

10 A

10 B

I humble, feeling our own inability and nothingness - and as our dear sister Betty expressed it - "The might Majesty, the sufficiency of our Holy Redeemer." - I trust it is the Lord's will to restore thee to perfect health - We feel much for dear cousin Ellie who has been feeble so long - & what an undertaking for Cousin Eliza to be taking charge as much as in her lies, at our Cousin John's! - May you all be strengthened to do whatever your hands find to do, in the desire of my heart. - Phil. has come seven miles to dine with his aunts and sisters. We are glad to give a good account of him - & he is truly loving & sympathetic to us. -

9th day the 16th. We have this day received letters from dear Cousins Elizabeth & Rachel Hopkins of Balt. giving the unexpected & sorrowful information of the death of dear Cousin Mary Brooks. -

Our hearts are bowed in sorrow for the loss of this our beloved cousin and for the affliction of her dear family in her removal. - Such a tender & loving mother. Such a pleasant companion & friend. - I had hoped she might be spared to them for many years. But "Our Father" knows what is best for us all. -

31st. I had proceeded thus far, when Levi Cook called to take me to their house about three miles in the country. (Ellen Doorn's that was) I have been there until yesterday. Our aged Aunt Ann Elgin is with them this winter, & seems to be just sister & myself to be with her when we can. She is remarkably cheerful & pleasant although almost constantly suffering with rheumatism, & the traces of beauty are still visible in her face. She has had many

total -

but we trust while she is rapidly nearing the close of life that her hold on a better life is deepening. - & that all will be well with her. - Ellen & her husband and six children - & their yearly meeting being held alternately here & at Richmon and they have many meetings here. This being their greatest strength holds this side of the mountains. Our aunt does not believe with them. They are very wealthy - but she has a harder time than many a poor woman - He raises enormous hogs for market - Colts, Calves & poultry swarm around his immense barns. They have three children the eldest about 17, a son - the youngest little Hannah 4. Ruth the eldest daughter is quite pious & of bright intellects. I am sorry to say there is little or no religious influence thrown around their children of their love at home. - joking & jesting - living on the fat of the land. I heard no word of religious instruction save no Bible in their hands - or house while there. & my spirit was grieved within me - for we cannot expect the Holy Spirit to dwell with us unless we seek its blessed influences - The mother weighed down with toil & care said she did not have time to instruct her little daughter or to talk much with her. - This beautiful fairy like child when told to prepare for bed would perhaps take off one shoe & stocking, & then spring up on her father's knee & sit on his shoulder holding the other foot for him to disrobe, the pet of the whole house. - These remembrances Cousin Ellen - or I would not give thee this little picture of her household. Perhaps it was because when I went there, I felt so sad on account of dear Cousin Mary Brooks's death that I grieved for the want of suitable government & instruction in this our only near relation on this side the mountain household. -

Cousin Pleasant Janny is here this winter. -

10 D

The poet.

Far away I seem to see
Home just as it used to be,
When the winter winds had spread
Leaves upon the earth's firm bed.
Cold, and colder, winter's power
Froze each close housed plant & flower;
Flocks of snow birds flew around
Garden walks and orchard grounds;
Sheep were piled with tender care -
Cattle from the piercing air
Sheltered - while our stock of wood
Logs piled on logs like mountain stood.
Joyous was our household throng
Soft clouds had threatened long,
To behold the snowflakes light
Covering the earth from sight -
And to hear the sleigh bells sound
From the hills & valleys around.
Nido hearth - red with embers bright,
Christmas candles - thy gay light
Chasing every shade of gloom
From each corner of that room;
Happy pastime - Holy Book -
Children cald from every nook,
Listeners on whose minds impress'd
Truth's pure precepts - drunk to rest.
Of the band which shrouded them,
And for whom the voices of prayer
Oft was raised. There still remain
Some links of the broken chain.
O! to be riveted again. -
Let none hide with visage stern -
For perhaps all yet may learn
That ~~unknown~~ unknown to them may be
In the heart's deep mystery -
Folded memories - a light
Which they may wake - to weep.
Hard is the heart which turneth not
In tender feeling toward the dead.