

Jefferson Academy Sep 18 [?] [185-]

Dear James,

Some time has elapsed since the reception of your most highly appreciated epistle but hope that you will excuse me this time for delaying so long. I wrote you a Postal on the 14th inst. Are there many pretty girls in your village? Have you pulled your heart away from Monticello yet? And lent it to some of Kentucky's "belles"? I have not talked much to Lill since my arrival, but will ere I send off this letter. All of the girls seem better looking this session than last, "especially your Duck." Please, get a photograph of the prettiest girl in town and send it to me to look at! and also one of yourself. Let me know by return mail in a Postal whether you will send them or not! I went with your sweetheart last Friday night, ~~and~~ to an entertainment at Uncle Dick Turnbull's and I investigated the question of your interest and if she said what was true, she does not care a fig for Charlie Marvin. You must be certain and send those photographs if possible! Please answer all of my questions previously stated. Annetta says that she will reply to your letter soon ("but she is so much in love with Kenan that she knows not what she is doing.") All of the scholars have not started to school, especially the larger girls (Spring Chickens). Old Scerny [?] is as tall and slim as she was last session. A new scholar has started to school and she is a regular "stunner." She is a Jewess, but nevertheless she is very stunning. We played our first game of Shinny this morning and of course I was the first one to get shinnied (on my little finger). Well I must close as I have to study my lessons. Annetta unites with me in regard to all.

Resp.

Shea

P.S. Bill Girardeau is to be married to Miss Collins Thursday next. And will board at Grandma's

Thur

Transcribed by Christopher A. Baker, University of Florida, 2008.