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[Letter from Nannie Alexander to Mary [May] Green, June 1892]

Kansas City [Missouri] June 5th. 1892 [June 5, 1892]

My dear dear Niece –

Tonight as I sat quietly reading, suddenly my mind strayed from my subject and went roaming away after you my dear precious Mary, and I immediately closed my book, took up my pen determining to put any thoughts on paper that you might have the benefit of them.

I am so gratified that you realize, as never before, the importance of an education and I am so proud to know you have been so industrious that I cannot refrain from congratulating you for your perseverance. Can you realize the school year is so near its close? And are

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you not now fully repaid for your efforts to nerve yourself to nerve yourself to leave home, and loved ones, on that bright September afternoon when you were just about ready to back square out? I smile now as I recall your tremulous call from the stair to “mamma” and hear you in your efforts to choak [choke] back the ~~sobs~~ sobs say, “I just can’t go, I can’t mamind [?], you must just get me out of this. “ Yes I smile now ! but then how sorry I felt [felt] for you. In fact we were all full, at the thought of parting with our dear old rollicking girl, + how we would miss her but for your sake we dared not betray our feelings; and I wonder now with what apparent indifference I folded each garment and laid it in your trunk. lest one word from

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me would disturb the fountain of your Mama’s tears – and you had no idea af [of] the

desperate effort on the part of each to feign [find?] a cheerful spirit – Well though we were sad that day, we are glad now as we wait in pleasant anticipation your coming, and I wonder if I shall see a stately dignified young lady, with Boston airs, instead of our joyous light hearted girl. Of course I know I shall find you greatly improved in many respects, but I will be greatly disappointed if you come back other than May. Not – withstanding all dignity, knowledge + all your pretty little accomplishments. I believe your identity will ever be prominent. I can see it manifested from you [your] very baby hood – as I recall you a naked little dumpling in

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your Mamas arms –

I am delighted to know you are so much a favorite in your school. and I feel quite – [?] they all past with you with many regrets –

Pauline went out to spend the day with her Aunt Susie + little Jewel Wood. And Linden went out to spend the evening – Pauline is growing quite tall but very thin, greatly to her own disgust – She gets so lonely and oh! how she longs for your return, but I believe it will be harder on her than ever to have you go away again – June 6th – You see I did not get my letter finished last night, so I hasten to do so now – and the first news I have is the return of Mrs Mabry, Stella + Kit.

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Kit came over this morning + will stay all night with us – she has greatly improved by her stay in Texas and has grown quite fleshy [sic] They will probably leave for Chicago [Illinois] the latter part of this week.

May four of our Sunday school class have married since you left, and two have gone to Chicago [Illinois] to live.

Did you know that Fanny Ess [?] went to Nashville [Tennessee] to school? I see Maggie Peak frequently and she always enquires for you.

I expect I am taking too much of your time – so I will cut my letter short Pauline

wrote you last week. Cousin Tom was here last evening and had an article to send you about

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Covington [Kentucky] –

We were counting the days now until you come. And I am selfish enough to wish you would not go to Kentucky. but that you would come directly home and spend your entire vacation with us. With bushels of love + with a share for Eda I remain

Ever your loving Aunt

Nannie.

Our spring is very backward. Almost cool enough for fires and a great deal of rain.