

for her quilt, and also employed
me as an "agent" to beg others, so
will not overlook you in the
cause. If cousin Elias reads
this poor apology for a letter,
I hope he will not put on his
"spectacles of criticism" for I am
usually dull today, the weather
is so gloomy, and expect you have
already pronounced enough.

Has Cousin George Somerville
been to see you? I under-
stand he is down, with Johnie.

I know little Elias is a perfect
little "sun-beam," would like so
much to see all the children.
Cousin George Alston's wife has
a little girl. Aunt Van's baby not
well when I heard from her.

When will you be up to see Grand-
ma? All unite with me in love
to you all. Write soon.

Yours with much aff.
Bettie W.

Dear Aunt Ell:—
At the beginning of
every year in ordinary times we feel
a sadness mingled with hope, ~~now~~
how can I express the language of
my heart—when I look back upon
the past few years, and view what
the "Yankees" have done, "set all the
darkies free, and southern people
have to stay at home, so little made,"
but I don't want to talk of war. I
am a peace advocate now and
ever. Indeed it would be most
charming to go north with you,
if I just had the means, but am
too poor to think of the trip—wish
you and Aunt Bet a pleasant
time, and from each shall
expect a long account of what
you saw. For the past few weeks

Mollie Alston and Tempie Williams, speak of going with Cousin
G. Polk, to
Washington
City, soon.
Robert Boyd
is boarding
his children
this year with
oldest with
Mrs L. Cook,
the other with
a Mr. Parker
in Halifax Co.
Aunt Mary—
Aunt's health
better. Will
get some
new steel-
type first—
packing to
London.
B. W.

I have been quite an invalid, think if I could pay you a visit - it would soon build me up again, even that far seemed out of the question. Christmas is over, the juvenile members of the household have had a gay time; Walter Parker is with them, with so much your little boys were here too - 4 feet St. Nic, descended the chimney loaded with presents for each one. Nellie Parker had a party, Dock attended, and since his return has entertained the children highly with glowing descriptions of what was to be seen, and eaten in town. And Cousin Elias thought me merely jesting about the situation, I was in earnest, but it is not five months now, before you leave; Will Jennie and the children remain down the country while you are away? Since

I commenced writing Cousin had been here, reports Grandpa & Grandma, also the rest, in the enjoyment of their usual health. On Monday night - during Christmas week, the young people of the neighborhood were invited to cousin John Bucks, I did not feel well enough to go, Phil and Sallie did; and I suppose scarce upon the Records of "Merrie old England" could be found a more ~~enjoyable~~ ^{enjoyable} catalogue of sports than they all enjoyed.

And Jennie sends me word to go down and catch Joe with him, oysters, and the company of you all, how must I resist?? Indeed it would be most pleasant to go, if it were possible should (almost) attempt to walk. I had a note from Leah Hawkins a few days since, begging silk pieces