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Letter from Jane R. to Laura Tunstall, October 15, 1845

Jane R.

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Linden Wood Mo.

Oct 15. 1845.

Dear Laura.

You feel I fear that I have been very negligent about writing you but after you hear my excuse you will I trust forgive me. I should have written you before but my time has been closely occupied, and I have been expecting you to come to school every day since it began. Your brother was here last month and he said he thought you would be here the next day but two months have almost passed and still you are absent. I begin to fear you are not coming back, and why did you not write me? I suppose that report you heard made you forget me entirely did it not? Dear Laura if you knew how many tears I have shed for that one untrue sentence you would no longer believe it but pity me Laura and write me a letter and tell me who told you that story and how it affected you. I have written enough on this subject and I suppose you will like to hear from your friends in St. Charles and at Linden Wood. There are four new boarders the names of which I will mention hereafter. Mary Lee arrived from Richmond yesterday morning Her Grandmother and Aunt were expected with her but did not come. She will board with her Mother who lives in Dr Gwymans [sic] house. I have not, see [sic] her yet but expect to this evening as prayer-meeting will be at her Mothers.

Laura I wish you could have been here last month I had more fun than I had all last session. There was nobody here but Mary Brown and myself and we did just as we pleased. We used to go after grapes nearly every night. Once Henry Clay went with us and once John Simpson however we generally went alone on Grudge our Spanish pony, as we call him. We went down by the branch and tore down a tree which we found to be rather cold work. [?] Mrs Sibley is now rather strict as there are more boarders. I have not as yet told you anything of my visit to Dardenne which I enjoyed very much I became acquainted with a great many persons and was so much pleased with my visit that I almost forgot to come back to school. Nannie is expecting to come to school as soon as her Mother returns from Virginia. Lucy is going to Kentucky in the spring. I recieved [sic] a letter from her Monday she says that Eueline [?] will be here in two or three weeks.

Well Laura, I have written you quite a letter and could write as much more if I had time but that is limited now. Give my best love to Marion and tell her I have not forgotten my promise although I have not fulfilled it also my love to your Sister Martha.

Yours most truly Jane

PS The boarders names are Mary Brown Adeline Cayce Julia Griffith & Mary Smith. Harriett Clark is expected back every day. Excuse all mistakes and answer this soon. I expect to go home in about two or three weeks M Daugherty sends her love to all. J M R

[a) This copied from a photocopy, so “sic” or “?” within square brackets are added by me to indicate uncertainty or irregularities within the original text. b) The address on the photocopied envelope reads as follows:]

Miss Laura H Tunstall
Flourissant
St. Louis Co Mo

[The letters rendered “Co” (as in an abbreviation for “County”) are not perfectly clear as the “o” is superscripted. A seal on the upper left-hand side of the envelope reads as follows:]

St CHARLES
OCT 16
Mo.

[The second digit of the date on this seal is not entirely clear. A large numeral appears in the upper right-hand corner of the envelope:]