

be with you long enough at least to take
a real old-fashioned sleigh ride.

But this cold weather has brought with
it, for me, a very severe cold - something
I haven't had before for months. I had
my hair cut a day or two before the weather
came & the barber made no use of his
scissors, & Sampson came out shorn plus
locks. I took cold almost immediately
& the cold weather has made me most
sick. The weather is most beautiful
to day - The snow is melting and it
is wet & muddy under foot. Just coming
in one of those warm sunny days that follow
several days of wind & freezing cold that
have kept you cooped up in your room
hugging the stove; then when you can stand
open the door & let in the warm sun &
see the ice melting & everything looking
as though it were awakening from a deep
sleep how well good is makes one feel

as though he were awakening from a
dream. Well, so I feel to day - A little cold
affects me much more than it used to, and
I now freeze at a temperature which you would
deem mild. I shall have to come north one of
these days to thicken my blood. I have forgotten
what I told you about Texas or Salsange. Well
no matter Texas is a great country. and Salsange
quite a town. The German population is very
large here & so I presume you will find
use for your German. I am very pleasantly
situated, & find the people very kind & hospi-
table. I have not yet made many acquaint-
ances out & am pleased with as much as
I have seen. I think that you will like
it better here than in Mississippi. I feel
somewhat strange yet & it will be some little
time yet before I become fully domesticated.
There is plenty of game here in the shape
of geese & ducks; & let me tell you that I have
turkey every day for dinner. As soon as I get

La Grange Dec 25th 1839

Dear Lizzie,

I am so anxious to hear from you. It is now five weeks since I received your last & I presume there is no predicting when I shall get your next. It is too long to wait; but as I can do no better & try & make the best of it. Although it is Christmas & we all should be merry, I cannot rid myself of a feeling of loneliness. I want to be with you so much. I am still a stranger here & do not feel much as though I were at home. This makes Christmas very dull, & very unlike those I used to spend at the North among my friends & kindred. However, I am not much inclined to give way to those childish feelings, & I dissipate any unpleasant feelings by reading or writing. The weather now is very pleasant; in fact all that one could desire. It is not sufficiently warm to be unpleasant, nor cold to be disagreeable. The ground is dry, the atmosphere

is so mixed, the different habits & customs of so many communities are blended here that everything looks a little singular & in society each one feels somewhat cramped but he under himself hides alone in the eyes of his neighbor, & the result is that there is not that freedom of social intercourse that we would naturally look for in a new country. There are representatives here from nearly all the old states. indeed we might say all. There are a great many from the North though the Southerners predominate. The German population, which is very large - are very ~~valuable~~ & good citizens, but with all their good qualities they are still Dutchmen, with their old country habits. They lack enterprise, exercise very little taste about their houses, are rather filthy than otherwise, & care little about the luxuries & conveniences of life, so that they have plenty of the substantial. I hope to hear from you soon. I send you the "Democrat" regularly, which, so far as it goes, I am safe in saying, is a faithful exponent of the sentiments of a very large class of Southern men. Assuming you & my unchanging love, I remain Yours truly
A. H. H. H.

pure & bracing. One ought not to sickly, for would
you believe it? I have gained ten pounds since
my advent to this State. But we do not always have
this delightful weather. We have just passed
through a siege of Northerns, unpleasant & freezing
even to contemplate. The cold has been more severe
thus far this winter than has ever been known
before, but the worst feature of it all is, that we
can have no snow to take those merry sleigh
rides. Well I have become used to it & think no
more of it. I presume you are enjoying yourself
in that land of snow & ice & cold fingers &
freezing noses. How do you relish the idea of
coming to the "Lone Star" to live? doesn't it seem to
you to be almost out of the world? A few years ago
I would as soon thought of going to China as to
Texas, but now being here, I seem to be quite at
home in the world as when in Fairfield, or at
my own old home in Schenectady. I have come to
the conclusion that it makes but little difference
to one where he may live. True, it is pleasant to be

among our old friends, to enjoy their society &
with them call up the reminiscences of bygone
days & enjoy the sweetness of a friendship mellowed
& strengthened by time & endeared by many ties of
common interest & mutual sympathy. But we
have to submit to the mutations of time, & break off
old associations & form new ones. I have been
used to this for so long, & have been at home so
little for the last five or six years, that home-
thoughts trouble me but little, though I think a
good deal of home & my friends. But I have become
used to separation from them & I never get
what is termed, home-sick. I expect it will be
much different with you. Though I shall en-
deavor to make you happy here, by that means, aton-
ing in some degree for the many wrongs I cause
you in taking you from your many kind &
dear friends. I have told you something
about this town. It has some features that
render it pleasant, then again it has some that
make it not altogether so agreeable. The population

her new bean. To night was the
first time they met when some hard
words passed, then a blow from the in-
jured party, and then weapons were
drawn, when the efficient antagonist
& stopped the further progress of the
fight. They are both young men, one
a Mississippian, who came to see state
after I died; You see that the ladies
can stir up a row sometimes although
characteristic for gentleness & a love for
peace. I was in the country last week
& called on the ladies, that is, on the
attending school at an academy. It put
me in mind of old times. I saw some
very pretty & sprightly girls. I had a per-
fect time. You will begin to think di-
rectly, that my affections are wavering
as I am writing so much about the girls,
but as you tell me so frequently of your old
& new "flames", you will excuse me for follow-
ing suit now & then. But don't allow yourself
Aaron Niskern

La Grange, Feb 28th 1860.

Dearest Lizzie.

Though I have not received
a letter from you since writing my last,
still, as that has been nearly three weeks,
I can't think of waiting longer.
For a day or two I have been having
chills, I had about concluded that
I would have no more after coming
to Texas, but I have been troubled a
good deal with colds of late, & I pre-
sume they brought on the chills.
I think that I am over them now
however & will be as sound as ever
in a day or two. An itinerant phre-
nologist has stopped in town for a
week or such a matter, lecturing and
giving charts, and is humbugging
the people considerably. He proposes
to lecture every night for a week, and

during the day he gives private examinations accompanied with charts at his room. Our town has been so dull for some time, that I am glad to see him come along to relieve the monotony of things, though I have but little confidence in his skill.

Spring is coming in upon us. robins & martins begin to visit us, peach trees begin to bloom & there are many other indications of approaching spring. & good many farmers have planted their corn, & some of it is up & growing.

I must tell you what a nice piece of sugar candy Mrs Thompson made & brought up for me. It is perfectly delicious.

Mrs Thompson is quite a young woman but is inclined to be quite motherly to me when I have any disposition to get sick. I know if you could see this nice lump of candy you would want to have a share of it - March 1st - I believe I miss

- dated my letter as I commenced it - at a late hour last night - the 29th. The hour was getting late, so I deferred finishing the letter till to night. My office is a very convenient one I will assure you, joining the printing office. The ladies find it convenient sometimes to call up to see the printing establishment & then of course they must come in & have a seat. I was favored with a call to day, and a very pleasant thing it is to be so conveniently located. Since supper we like to have had a serious fight in town, & the most interesting feature in the case is, that the difficulty originated from a widow, a very pretty one, who is desirous of getting a husband. An old flame of the widow's became somewhat jealous of a new rival & told her some bad tales upon him. She repeated the remarks in public & they soon reached the ears of the

Aaron Nickerson

in New Orleans, it has not broken out yet as much of an epidemic. But you must be aware of one thing, & that is, there may be a good many cases of yellow fever in New Orleans & you never know it; because the papers never speak a word of it until the epidemic is too prevalent to be concealed. This thing of the fever has annoyed me not a little because you wish to come as early as sometime in September, & I could not think that it would be safe to set any time far ahead, from the fact that in this season of the year the fever is liable to break out any day. A single change of the weather may bring on a score of cases in a few days. Last year, late in the fall the fever originated in Houston & very suddenly was making tremendous havoc there & spread to Galveston & the inland towns. You don't seem to understand this fact but to think that because the fever doesn't rage there now, there is no prospect of its doing so in several weeks

La Grange. Aug 29th 1860.

My Loved One.

I have just returned, after a six weeks absence, from my trip in the northern portion of the state, to find five of your letters awaiting me, unopened, unread & unanswered. Surely by this time your faith must have given out; & you have doubtless begun to think that I am dead, or have deserted you. But let your hopes revive a little & judge me not too harshly till I tell you my tale. When I left here I expected to be gone about eight days & to be back time enough to make any arrangements necessary to meet you provided you intended coming in August. But I had written you before I left that I thought it would be unsafe to come at that time, & I presumed that after receiving that letter you would give out coming for

The present though you might have made some arrangements about starting. Well I left here & after four days ride on horse-back through the hot sun I got to my journey's end & was immediately taken sick & confined to the house for five weeks with the typhoid fever. When I got well enough to get into a buggy I started for home & have just arrived. While sick I was not well enough to write until a few days before starting for home, & expecting to find letters from you here I deferred writing them until I could see what you had written me. Now let me explain a little about my other letters. When I wrote you making the proposition to come in August it was some time in June I think, & everything was very healthy. When I wrote you my last reports were quite ripe that the fever had broken out in Houston & they were looking for it to break out violently every day. At that time I should have been afraid myself to have passed through

the towns to New Orleans for fear that when I returned, the fever might be raging. And I was not alone in entertaining those feelings. Old settlers here would not travel unless necessity imperatively demanded it. Under those circumstances I felt it my duty to advise you not to come, as being unacclimated you would be almost certain to take it if it were raging as an epidemic. For I have learned since I have been South that the fever is still raging in a great extent by unacclimated persons traveling through the country. At that time there was a prospect of the fever raging in our cities very soon & I did not wish to risk your life unnecessarily. Had I advised you to come on in the face of the lights then before me, & the fever had broken out & you have taken it - it would have proved fatal, I never could have forgiven myself nor your friends me. So it has turned out. However, my fears were not realized, & although there is some fever

Aug 29, 1860

I see the danger more clearly & wish to avoid it. Now it is not because I wish to defer your coming that I have written as I have for you must be persuaded that I am more than anxious, ye yearning to see you, but prudence dictated that it was better to wait a few months if necessary, than to run unnecessary risks & perhaps by that means lose all.

In your last you wished me to name some time for certain, & said then you could wait patiently, & at the same time wished me not to put you off longer than September. Now be sure, if I did not love you, if I did not regard you as my all, my very life, then I might readily comply with your wishes; but loving you as I do, for the reasons already stated, I will assume the responsibility - if not naming September. And now as this is a practical world, you must allow me a little further privilege & then I will promise you that you shall not be disappointed again. First - Let

We tell you the nature of things after September. About the 20th of Oct - I attend Court in Columbus, & the 12th of Nov Court sits here & lasts three weeks. Now the business nearly all comes in during the last six weeks before Court, so that if I leave home during that time my business is bound to suffer - & with a young lawyer, that is the time that the people look for him to be at home. Now under the existing state of things if you will allow me to set the first of December all arrangements shall be made against that time & you shall not be subjected to any disappointment. You may think that I am putting you off a long time, but consider that it is only three months & a part of that will be gone when you receive this. You may think me cold & indifferent, but it is not so. I have loved you too long & sincerely to become indifferent now. If you can wait as long as I have suggested, you need entertain no

fears with regard to disappointments. Now don't you scold me too hard after you receive this, for I am too far away to effect much; better wait till you become a Divorcé, then I am sure you will not scold me, for I shall smooth down all those suppled passions, & kiss those jouncing lips till you forget all about your grievances. We have at last had rain which has had the effect of cooling the atmosphere a little, but when the sun comes out it shines hotter than ever. Your frosts must be very early. We do not look for any till the 1st of December. I will write again soon - so soon as I get a little rest from my ride & can work about a little.

Believe me, as ever, your own

A. A.

Aaron Niskern to Miss Foggie Swartwout



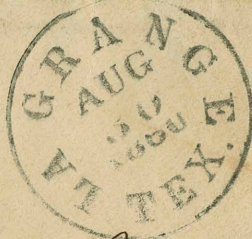
Miss Lizzie Swartwout
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