

1901

April 7, 1901  
Lexington, Virginia  
April 5, 1901

My dear Kitty,

I have been wishing for you all the winter but did not write because I knew you could not come. I enjoyed your nice long letter so very much that I intended writing at once to tell you so, in the hopes of getting another, but I have been so sick and busy that I have given up letter writing almost altogether.

Mother and Mary were both quite ailing for awhile and Mother had a right serious cold. I think it was gripe that she has had. It has left her very weak and a good for nothing feeling.

She is better however and Mary is well. I have Mary Jenkin and her boys staying with me now. Had hoped to have Mr. Jenkin too, but I had to postpone their visit on Mother's account so he could not stay.

My little brother wrote to us that he had been to see you all lately. He always enjoys going to your house.

Now my dear, I have time and strength for only a note this afternoon – as I am so interrupted by the constant ringing of the doorbell.

So I just want to tell you that I am looking forward to your visit to me this spring and want you to come just as soon as you can. The first of May or the latter part of April is the time I would like you to come if you can, but if that is not convenient – come when it is. Jim will not have a gay time but I think you will enjoy the girls here – and there are several lovely girls living very near us. Now let me know when you can come for I shall be much disappointed if you do not. In fact I shall not consider that possibility. I have had a time trying to get paper to print photos on. I expect your cook has given up her pictures of the baby. I have at last gotten it printed and will send her a picture by this mail I hope. I hardly know what I have written so many have come in but I will not try any longer but will close for this time.

Give my love to your Father and Mother and all – and a great deal for yourself.

I do hope Mary Mackey has entirely recovered from her accident. Hope to hear that you will come to see us soon and stay a long time if we are not too quiet.

Affectionately,  
Your friend

Lucretia Irwin

Habana, Cuba  
Campo Florido  
December 1901

Dear Kit

From your last letter which has just reached me you haven't gotten my last letter. I am now in the country 19 miles from Havana and have been there since the first of August and in the meantime have built a large stone crushing plant for supplying the streets of Havana with hard rock and by another month we will be getting out 300 square yards of crushed stone per day. We could be getting that much now but the quarry is so small as yet that we cannot get enough men in it to work properly but steam drills and dynamite is opening it up rapidly.

The work here is under the charge of a little old dried up Tar Heel by the name of Ellis, but he knows his business all O.K. and is a perfect gentleman. He is in very poor health and I am afraid he is going to die if he does not take some better care of himself. There are six of us white Americans here and are very congenial except one fellow from New York who succeeds finely on all occasions in making a fool of himself and gets called down hard on all sides, even by some American Negroes whom we have out here and they have less respect for his feelings than we have. I usually enjoy the American Negroes we have out here. They are above average and to hear them singing around here makes me feel at home.

We are still living in tents like a lot of soldiers but have a pretty happy family with pigs, chickens, ducks, pigeons, a mule and a Chinese cook and servants, so we are at home with a plenty of hard work. I have put in almost night and day for the last nine months and I expect to have it worse pretty soon for about the 15<sup>th</sup> Mr. Ellis goes to Havana to erect two more plants for to supply the rock for the sewers of Havana and it will all have to be done in a hurry besides build the ...*[rest of the letter is missing]*