

Ovid. Mich.
Feby 24 07

Dear Sissy :-

Yours of a day or two since
Came duly and was gladly read

And so you want a hummer? But
did you ever surmise that things don't
always hum around about here? Just?

We are in the midst of a drouth as
it were. for humming birds, then how
can a feller hum a hummer!

Can't tell you anything about
the weather because you have the
same ^{things} dished up as we.

Things move along in a listless
fashion; breathe regularly; eat at
stated intervals; and sleep the sleep
of just men made perfect, as it were,
over & beyond, &c, -- very edifying.

Me & ma have tilts and "argy"
freiquously and then cool off with
a game of parchesa. That game
is the worst for exasperation and worse

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erously and then cool off with a
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10 times than ² croquet, Believe me!

We have played a lot with varying success and we now stand with one ahead to my credit. Yesterday morning I had 3 the advantage. It's really quite a long-headed game. The points are to know when to block and when to unblock & when to hold back & when to forge ahead. Sometimes it takes an hour and a half to play out a game.

Last week we took a lot of lumber up to St Johns. and got a lot of oak & soft maple flooring - all we want for the proposed new house also a lot of Bass wood siding or clapboards enough also. Transferred all the remainder of the oak lumber up overhead in the hay barn out of the weather. Enough to finish most of the structure in oak. We have enough material in the wood line to build the house. nearly. There will be some shingle to buy & brick & ...

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Current & small ³stuff in shape of
nails, paints, hardware &c. &c.
Have been getting books of designs
and have subscribed for *Keith's Magazine*
for a year, which is devoted to house
building, and she is a good one.
If we build it, as we think
now, it will be a modern Colonial,
gambrel roofed, dormer windowed,
hard wood floored affair, with painted
roof and shingled gables, and a proper
sized porch, a vestibule, and open
stairway - fireplace, and a large
living room with polished floor &
plenty of light. The ^{outside} walls when fin-
ished will be about one foot thick and
cannot fail to be the warmest house
in Michigan ^{in winter}, bare wood, and the coolest
house in summer. Perhaps I've
bitten off more than I can chew
but can do it, but not in a day.
Have made a beginning anyhow.
Can make it for about half what
it would cost a city feller. Now this
is a "family secret" and is not to be

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Can make it for about half what it
would cost a city feller. Now this
is a "family secret" and is not to
get ...

back to ma because you know
how she gets up in the air when any
one says a word about "what they
are going to do". Any plans &c &c?

Of course it's boyish and all
that but I have to think that
a thing is well begun when once
proclaimed. It makes me feel
good to anticipate such things and
and I like to talk with others about
it too.

Becky is getting to be the most
loving cat I've ever met. She jumps
up & cuddles down on my knee
& stays there as long as I stay
in my chair. Then again she jumps
upon my shoulder & settles there.

Today as I was writing she got
on my back & went to sleep. She
caresses me so cunningly at times.

Judy has got his fall winter coat
about and gets the most of his

... back to ma because you
know how she gets up in the
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going to do," any plans, etc.

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living out of the ⁵ pig trough when
I find the pig's barley dough -

So day 8 lovely little quail
went skittering along in the snow past
the south window - crossed the road
and disappeared in Dan Hays barnyard,

The two barn cats are wintering
huskily - I feed them twice a day
with hot milk. They keep the vermin
well chased up, and even take care
of Lowes premises. They squeak
like vampire bats when begging
for their cow juice -

Square toed Brother Bain got some
religion in the revival but not enough
to make him deliver up Lowes old
rooster which came to Bain's about
the holiday time.

The nest over in the yellow house
is pretty much sick and the town is
helping them. Jack Meador the sheriff
says its the awfulest hole he ever
entered.

... living out of the pig trough
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The rest [?] over in the yellow
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the town is helping them. Jack
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Yesterday we got a letter from Aunt Alma saying that Myra was taken with a chill the day before - Thursday and that Friday she had the pneumonia which the doctor said was a serious case, but not dangerous as yet. Mary & Harl are there and the doctor has ordered a nurse from Grand Rapids or Detroit. Ma has written to Aunt Alma trying to get her to come away on account of the danger to her of which there is plenty.

Bertha was to go over there today and report to us if she was worse, but we have had no word, so yet.

Got a letter from Ben B written on the steamer down the bay, 100 miles below Baltimore, at Cape Henry. When the pilot leaves the steamer. I put on a bit of pressure and wrote Ben a letter

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which he put ^{on} the steamer ^{and}
which he declared was greatly
enjoyed by the Captain, Tom, Dr
shoop & himself. It was
a kind of a hummer and
treated of sea things applicable
to this case. I enclosed my
list of Jamaica proverbs, some
125. which B declared were
nuggets of gold to him for such
a voyage.

Well, 'tis time the harper cries,
to bed - to bed - to bed so with
much affection I am
Yours, as ever,
"Skaister"

P.S. Send this on to
Beulah. Please. Or ma
says. & don't delay.

... which he got on the
steamer and which he
declared was greatly enjoyed
by the Captain, [??] &
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hummer and treated of sea
things applicable to their
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Jamaica proverbs [found
separately in this collection],
some 125, which B declared
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