

She is the same old cousin
Beth of old. Bessy is
a very sweet interesting girl
intelligent & good looking
man all getting very well, & all the
family but myself had the measles last
spring, Hannie was quite sick with
them for several days. Minnie
is fat & hearty; weighs over a hundred
pounds, not able to go to school owing
to her having the Epilepsy, & the least
excitement throws her in a fit.
They have never been very hard &
continue to get lighter here in
hopes of her getting over it. George
goes to school regular, is fond of
it, & makes good headway in his
studies, is nearly ready to go in
Caizer, been taking music lessons
about six months; can play
several pieces very well, rented
her a piano a few weeks ago
I think she will make a good musician.

Birmingham Ala
Sept, 18th /81.

Dear sister C.
Your two most
welcome letters came duly to
hand & should have answered
long ago, but I have such little
time to write that I can think
of nothing to write when I
have time. Much obliged to
you for your congratulations on
my success, what you saw
about me in the Observer
is pretty true, but will not
quite come up to those figures
this year, owing to the drought.
But Hannie & my self have
to work hard to make it. Our
time for getting up is at three
in the morning now. I am

Sunday & well as Monday
hot or cold, rain or shine
& frequently mine at night before
we get through our work.
So you ^{see} it is by hard work that
we make what we do, and
our expenses are very heavy for
feed for our stock (as we have
it all to buy) & by the time
it is taken from our sales
it leaves but a small profit.
The editors of the Observer
are two nice boys, hardly out
of their teens. I get the
Enfield paper regular.
Very much obliged to you for it.
I forgot to say that the local editor
of the Observer, & myself are great
friends.

I am glad to hear that your
are getting along so well. You
come to a wise conclusion
when you concluded to attend
to your own farm, for it

is hard, I find, to get on to
take any interest in another
business. I hope that you
have not had the drought out
there as we have had 'we had
not had a good season here
since May, until last Thursday.
Every thing is nearly dried up
by little grain or by making
by vegetables all more a complete
failure, but my potatoes are good
& have they have managed to
grow & come in, for the ridge
has not been cut through
from the time I set them out
until Thursday. And what
I hate about the drought is
has been such a general thing
it will cause provisions to be
scarce & high.

Cousin Bitter M. spent several
days with us on her way up North.
Enjoyed her visit very much.

I am coming still nearly every
day. She looks old & broken.
We don't visit much; she
got mad with me about two
years ago because I ~~stole~~ stopped
the children from school to her
as they were learning nothing.
I worked hard to help her
get up a school, as she told
me if she could get a certain
number of scholars, I would
justify her in stop taking in
sewing, so she got the number,
but continued to take in sewing
& neglected her school, being out
of the room nearly half the
time, & frequently when out
would have a rascally negro
boy to watch the children
& report to her. Taking every

thing combined, I thought she
was no fit teacher for me to
send my children to, so stayed
them, & started to a gentle man
I am well pleased; in fact
all who send to him are pleased
with him. He is a good teacher
& a strict disciplinarian.

You say that ~~Mr~~ West speaks
of selling out his farm & going at
some other business, every body
knows their own business the
best, but if a body wishes to
accomplish any thing they have
to stick to one business. And too
I would hate to see the place
go out of the family.

Was glad to hear of my Uncle
doing so well. Hope he may
be successful in his profession.
Tell West when you see him
that he has not answered
my last letter.

We are having a great deal of
Typhoid fever in our place
at present. In fact it is almost
an epidemic in some localities
in the place, owing to filth.
We have now in our locality,
as we live on a high & dry place
on the out skirts of the city,
with no one within a hundred
yards of us. Besides we clean
up the front thing every morning
& sprinkle lime over every
place that is the least damp
or smells in the least.

Well, I have written the longest
letter that I have in a long time
guess you are getting tired of it
so will close. You can get the
progress of our town from
the observer.

All joining in much & love
Write again soon to
Brother Benja