

June 25, 1865

(Will Brabson)

My dear Brother,

This beautiful Sabbath evening brings to my memory sweet recollections of the Past, "When all that from the home circle Around the heathstone ever meet, And the presence of one to the other, Show blessings and blessedness sweet, " and I sigh in sorrow when I think how changed But as I never allow a dusky cloud to overcast my feelings, I picture to myself a happy peaceful home- "which can only be found for us outside of E.T.) where you and dear Father will no longer be banished from the "Loved Ones," but we will be united once more and oh how happy we shall be.- if it is the will of our Heavenly Father- and he is gracious and kind, and I know will permit us to meet once more and tell each other our trials and cares during the past two years. I know you have suffered, dear brother far more than we, and you have not written home half your sufferings. But it makes me proud to see you bear it with manly courage. I have no doubt but you could get into business as Clerk in Knoxville, and if you would, or could come home, I don't think there would be danger, but I will not advise you, for one can scarcely trust their dearest friends these days.

Dr. Cates came up Wednesday, brought Amelia home and returned next day and took Sister Mary and Little Brabson back. We miss them very much especially the baby, who is the most interesting little fellow I ever saw. A good many say he looks like me, and as everybody says that you and I are the image of each other, he must resemble his "Uncle Will" too. Old McNancy Hodge died a few days since.

We have had plenty of Irish potatoes, beans, and blackberries. What have you in the eating line? We have not had any fish this year.

There is quite a flourishing school at Rocky Springs. Mr. Hap Houk is Principal. One of the scholars, a young fellow from Cocke County, comes up to see us about once a week. He appears completely charmed with my music.

Miss Jane is with us now. Cousin Lollie is still at Grand Ma's, she has a Yankee beau this evening- McFinch from Ohio.

Mother and the little ones send much love. Miss Jane wishes to be kindly remembered. Write soon. Accept the warmest love of your affectionate sister.

Ellen P. Brabson