could
not visit us, when you were east.

Killie also passed us by,
when he was visiting his rela-
tives; so it seemed much as if
we were never to have any face-to-face
acquaintance with my dear Aunt
Mary's family; in each ^{member} of which I
could not feel otherwise, than deeply
interested. Horace's visit was a very

pleasant surprise to us. It is a wonder how nimbly he moves about on crutches & how well he bears what some would consider a great misfortune. I wonder what he could have said to you, in his letters, of one, which made a favorable impression on your mind.

Probably your pity, for me in my lonely condition, was excited.

I am naturally so comfortably happy (I should not say naturally, for, were it not for the hopes & comforts imparted through the religion of Christ, I should be most miserable) that I perhaps have been less inclined to enter into the matrimonial state, than some others would have been under similar circumstances.

It has long seemed to me that I could better endure all the opprobriums cast upon an old maid, than run much risk of

an unhappy marriage. Perhaps I have been too careful in this respect. But I would not be so set in my own way, as to overlook the clear indications of Providence pointing in some other direction. I desire an interest in your prayers. It is a great comfort to me, to feel that dear friends remember me when they approach the mercy-seat.

I hardly know whether I am doing right to consent to take part in the correspondence you propose; but it seems to me that there can be no harm in our becoming better acquainted, in this way.

Since receiving your letter, I have been thinking how strange it is, that your thoughts should be turned towards me so much, when another's relatives used so

often to tell me, that I looked like
Aunt Mary. But if I ever did
resemble her; I think I must have
lost all traces of such looks; I
am so very plain. Of course,
no one seeking beauty & wealth
need look to me, for them &
for my part I should not wish
a husband who would for either
of these qualities alone, seek me.

I am really ashamed to send
this letter it is so egotistic & I
have expressed my feelings so
freely to you. I'm about half
inclined to commit it to the
flames, instead of the mail.

But I haven't time to rewrite
it. Perhaps you will be so disgust-
ed by it, that you will not wish
for further correspondence with me.

I shall be glad to hear from
you whenever you feel like writing
to me. Mother is feeble; but about